Origins of Worldwide Use

- British Empire - colonization began late 17th century and developed through 18th and 19th - English became official language of colonies
- US begins acquiring territories in Pacific and Caribbean in late 19th century
- Britain gave up most colonies after WWII, but US began to rise as a superpower - English still a very useful language to know, and former colonies often kept it

Australia and penal deportation

- British prisoners had been transported to America (Georgia, New England, Virginia)
- After American Revolution, this was not an option – had to go somewhere else
  - Australia served this role from 1788 to 1868, when transportation was abolished
- Most people tended to be urban poor – some version of the London *koiné* was spoken (GenE)
- Officer class – administrators of the colonies - more educated
- Contact with native aboriginal languages (around 250 – about 20 still spoken today)

South African historical context

- Khoisan indigenous people pressed by Bantus from north and Dutch from west (Cape Town area today)
  - Subordinated by both groups
  - Influence on placenames, plants, animals
- Between 1795 and 1806, British conquered Dutch colonies
  - Remaining Dutch spoke Afrikaans
- First English settlers came in 1820 – most from Middlesex and Home Counties, so a Southern English dialect
- 1848-1862 – second wave of English settlement up eastern coast (Natal)
  - Race and region – WSAfE (Natal, Cape dialects), Afrikaans, native African languages (Zulu, Xhosa, Sotho, Tswana, Tsonga, Swati, Venda, Ndebele)

The rise of apartheid

- Discovery of gold and diamonds in the 1870’s – increased European interest in the area
- Boer Wars (1880-81, 1899-1902)
  - Transvaal gained autonomous government under British sovereignty
  - British conquer and combine several former Boer Dutch colonies into the Union of South Africa (1909)
  - Whites and Coloured from Cape Town area had voting rights
  - English/Afrikaans official languages – shut out native Africans
- 1948 – National Party takes over – establishes formal apartheid
  - Attempt to make Afrikaans top language and English inaccessible to Africans – put whites on top socially
  - Concerted efforts by Africans to learn English (ANC)
- 1994 – formal opening and end of apartheid; 11 recognized languages
• First languages – Zulu 23.8%, Xhosa 17.6%, Afrikaans 13.3%, Northern Sotho 9.4%, Tswana 8.2%, English 8%, Sotho 7.9%, Tsonga 4.4%, Swati 2.7%, Venda 2.3%, Ndebele 1.6%
• However, English still primary language of education, government, commerce – lingua franca

New Zealand
• 1840 – British Treaty of Waitangi with Maori chieftains – opened land for settlement
• Maoris united by a shared language – in decline today, although still spoken
• Many settlers moved from Australia, esp. New South Wales – argument for a single AusE/NZE dialect area
  • 1854-1870 – 30% English, 70% Australian settlers
• Today – about four million New Zealanders, and almost all speak English
  • 4% of population Maori; only about 0.8% speak it
  • 85% urban population

Variation in English
• Dialect - a variety of a language distinguished from other varieties by pronunciation, grammar, lexicon, semantics, etc.
  • Most often - regional variation - how we will use it here, but there are other ways of distinguishing dialects
  • the systems of the language are different
• Accent - phonological characteristics of a language affected by the speaker’s native language/regional pronunciation
  • the sounds are different

Australia and New Zealand
• Generally the same in a lot of ways, but New Zealanders and Australians don’t like to admit it
  • Think Keith Urban and Peter Jackson
• nonrhotic; voiced /t/; few glottal stops; /l/ > /ɫ/
• Vowels tend to be raised and tensed: bet sounds like bait
• Diphthongs more open: fine = /fʌn/
• /ɑ/ rather than /ʌ/ in unstressed syllables
• Mandative subjunctive (It is required that he be…)
• Progressive tenses tend to be used more frequently (will be Xing)
• Lexicon – Australia: most borrowings from aboriginal languages; mostly terms for plants, animals unfamiliar to the British; NZ: most borrowings and loans from Maori peoples for plants, animals
• Maori English – heavily based on NZE with some Maori phrases
• Aboriginal English – Australian native languages undergo creolization with Kriol or Torres Strait/Cape Flat Broken English – used as a lingua franca between aboriginal peoples who don’t speak the same languages

Southern Hemisphere Shift
• Lax or short vowels/ peripheral vowels fall
• Back vowels get fronted

**Southern Hemisphere long vowels**
• Comparison of SAfE and NZE
• Short vowels tend to rise

Images from Gramley, 289-90

**South Africa**
• Model for pronunciation is RP
• nonrhotic
• hard to distinguish /r,l/, /v,b/, /ʃ/, s, tʃ/; /ʒ/, z, dʒ/; /θ, ð/ > /t,d/
• /p,t,k,d/ unaspirated, unvoiced in final position: *led, let* identical
• /æ/ voiced after stress; lax vowels raised and tensed
• /æ/ as normal unstressed vowel
• Morphology and syntax: essentially RP, with tendency to clip sentences
• Lexicon and semantics: most loans from Bantu, Afrikaans
• *Never* as general negation (I never brought it = I didn’t bring it)
• Frequent use of *shall* where GenE/GA use *will*
• Cape Flats dialect – Afrikaans English (GenE w/ Dutch influence)
  • Spoken frequently by Africans – can be considered both local and ethnic dialect
• Natal dialect – closer to StE