

# New Zealand English

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Preddiplomski studij Engleskog jezika i književnosti i Njemačkog jezika i  
književnosti

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**New Zealand English**

Završni rad

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Summary .....	2
Introduction.....	4
1. History and Origin of New Zealand English.....	5
2. New Zealand English vs. British and American English .....	6
3. New Zealand English vs. Australian English.....	8
4. Distinctive Pronunciation.....	9
5. Morphology and Grammar.....	11
6. Maori influence.....	12
6.1.The Maori language.....	12
6.2.Maori Influence on the New Zealand English.....	13
6.3.The pronunciation of Maori words in New Zealand English.....	15
7. Lexical Differences.....	15
7.1 New Zealand English Vocabulary and Meanings.....	15
7.2 New Zealand Phrases and Slang.....	16
7.3 Compounds.....	17
8. Dialects within New Zealand English.....	18
9. Regional Variation in New Zealand English.....	19
10. Social class variation in New Zealand.....	19
10.1 Changes.....	20
11. Works Cited.....	22

## Summary

New Zealand English is a variety of English which has its own distinctive history, pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary. When it comes to the history of New Zealand, it is safe to say there were many visitors from the other continents which eventually changed the looks and population of this area. As it was discovered by Polynesian explorers in the year sixteen forty-two and it was at the beginning of the twentieth century that a New Zealand variety of the English language first came into the existence, it was a long time for this particular variety of English to mould into a separate and distinctive language. Today, it shares differences as well as similarities with the other varieties of English. The most distinguishing features of New Zealand English are due to its Maori origin, the native language of this territory. This language had a great influence on the New Zealand language and it can still be heard today. This influence, as well as the ones from the other continents can be recognized in its vocabulary. The things which distinguish this variety from the others are its unique phrases and slangs, and dialects.

## Key Words

Language

Origin

Influence

New Zealand

Vocabulary

## Sažetak

Novozelandski engleski je podvrsta engleskog jezika koja ima svoju osobitu povijest, izgovor, gramatiku i rječnik. Kada se radi o povijesti Novog Zelanda, dovoljno je reći da su ga posjetili mnogi sa drugih kontinenata, što je eventualno promijenilo izgled i stanovništvo ovoga područja. Kako su ga polinejski istraživači otkrili tisućušestočetrdeset i druge godine, a ova je podvrsta engleskog jezika nastala tek na početku dvadesetoga stoljeća, bilo je to dugo vrijeme u kojemu se ova pojedina podvrsta razvila u zaseban i unikatni jezik. Danas, ona dijeli sličnosti i razlike sa ostalim podvrstama engleskoga jezika. Jedna od najkarakterističnijih osobina novozelandskog jezika postoji zbog svojih veza s jezikom Maori, koji je ujedno i domorodački jezik ovoga teritorija. Taj je jezik imao znatan utjecaj na novozelandski jezik, a rabi se i danas. Ovaj utjecaj, kao i oni sa drugih kontinenta mogu se prepoznati u rječniku. Stvari koje ovu podvrstu najviše razlikuju od ostalih su unikatne fraze, sleng i dijalekti.

## Ključne riječi

Jezik

Podrijetlo

Utjecaj

## Introduction

The main goal of this paper is to explain the New Zealand English, its unique features and similarities it has with some other varieties of the English language. It has been done by first explaining the history of New Zealand which is followed by explaining some of its most important features.

What is interesting about the New Zealand English is that it was not until the nineteenth century that the English language began to be used in New Zealand area due to the arrival of the colonists. Later, it had been influenced by the languages from the Europe, e.g. Scottish English, Australia and Maori. Today, there are a few differences in lexical distribution of vowels between Received Pronunciation and New Zealand English and there is some American influence on New Zealand English. Furthermore, New Zealand English is very similar to the Australian English but there are, of course, some distinct variations.

New Zealand English has a distinctive pronunciation and the phonology is very similar to that of the Australian English and the Received Pronunciation. When it comes to morphology of New Zealand English is quite similar to that of the American, Australian, or British English. The most distinctive feature of New Zealand English is Maori language and it is also an official language of the area. The reason and motivation for this usage of the items from the Maori language was to describe the things and situations which were previously not encountered by people who first came there. When it comes to compounds in the New Zealand English, it is important to mention the phenomenon of hybrid compounding. This feature shows the Maori presence in this particular variety of English. Furthermore, the vocabulary of New Zealand English has been influenced by changes in the usage of traditional English words which have acquired new meanings and by the adoption of Maori words and phrases.

In addition, the Southland burr is one of the recognizable dialects which can be heard in New Zealand. This particular dialect was formed due to the influence from Scottish English. There is also a lot of regional variation in the New Zealand area and social class stratification in early settlements in New Zealand was differed from that of Britain. When it comes to compounds in the New Zealand English, it is important to mention the phenomenon of hybrid compounding. This feature shows the Maori presence in this particular variety of English.

