

English Accents in *Derry Girls*

Theresa Michel | Heidelberg University | theresia.michel@stud.uni-heidelberg.de

DERRY ENGLISH: MICHELLE



ABOUT *DERRY GIRLS*

- A variety of Mid Ulster English
- Fully rhotic (*divorced*, *cheeseburger*)
- Monophthongisation
 - FACE [e] (*way* [we])
 - GOAT, PONY, FORCE [o] (*disco* [dɪsko])
 - HORSE [ɔ:] (*horse* [hɔ:ɪs])
- /ð, θ/ are not dental stops (*through*, *thing*)
- Glottalisation of non-initial /t,/ (*getting* [gɛʔɪn] & *total* [toʔəl])

- Written and created by Lisa McGee
- Three seasons with six to seven episodes each
- Runtime from 2018 until 2022
- Main characters: Erin, Orla, Clare, Michelle and Michelle's cousin James
- Takes place in the 1990s in Derry, Northern Ireland, where all the girls grew up
- James grew up in England

ESTUARY ENGLISH: JAMES



ABOUT THE SURVEY

- “Somewhere between” RP & Cockney
- Has the phoneme /ʌ/ (*cousin* [kʌsɪn])
- ‘Happy-tensing’ (*quickly* [kwɪkli])
- Non-rhotic (*sister* [sɪstə]) → ‘linking /r/’ (*either of* [i:ðəʌ of])
- T-Glottaling (*want anything* [wɒn ænɪ θɪŋ], but: *permitted* [pəˈmɪtɪd])
- Yod-Coalescence (*student* [stju:dənt]) & L-Vocalisation (*Michael* [maɪkəɔ])
- /h/-dropping in unstressed syllables (*beside her* [bi:səɪd ɛ:])
- no th-fronting (*that* [ðæt])

- Conducted over the course of a week in July 2022
- Created with *survio* & distributed via WhatsApp groups
- Ten questions and a text box for comments at the end
- Questions about the age of the participant and their level of English
- As well as the questions to the right
- Eighteen people participated
- Mean age of 20
- Majority indicated C1/C2 as their level of English

