Scottish English

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Scottish Gaelic

• an ethnic Celtic language
• slight revival (a renewed sense of national identity and recent positive legislation)
• not a compulsory subject in the vast majority of schools
• remains a community language in some parts of Scotland (notably in the Hebrides)
Standard Scottish English

• since 1707 Standard English = the language of religion, education and government (the socially prestigious form adopted by the aspiring middle classes)

• a variety of local accents.

• RP – a negligible presence in Scotland

• Scots = a dialect descended from Old English has maintained a strong presence (especially in rural communities)

• The most archaic forms of SE have not gone through The Great Vowel Shift
Rhoticity

- the vast majority of speakers in Scotland are rhotic

- Scottish ‘r’ = [ɾ] (alveolar tap) / [r] (alveolar trill)

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<th>Scottish</th>
<th>RP</th>
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<tr>
<td>three</td>
<td>[θriː]</td>
<td>[θriː]</td>
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<td>car</td>
<td>[kaːr]</td>
<td>[kaːr]</td>
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Different set of Vowels

• Almost complete absence of /ə/
  – substituted with another vowel
• Monophthongization
  RP Scottish
  [ɡəʊ] [ɡoː]
• the lack of vowel length contrasts
  – no distinction between /ʊ/ and /u/
    • these vowels are merged in Scottish English
      – FOOT and GOOSE
Different set of Vowels

• the retention of historical vowel contrasts before /r/ in words of the NURSE set (*purposes* with /ʌr/ but *perfect* with /ɛr/)
• The vowels of NORTH and FORCE are distinct (horse, force), but not those of LOT and THOUGHT (horrible, awesome).
Aitken’s Law

• Some vowels are realised as long when they precede /l/ and /r/.
  – FULL and FOOL
Consonants

• /hw/ in when and wheel (no "Glide Cluster Reduction")

• velar fricative [x]
  – dicht ('clothed'), slight, bricht, sicht (= English dight, slight, bright, sight).

• glottal stops
Valuable pages and sources

• Basic Phrases in Scottish English
  http://www.linguanaut.com/english_scots.htm

• English – Scottish Translator
  http://www.scottranslate.com

• General inter-accent translator tool
  http://www.whoohoo.co.uk
Videos

• Karen Gillan Interview (Craig Fergusson)
  – http://youtu.be/QAX9jTOXswQ?t=1m30s

• Edwin Morgan
  – http://youtu.be/cgeGIRzQD40?t=10m6s

• Elevator
  – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e-u9XWmRbyc
Sources

• http://www.bl.uk/learning/langlit/sounds/find-out-more/scotland/

• https://www.uni-due.de/SVE/VARS_Scotland.htm

• http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/wells/accentsanddialects/