## 1. History and Origin of New Zealand English

During the nineteenth century the English language began to be used in New Zealand due to the arrival of the colonists. That is the reason for an influence on this particular language which came from British English, Australian English, Irish English, Scottish English and Received Pronunciation. Another influence came the Maori English, which was the language spoken there before the arrival of the Europeans. It was the language of the settlers from Polynesia. It was used when the first settlers came to New Zealand and could not name some things with the words from their own language, e.g. when trying to describe something concerning the flora and fauna of that area, so they used the words from Maori English. It was at the beginning of the twentieth century that a New Zealand variety of the English language first came into the existence.

The Polynesian explorers were the first to discover New Zealand in around AD 925. In the year sixteen forty-two the first Europeans came to this area and the consequence of their arrival was the sole name New Zealand. When Captain Cook first arrived there it was also the first contact with the English language, and he also claimed this area for the British Crown. It is interesting that a great proportion of the English-speaking settlers came from Australia, and not from Europe, because English was brought and strengthened in Australia by the traders. It was also the time when the English language spread quickly among the Maori population. In the middle of the nineteenth century the number of people became greater and the ones speaking Maori were outnumbered by the English speakers. (Burrige, Kortmann)

It was a relatively short period of time that individual people in the New Zealand area were beginning to develop a common language. By the end of the nineteenth century people were complaining of a “colonial twist” which was the product of “the home and the street”. In the early part of the twentieth century came the period when the New Zealand English was marked as an abomination. It was the time when some New Zealanders tried to use the Received Pronunciation in their language. Furthermore, it is a fact that the development of the New Zealand English depended much on the social factor. The speakers who lived in homogenous towns where mostly settlers from Scotland, and they were able to show more features of this particular accent, especially when it comes to syntax and pronunciation. On the other hand, the speakers who lived in towns with mixed population were the ones who created the early manifestations of the New Zealand English.

## 2. New Zealand English vs. British and American English

New Zealand English is a form of English used in an area called New Zealand. There are a few differences in lexical distribution of vowels between Received Pronunciation and New Zealand English. When it comes to the lexical stress pattern, that of New Zealand English conforms to that of the Received Pronunciation. Some differences are the expressions like *spectator*, *dictator* and *frustrate* which are stressed on the first syllable, and *agriculture* on first or third, and also a tendency towards strong secondary stress in words which end in *-ary/-ory* shows a difference. Furthermore, the Australian and New Zealand English are more advanced in the use of the subjunctive form than British English. Also, the avoidance of the modal verb *shall* is one of the features which distinguishes New Zealand, Australian and American English from the British one. New Zealand English allegedly resembles Scottish English in a way that the modal verb *will* is apparently used instead of *shall* with first person pronouns in questions in order to express suggestions or offers, e.g. Will I close the window?

There is some American influence on New Zealand English. This can be spotted on the use of either traditional New Zealand or American vocabulary pairs such as *torch/flashlight* and *lift/elevator*. Such comparisons show how the acceptance of American lexical forms in New Zealand English is mediated by both change over time and regional variation. American influence on the lexicon of New Zealand English has been recorded even before the Treaty of Waitangi in the year eighteen-forty. The expression *creek* in its American sense of a freshwater stream is documented in the year eighteen-fifteen, which is very early, and *kerosene* for the British expression *paraffin* from the year eighteen-sixty-eight. Some stronger influences began with and after World War Two, and with the onset of the 'Pax Americana' of globalisation and dominance of the American media. To illustrate, the expression *creek* has become *flood*. Use of American innovations can be shown in the example of how the expressions were used in two areas of New Zealand. These innovations are generally less used in Dunedin than in Auckland, and in some cases it seems that Dunedin is keeping to the original New Zealand usage more than Auckland. Also, where change is occurring in Dunedin, this is happening later than in Auckland. To illustrate, the use of the expression *cookie* (in relation to *biscuit*), which is rising, could be partially due to the start of production, and great popularity, of the biscuit named Cookie Time. In addition, the high use of the expression *napkin* in Dunedin suggests, not necessarily American influence, but the existence of some lexical differences by region. Another example is the change from the expression



*pictures to movies*. It is one example which really shows this change. The same can be seen with the examples of shift from *rubber to eraser*, and *bonnet to hood*. (Green, Bayard)

The verbs *appeal* and *protest* take prepositional objects as their complements in the British English, and in American both can be used without the preposition. There may also be some direct influence from American English. The complementation patterns of the expressions *protest* and *appeal* in New Zealand English might be closer to those in American than to British English preferences. This way, only a minority of conservative speakers would be trying to keep up the linguistic link with the British English. Furthermore, a usage which is typical of New Zealand English but not of British or American English is the use of *farewell* as a transitive verb, e.g. They farewelled retiring members of staff. This verb is actually a Southern Hemisphere idiosyncrasy. Furthermore, when it comes to get-passives, they are most frequently used in American English, and the Australian takes an intermediate position between the American and British English. (Burrige, Kortmann) The following is a list of expressions used in New Zealand and American English:

