

## “A Linguistic Time-capsule: The Newcastle Electronic Corpus of Tyneside English”

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The projected Newcastle Electronic Corpus of Tyneside English (NECTE), supported by an AHRB Award (2001-2004) will make two large speech samples, collected in 1969 and 1994, respectively, available for consultation by scholars via the WWW. The earlier sample is that gathered during the *Tyneside Linguistic Survey (TLS)* (funded by the SSRC) (Pellowe *et al.* 1972; Strang 1968) and the 1994 recordings were collected for an ESRC-funded project (*Phonological Variation and Change (PVC)*) in the same region (Milroy *et al.* 1997). The former was originally recorded using reel-to-reel audio equipment and consists of 86 loosely-structured interviews which average 45 minutes in length. The speakers were drawn from a stratified random sample of Gateshead. The more recent PVC corpus was collected using high quality audio tape-recorders/microphones and is currently in the form of 20 DAT tapes, each of which averages 60 minutes in length. In both corpora the informants are divided between various social class groupings of male and female speakers and represent young, middle and old age-cohorts. These two samples, when combined electronically as we propose, will provide a very significant resource for anyone interested in corpus linguistics, dialect geography, historical (English) linguistics and sociolinguistics. We would like to use the opportunity of NWAVE to seek advice from potential end-users of NECTE with particular interests in Language Variation and Change prior to finalising the coding procedures.

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