

AJL22066  
PRONUNCIATION  
VARIETIES OF  
ENGLISH

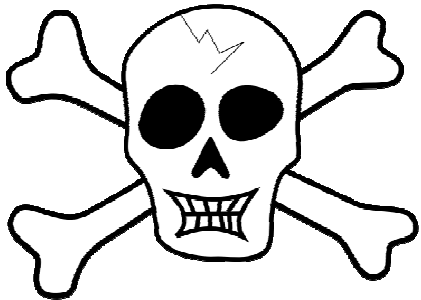
MARIIA MINAEVA



Accent as a social  
maker



Countermovement



1974 TONY HARRISON “*THEM AND [UZ]*”

The poet was told off for reciting Keats in his native Leeds accent instead of RP

“All poetry (even **Cockney Keats?**) you see  
‘s been dubbed by [Λs] into RP,  
Received Pronunciation, please believe [Λs]  
your speech is in the hands of the Receivers.”

“You can tell the Receivers where to go  
(and not aspirate it) once you know  
**Wordsworth’s matter/water are full rhymes**”

“(I ...) spoke the language that I spoke at  
home.  
RIP RP, RIP T.W.  
I’m Tony Harrison no longer you!”

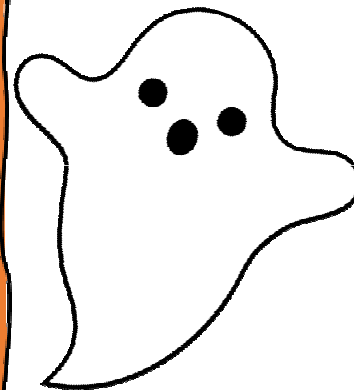
1988 PAUL TENCH *ENGLISH  
PRONOUNCING DICTIONARY* (15TH  
EDITION )

- asks to replace the phrase *RP* with *BBC English*



1991 DAVID ABERCROMBIE “RP RIP?”

- notes that many regular BBC speakers have a local accent and RP is “on its way out”



# 1991 DAVID ABERCROMBIE “RP RIP?”

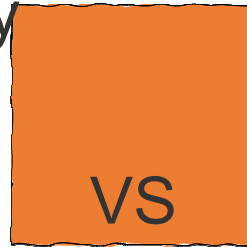
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- “No accent or dialect remains static” it is normal that RP undergoes changes
- “accent bar” (from “colour bar”)
- RP as a sign of privilege is hated more and more
- Young people choose to speak with their local accent



## 2011 MELVYN BRAGG BBC PROGRAMME "RP RIP?"

- For the foreign listeners, RP is associated with "lovable fops" as Hugh Grant and Stephen Fry



- with villains, such as Ralph Fiennes in *Harry Potter*, Terence Stamp in *Superman 2*, Ian McKellen as Magneto in the *X-Men* films, Paul Bettany in *The Da Vinci Code*



## TO PROVE THAT RP IS ALREADY GONE

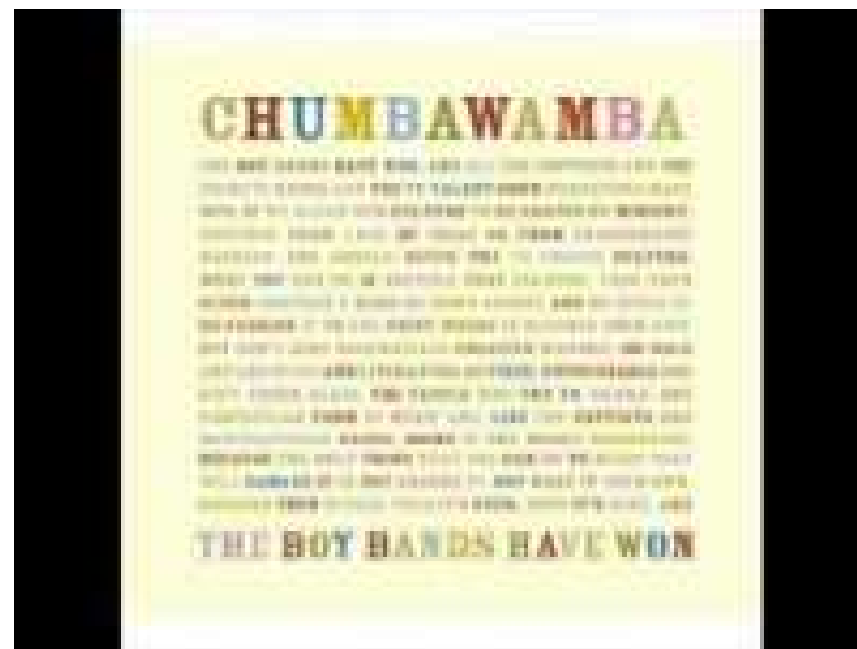
2015 letter to the Times

*“Sir, I was alarmed to hear on the news about the rapidly growing number of psychopaths in London. Halfway through the story I realised that they were reporting an increase in cycle paths. I miss Received Pronunciation.”*

- *psychopath* in SBE, including RP, is ['saikə,pæθ]
- *cycle path* Home Counties SBE ['saikw,pɑθ]

# CHUMBAWAMBA “RIP RP”

*“Goodbye RP,  
Let our words go free,  
Coo and howl,  
Lay flat your vowels  
Ah ay ee”*



Home Counties SBE: open [æ] instead of [aʊ] in RP

## SOURCES

- RIP RP – RP RIP? Swphonetics, 2018. <https://swphonetics.com/2018/12/14/rip-rp-rp-rip/>
- Them and [Uz] by Tony Harrison. The English and Media Centre. <http://poetrystation.org.uk/poems/them-and-uz><http://poetrystation.org.uk/poems/them-and-uz>
- RIP RP by Chumbawamba. 2008. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFhdS21E7qs>
- RP RIP? BBC Radio 4, 2016. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b012zy1c>
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