Brown bread - Wheat bread  
Mincemeat - Ground beef  
Beef patty - Salisbury steak  
Bacon rasher - Bacon slice  
(Hot) chips - (French) fries  
Hot dog - Corn dog  
Crayfish - Lobster  
Smarties - M and Ms  
Telegraph cucumber - English cucumber  
To grill - To broil  
Flat - Apartment  
Flatmate - Roommate  
Guillotine - Paper cutter  
Drawing pin - Thumb tack  
Hand brake - Parking brake  
Towbar - Hitch  
Motorway - Freeway  
Busker - Street musician

Girl guide - Girl scout

Stirrer - Troublemaker

Ladybird - Ladybug

### 3. New Zealand English vs. Australian English

New Zealand English is very similar to the Australian English but there are, of course, some distinct variations. It is interesting that Australia had a great influence on the language of New Zealand, especially because of the trading industry.

The grammars of Australian English and New Zealand English go together in many ways in contrast with the major northern hemisphere varieties, thus forming a common standard. This can be found at several levels of syntax. When it comes to morphology, these two languages have more in common with each other than with British English. These features they have in common are their higher usage of nonstandard and nonstandardized verb forms within ordinary discourse, their selections of first person pronouns in coordinated constructions, where both varieties do not use the accusative pronoun *me* so much, but they use “X and I” coordination in non-subject roles in speech. In these two languages the speakers also use the expression *myself* as an alternative to *me* in coordinated constructions, whether subject or non-subject. Another example is the exploitation of hypocoristic forms with *-ie*. Furthermore, they use single past form for irregular verbs such as *ring (rung)*, *shrink (shrunk)* which could be considered as a kind of “colonial lag“. In both southern varieties, *like* has a function as a discourse marker in spontaneous speech. The reason for such usage can be found in Scottish English. In addition, the intensifiers and swearwords such as *bloody*, *or shit(ty)* are also used as markers of informal discourse. However, Australian and New Zealand use of swearwords does not seem to be particularly extreme.

There are also some differences between these two languages. The main difference lies in the pronunciation. The speakers of the New Zealand English have difficulties pronouncing the letter “I”, which is the common characteristic of the Australian English. The New Zealand English also does not mark the difference between male and female pronunciation, which is another feature of Australian English. Furthermore, the Australian English vowel KIT is raised over the same period so that the pronunciation of KIT is one of the most striking differences between the two varieties of English, and one that is commented on by speakers in both countries. Also, New Zealanders accuse Australians of saying *feesh and cheeps* and Australians accuse New Zealanders of saying *fish and chups*. (Burrige, Kortmann)

It has been concluded that *-o* formations are far more common in Australian English. One example concerning syntax is the use of *but* as a final particle in Australian English. This feature is also present in Scottish and Irish English. Furthermore, Australian English shows the greatest number uses of *-ing*, e.g. to express politeness or a particular attitude or interpretation. So the fact that the New Zealand English contains more progressive forms and canonical modals also shows this distinctiveness. The Australian English, on the other hand, contains a lot of quasi- modals, a feature which puts this variety closer the American English. When it comes to negations, the New Zealand English indicates a frequent use of *no* when compared to *not*, especially in writing. Other distinguishing marker is greater use of colloquial features in the New Zealand variety.

#### 4. Distinctive Pronunciation

New Zealand English has a distinctive pronunciation. Some of the features which exhibit this are the peculiar sound which is turned into long *a* as in *star*, the final *y* or *i* as in *citee*, or *historee*, a large number of words in which an English long *o*, becomes a short *o*, as in *jolt*, *toll*, *auction*, or *knoll*. Furthermore, many expressions which are pronounced in Standard English with the stress on the second syllable or a later syllable are in the New Zealand variety of English stressed on the first. To illustrate, *Research*, *MAGazine*, *NARRator*, and *MANkind*. In some words, these features appears to be reversed, so that the stress is placed later. Some examples are *cuckOO*, *jubilEE*, and *vaccINE*.

The Australian English and the Received Pronunciation have a very similar phonology to that of the New Zealand English. There are, however, some differences. The vowel system is stressed and standard non-rhotic. Features like Lip-rounding and spreading is not strong in New Zealand English. There is some as-yet unexplained articulatory compensation for lip-rounding which can give the auditory impression of lip-rounding without any difference in the actual lip-position. There is also some neutralisation before /r/ and /l/. To illustrate, in the following words the phonemes are neutralized before /r/: *fleece*, *near -i*. The neutralisation before /l/ can be heard among the younger speakers of New Zealand English. These do not distinguish words such as *celery* and *salary*, or *pull* and *pool*. Such contrasts vary depending on the gender or age of the speaker. When it comes to the unstressed vowel system, expressions like *chattered* and *chatted*, and *villages* and *villagers* sound the same when spoken in this language.

The short vowel system is characteristic of New Zealand English. According to this KIT, DRESS, and TRAP are phonetically displaced one slot clockwise from their equivalent vowels in conservative Received Pronunciation. The KIT vowel is a distinguishing feature between speakers of Australian and New Zealand English so that a phrase „fish and chips“ sounds amusing to the speakers of the opposite language. Some vowels are paired in terms of length and tension, so the words like *bird* and *bid* may be spotted as being two different things only by the length of the vowel. Furthermore, when it comes to the DRESS vowel, which is close, it may come to overlapping with the FLEECE vowel. The TRAP vowel is also close, but it can come to a TRAP-split, when there are longer and shorter versions which contrast in pairs like *band* and *banned*. Also, the New Zealand English vowels START and STRUT, when it comes to pairs according to length and tension, are to be paired which results in a length difference between the expressions such as *cart* and *cut*. Much the same way, if the THOUGHT and FOOT vowels are paired, then the words like *port* and *put* may be distinguished only by vowel length. Moreover, the modern speakers of New Zealand English use the same vowel in the words *example* and *dance*. It is one of the distinguishing features of New Zealand and Australian English. However, the way people in New Zealand area speak is changing. E.g. the phrase “thank you” is being pronounced more often in the same way the children do it, so that the diphthong, which is very wide, sounds like the one in GOAT vowel.

When it comes to diphthongs, in CHOICE, PRICE and FACE there is a diphthong shift, which places them one spot anti-clockwise from their slot in Received Pronunciation. A result of this is that many speakers of this language cannot distinguish between words SQUARE and NEAR when they hear them. Also, there is little difference in pronunciation when it comes to the words *Mary* and *merry*.

In the Southland-Otago area the non-prevocalic /r/ is pronounced, and the standard New Zealand English as a whole is marked as being non-rhotic, and it has linking and intrusive “r”. There are, however, two words which are pronounced with a non-prevocalic /r/. Those are the name of the consonant “r”, and the name Ireland. Some words and expressions are borrowed from an American language because of the media, and those are pronounced with a pseudo-American “r”, e.g. *whatever*. Furthermore, yod-dropping is variable. After /r/ in expressions like *rule*, /j/ has vanished, as in other varieties of English. Also, when it comes to the distinction between the pronunciation of “wh” and “w”, it was not so distinguishable before, but it is slowly becoming more and more clear. To illustrate, the speakers of New Zealand had

trouble in making a distinction between *whales* and *Wales*, or *which* and *witch*. (Burridge, Kortmann)

When it comes to vowels and consonants, the central vowel in New Zealand English is the short- *i*, which is very similar to schwa. Here can be noted the difference in the pronunciation between the New Zealand and Australian English. The English spoken in New Zealand is mainly non-rhotic, which means that the speakers do not pronounce the letter “r” after vowels in their words. Only the speakers of the Southland burr which is a semi-rhotic dialect of the New Zealand English, and it has been influenced by the Scottish English.

## 5. Morphology and Grammar

It is known that the differences among varieties of English often occur in the area of grammar and the lexicon, as is the case here. When it comes to verbs such as *dream* or *spoil*, the morphology of New Zealand English is quite similar to that of the American, Australian, or British English. But for *prove* and *get*, however, the irregular form persists in some varieties of English language. For verbs such as *spoil*, *leap* or *spill* American English prefers the regular *-ed* preterit and past participle forms. The Australian English is more of a language to itself, when it comes to morphology; it has no commitment to American or British pattern. Furthermore, there is an interesting feature of variation between varieties of English language in the noun phrase, and that is the one between the *s-* and the *of-* genitive. Prototypical nouns, i.e. conscious, animate creatures like *John* or the *cat*, occur with the *s-*genitive. When it comes to syntax, the variation can be found in aspectual differences, the use of auxiliaries, relativisation patterns, *do*-support in negation, agreement with collective nouns, mood, noun-phrase structure and voice. When it comes to the systematic distinction between perfect and past in the aspect, as the area of New Zealand was settled after the grammaticalisation of the present perfect, it is expected that the usage resembles British more than American English. The perfective form appears to be the preferred aspect in formal, i.e. written standard varieties of English with the temporal adverbials *yet*, *since* and *just*. British, New Zealand and Australian English are more advanced in the grammaticalization of the opposition between the present perfect and the simple past. The two varieties of the English language, New Zealand and Australian English, are therefore more advanced in the change towards a more frequent use of progressives than American English. When it comes to the auxiliaries, in New Zealand English, the usage of *shall* is avoided, and *will* is used instead, with first person pronouns in questions to express suggestions and offers.

## 6. Maori influence

### 6.1. The Maori language

Maori or Te reo Maori is the language spoken by the indigenous people of the New Zealand. It has been accepted that this language is the most distinctive feature of New Zealand English. This language is also an official language of the area. One of the features of this particular language within the New Zealand area is its mora-timed rhythm. Where Maori is concerned, a mora is a unit of length such that a short vowel constitutes a single mora and a long vowel or diphthong constitutes two. In mora-timing, a sequence of two syllables each containing one short vowel is rhythmically equivalent to a single syllable containing a long vowel. One of the differences is that the Maori speakers omit the auxiliary verb *have* at greater rates than Pakeha speakers. It is interesting that the working class speakers omit it more than middle class speakers and males more than females. It is being noted as an effect of socio-economic class. (Burridge, Kortmann)

The Maori alphabet is restricted to fifteen letters - h, k, m, n, p, r, t, w, a, e, i, o, u, wh, and ng. Also, every syllable ends in a vowel, and the quantity of the vowel may vary, which results in changing the meaning of a word. To illustrate, the vowel „a“ is pronounced as in rather, „e“ as in *ten*, „i“ as in *seen*, „o“ as in *board*, and finally, „u“ as in *bloom*. It is also interesting that when two vowels come together each has proper sound. E.g. *Aotea* is pronounced "A-o-te-a". Then, „th“ is often pronounced as *f*, and „ng“ is pronounced as in *singing*.

It is interesting that while many ethnically Maori speakers use a form of English which is identifiably Maori, not all ethnically Maori speakers do, and in areas which has high Maori populations, this form of English is also used by some who are not ethnically Maori. There also appears to be some known forms where a term that is known to be a feature of Maori English shows the same kind of distributional pattern as the forms which can be added to the features of the real Maori English. One case is the use of the word *grow*. There are not a lot of these expressions such as this one in the South Island. It is also much more common in the Northern Region than the Central Region. Forms like *kia ora* may be taught in classrooms, and their occurrence could reflect this. However, it is different with non-standard forms like *growl me*. Some forms are produced by speakers who are not ethnically Maori as well as those who are. However, they appear only where there has been a lot of exposure to the Maori English, so they reflect a speech pattern which is derived from ethnically Maori English,

whether they are produced by ethnically Maori speakers or not. There are also some items which cannot be marked as being connected to the Maori population. One example which is worth noting is the expression *whakama* in English. This particular expression represents a reaction of extreme embarrassment in the face of praise, even if the praise contains a welcome. It can also be remarked as feeling good on the inside, but not on the outside, a bit shamed but OK. Furthermore, there are some forms which are Northern and which are not strongly associated with the Maori population. The expression *Tiggy* can also be used as the name of the chasing game. This expression is more common in the Northern Region than the Central Region, and also more common in the Northern Region than the Southern Region. Also it is more common in the North Island than the South. So in forms which are not specifically linked to the Maori population, the interaction between the regional factors is different from those which show a link to the Maori population. (Bauer)

## 6.2. Maori Influence on the New Zealand English

The Maori population had a big influence on the population of New Zealand and one of the most pervasive effects of the Maori population can be seen in the socio-economic profile of the country. The reasons for these changes are changes in attitudes among the speakers of the English language, demographic shifts, revitalization of the Maori language, and social and political changes. Moreover, words of Maori origin began to come into written English with publications in the year seventeen seventy-three and followed by the writings of further explorers in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. When it comes to the pattern of borrowing from Maori, there are some significant borrowings into English from the year seventeen sixty-nine to the early colonial period, followed by a long period when the presence of words of Maori origin in and their contribution to New Zealand English remained relatively static, until a new wave of borrowings from Maori into New Zealand English since well into the second half of the twentieth century. (Macalister) It happened often that there was no obvious English language alternative with loanwords, as is the case with *kiwi* (the bird that has come to symbolize the country), *kauri* (a tree), and *kahawai* (a fish). However, a choice exists between an English language and a Maori language synonym. In these cases there is likely to be competition between the two forms. (Macalister)

The words borrowed were mostly used for expressing things like plants, sea life, birds and some places. There are around thirty forms which are directly derived from the Maori language. Some words which were borrowed from the Maori language were used to name

birds, such as *kea*, *weka*, then the words like *toetoe* and *tutu* which name various plants, and also to name various fish, like *hapuku* or *tarahikiri*.

Some other terms are *kia ora* which means *welcome* or *hello*. It is used for greeting in general, but can also express gratitude and mean *thank you*. Some other greeting or phrases, like *kia kaha*, which means *be strong*, are used frequently. Apart from that, there are some hybrid words, which are a mixture of Maori and English. An example for that is a term *half-pai*. The Maori word *pai* stands for *good*, and the whole word means *incomplete quality*. Some of the Maori words are used as slang. Here is a list of some Maori words which can be used in everyday context:

Taonga - Property, treasure

Aotearoa – New Zealand

Katipo - Poisonous spider

Aroha – Love, affection

Hui – Meeting

Iwi – Tribe, people

Kai - Food

Pakeha - European

Wai - Water

Utu – Revenge

Haere mai - Welcome, come in, enter

Haere ra - Goodbye (from a person staying)

Morena - Good morning

New Zealand prison slang has added influence of the Maori language. There are three particular Maori borrowings which have common collocations in the rural lexicon, and those are *pakihi*, *whare*, and *Maori*. Some other examples of such collocations are *whare boss* and *sod whare*, *whare boy*, *open*, *closed* and *blind pakihi*, *Maori hay* and *Maori huntaway*. There are also some other rural borrowings from Te reo Maori, which include collocations with botanical names, for example, *akekake monkey* and *manuka blight*.

Words of Maori origin account for about six words per thousand in contemporary New Zealand English running text. These words are distributed among the various semantic



domains. There are proper nouns, particularly place and person names, which are the largest single group, making about sixty percent of Maori words in New Zealand English today. The second largest group is made out of tikanga Maori and general words. The last group is comprised out of the flora and fauna forms.

### 6.3. The pronunciation of Maori words in New Zealand English

There are two positions. The first one is an assimilation position. According to this, all Maori words are pronounced as English expressions. The second one is a nativist position. According to this position, all Maori words are pronounced in Maori language, or at least as similar as possible to the original pronunciation. The phonology of the Maori language is simpler than the English one. To illustrate, voiceless stops were originally unaspirated, but have increasingly become aspirated under the influence of English. Also, /t, n/ can be alveolar or dental, /r/ is a voiced alveolar tap. The nature of /f/ varies between dialects of Maori. (Burridge, Kortmann)

## 7. Lexical Differences

### 7.1. New Zealand English Vocabulary and Meanings

The vocabulary of New Zealand English has been influenced by changes in the usage of traditional English words which have acquired new meanings and by the adoption of Maori words and phrases, by infiltration of words and idioms from the American English, and by contact with Australia. Familiar examples of the first group are *mob*, *creek*, *paddock*, and *bush*, all of which acquired their new meaning first in Australia. Examples of the native words now in general use are the names of birds, fish, plants, and trees: *kea*, *tui*, *hapuku*, *tarakihi*, *koromiko*, *raupo*, and *kauri*. It is not likely that this element in the vocabulary will ever increase much. There are some preferences for certain English words such as *village* for the *shopping centre in suburbs* and the very frequent use of the playful *wee* for *little* as in *a wee while* for *a short time*.

There is a number of phrases and words spoken in the casual speech among the speakers of the New Zealand English. Here is a list of some expressions first in New Zealand and then in Australian English followed by proper explanations:

Chilly bin – Esky – Cooler

Dairy – Milk bar/ Deli - Convenience store

Jandals – Thongs – Flip-flops

Candy floss – Fairi floss – Cotton Candy

The following is a list of words used in New Zealand English, both shared with Australian English and unique to New Zealand English:

Boat Person- A a person from the South Island who moves to the North Island and vice versa.

Boy racer- Young delinquent or street racer.

Chilly bin- An Esky or other portable polystyrene/plastic food and beverage cooler.

Egg- Mild insult meaning 'fool' or 'dork'.

Hau- Expression: wow.

Huckery- A descriptive term for something that is defective or badly done.

Mean - Cool, good, normally used with -as at the end 'Your new car's mean bro'.

Munta - Good person, 'Johnno ya munta'. Affectionate term.

There are some words and meanings which have originated in rural New Zealand and have a greater usage in the rural domain than in any other or in the general lexicon. This, also known as a rural New Zealand English is not very known in British English, and it has a special significance in rural New Zealand. To illustrate, expressions like *Captain Cooker*, *dog job*, *conversion*, *gullyscreeamer*, *killing shed*, *Tukidale* and *whare boys* are part of the rural New Zealand English lexicon. Some others, which are names of flora and fauna, are *cabbage tree*, *kea*, *matagouri* and *tutu*. There are also a lot of terms which have been given new use in New Zealand and Australia and are included in the lexicon because they are well-established and freely used in New Zealand. Such are the expressions like *chook*, *station* and *run*. (Bardsley)

## 7.2. New Zealand Phrases and Slang

Kiwi slang and New Zealand English are very similar to modern Australian English or contemporary South African English. Kiwi slang is unique because it is very influenced by the words used by native Maori population, who inhabited the land before the arrival of the Europeans. Here is the list of some phrases and slang which show the uniqueness of the New Zealand English:

Eh!- *Slang* Used for emphasis at the end of a sentence. It can also mean *isn't it*.

Couldn't be - Short for couldn't be bothered.

Chop- A slang used to indicate when a person has been owned or shown.

Jandals - *Slang* as in American or British expression for *flip-flops*

Blow me down. - Expression of surprise, as in: Well! Blow me down, I didn't know that.

Good on ya, mate! - Congratulations, well done.

Rattle your dags. - Hurry up; get a move on.

Spit the dummy. - To throw a tantrum or get mad.

Suck the kumura. - To die or otherwise cease.

You ain't wrong. - That's right, yes.

It has been reported in the New Zealand Language that the plural form of an expression *you* among West Coast school children was often *yous*, and an expression *Ain't* has been heard used by the speakers of non-standard New Zealand English. Furthermore, when it comes to the regional variation, there are some features which could be unique to Southland, a part of New Zealand which was, possibly more than elsewhere, a subject to more Scottish influence. These are the use of the past participle following *wants* and *needs* (e.g. the baby needs fed), the use of *will* with first-person subjects in questions (e.g. will I close the door), the lack of contraction of the negation *not* (e.g. did you not?), and the deletion of prepositions in some contexts (e.g. He came out hospital). (Burridge, Kortmann)

### 7.3. Compounds

When it comes to compounds in the New Zealand English, it is important to mention the phenomenon of hybrid compounding. This feature shows the Maori presence in this particular variety of English. Some of these are *country marae*, which stands for communal gathering place in the Countryside, then *rugby mana*, which means the power of rugby, and *iwi affiliation*, which means tribal affiliation. These units can be written as one word or with a hyphen, e.g. expressions such as *kiwi-based*, or *maoriland*. Some orthographically separated combinations which consist of two nouns, such as *marae protocol*, are also considered as compounds. However, phrasal specifier combinations (e.g. Maori and Pakeha people), genitive constructions (e.g. Pakeha minister's attempt), and proper noun compounds (e.g. *Totara College*) are not considered to be compounds. Some other items of this kind, i. e. complex lexical units are *kiwi speak*, *waka-jumper*, and *kumara vine*.

## 8. Dialects within New Zealand English

When it comes to New Zealand dialects, it is important to say that the process of creating many dialects is limited because of the small area. There are, however, certain places of the country which are so isolated by nature that it is very possible for regional pronunciations to develop. Such are the West Coast of the South Island, Northland, the King Country, and Banks Peninsula. Even now there are a lot of known idioms which are peculiar to certain districts. For example, on the West Coast of the South Island people say *the boy of Smith* instead of *the boy Smith* or *the Smiths' boy*. This particular feature is also said to be used in Lyttelton. In Otago, people say *whenever* for *when* and a few other such items with Scottish origin are present among the speakers. Some slang terms also appear to be peculiar to certain districts. For example, the Auckland term *up the Puhoi or Boohoy*, and this means gone somewhere or other. The latter is, so to say, a local product, and it refers to an old German settlement on the coast north of Auckland. In addition, there are two main accents in New Zealand English and those are Pākehā English and Māori English.

The Southland burr is one of the recognizable dialects which can be heard in New Zealand. This particular dialect was formed due to the influence from Scottish English. Other regional variations are not so distinguishable. This “Southland speech” or “the Southland dialect” is a regional variant of New Zealand English which is associated with Southland in the south and south-west of the South Island. Many of the features of the dialect extend over other areas, for example, most of rural Otago, or South Canterbury. This dialect can be spotted by the following features: long *a* of *car* replaced by the short front *a* of *cat* before *n* and *m*+ consonant as in words like *dance*, *chance*, or *example*. Then, possibly the most prominent feature is the “burred” *r*, which is pronounced at the end of words and before consonants, as in words like *beer*, *there*, *shore*, or *certain*. Also, diphthong *au* of *cow* has a first element like the *e* of *very*, and a fronted second element – *eu*. Some speakers turn it into a trip thong *eiu* by inserting a glide between the first and second elements, so instead of using the standard pronunciation for the word about, they pronounce it like *abeut*, or *abeiut*. Also, the initial element of the diphthong *ei* of *day* is often lowered to near the *e* of *very*.

This dialect also has a distinctive vocabulary. The words which are used in the area populated by the speakers of this dialect are associated with northern English or Scottish dialect. To illustrate, the expression *Ashet*, which means *a large meat plate*, and has roots in Northern dialectal meaning, *a dish or large flat plate*, from French expression *assiette*. The

words which contain the uniqueness of this particular dialect are *crib* for general New Zealand *bach* which means *seaside cottage*. There are also some words which maybe had their first usage in New Zealand, and they passed into general New Zealand English. Such are Australasian expression *billu* for the *container*, then New Zealand expression *dag* for a *character*, and *(old) identity* for the meaning *first settler*.

#### 9. Regional Variation in New Zealand English

Some of the early settlers who came to the New Zealand area came from all parts of the Australia and the British Isles. Those who came from England made a far larger number. It came to that that the early Southern English influence was reinforced by the Australian one, which happened during the time of the gold rush and the New Zealand Wars. Although much of the early immigrants to New Zealand were Scottish and Irish, later it came to an influence from the Southern English, which was phonologically strong. The influence of other areas of the British Isles can be seen only in a few lexical and morphological features. In the Southern part of the South Island of New Zealand, however, many of the early settlements were predominantly Scottish. This influence can still be heard and it is now known as “the Southland burr”, which is a semi-rhotic variant of New Zealand English. Also, there are intonational differences in the North Island. It is a Taranaki intonation as which is described as “sing song”, and its features are more pitch shifts per intonation unit than in other areas of New Zealand. Such regional differences are minor when compared with those that characterize the Southland variety or the other dialects in other varieties of English. The primary consonantal feature of the Southland variety of New Zealand English is the presence of rhotic forms, which has always been the salient diagnostic feature of this variety. The Southland speakers use the TRAP vowel in the BATH lexical set and though this usage is declining rapidly, the older Southland speakers still use TRAP in the words like *dance*, *castle* and *chance*. The younger speakers replace TRAP by the standard New Zealand English BATH vowel. (Burridge, Kortmann)

#### 10. Social class variation in New Zealand

Social class stratification in early settlements in New Zealand was differed from that of Britain. Although New Zealanders like to be acknowledged as a classless society it is widely recognized that there are social class differences in present-day New Zealand. The conventional method of classification which used to define social class variation within New Zealand English is the Cultivated, General and Broad New Zealand English. On a continuum,

Cultivated is nearer to Received Pronunciation, and Broad is farthest from it. These cannot be described as being discrete categories but they are rather points on a continuum. The social class differences are clearly identifiable in present-day New Zealand English, e.g. the centering diphthongs SQUARE and NEAR receive different pronunciations from different social groups. The consonant that most clearly shows this social class differentiation is *th*. It is fronted, so that the word *think* is pronounced /fɪŋk/ by many speakers from lower social classes. This TH-fronting is overtly stigmatized by those who speak Cultivated New Zealand English. It is therefore safe to say that the speakers from the higher social classes avoid it. Another consonant which demonstrates social class differentiation is /l/. This consonant is vocalized less by speakers of Cultivated New Zealand English. Speakers of this variation are also less likely to use flaps in words like *city* or to affricate /tr/ and /str/. Furthermore, the consequence of using a Broad New Zealand English accent is particularly marked for women. This distinction can also be recognized among some older women from the higher social classes and from other parts of the country, but this happens much more in reading than in speech.

#### 10.1. Changes

Many of the phonemes in New Zealand English are undergoing a change. The post-vocalic /r/ that still can be heard in Southland, for example, is decreasing in frequency. Some older rural males, however, still use it over eighty percent of the time, but younger urban speakers use it only after the NURSE vowel and also no more than twenty percent of the time. The urban speakers have increased their use of a rhotic NURSE vowel, and as a consequence of that it is becoming a mark of the Southland identity. The most salient class markers, which are the closing diphthongs FACE, PRICE, MOUTH and GOAT, have changed slightly over time, but the relative differences between Cultivated and Broad pronunciations have been maintained.

When it comes to vowel changes, the most obvious vowel change New Zealand English is the merger between the vowels of NEAR and SQUARE, so that the expressions such as *ear* and *air* or *cheer* and *chair* can no longer be distinguished. Over the twentieth century the front vowels DRESS and TRAP have raised and the vowel KIT became centralized and lowered so that the advanced New Zealand English speakers now use a vowel more open than schwa. Furthermore, when it comes to consonantal changes the vocalization of /l/ is a consonantal change that is very advanced in New Zealand. In this change, post-

vocalic /l/, which is also called as ‘dark’ /l/, which is articulated with the back of the tongue raised, loses its tongue tip. The female speakers which belong to the higher social still use an alveolar lateral when this sound occurs in a word list just over sixty percent of the time, but the younger, lower social class speakers, both male and female, now vocalize /l/ almost seventy percent of the time even in the most formal of contexts. The rate of /l/-vocalization is, however, higher in casual speech. Vocalization of post-vocalic /l/ is parallel to the loss of post-vocalic /r/, and eventually the /l/ in the expressions such as child may be completely lost so that the words child and chide become homophonous. Another consonantal change that is happening swiftly in New Zealand English is the affrication of /tr/ and /str/. The cluster has been pronounced with friction in New Zealand English. (Burridge, Kortmann)

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