**Scottish English Presentation**

Phonology

Morphology

Syntax

Lexicon

Idioms

Introduction

* **Languages in Scotland**
* - **Standard Scottish English**: lge of formal communication & administration
* - **Scots**: closely related; used/understood by most people; spoken in the Lowlands

- **Gaelic**: Celtic lge of the Highlands & Islands; closely related to Irish

Development

* - Romans --> Latin
* - Irish --> Gaelic
* - Anglo-Saxons --> Old English
* - Skandinavian Vikings --> Norwegian/Danish
* - Scot. King Malcom III married A-S Princess --> Anglo-Saxon & Gaelic as court lge
* - "Auld Alliance" --> French
* - Scot. Wars of Independence --> Scots = separate lge from English
* - Union of Crowns & Union of Parliaments --> English replaces Scots as lge of education, church & state
* - Today: Scots = mesolect; spoken by the middle class

Phonology

Main chapters on Phonology

* 1. the rhotic accent
* 2. the vowel system
* 3. consonant options

Examples

* **Rhoticity**  :
* bird
* girl      /gərʊl/
* **Vowel system :**
* /ai/   ---->     /ae/      buy, ride, write
* /aʊ/ ------> /ʌu/    how, pout
* /ɔi/ -------> /oi/   boy, hoy
* /ju/ ----->   /ju(u barré)/   hue, pew
* middle word /t/ disappears   butter /bɒ(t barré)ʌ/

Rétrécissements

* /u:/ ---> /u/ food, good, booed
* /i:/ ---->   /i/
* /a:/ --->   /a/
* /ɔ:/ --->  /ɔ/
* /ju:/ --->   /ju(u barré)/

Morphology

The Scots use of modal verbs :
 Many speakers do not use '**shall**' and '**may**' and use **would** instead of '**should**'.

* **Might** and **will maybe** are used for possibility and **have** (**got**) for compulsion.
**Need to**, **use to** and **dare to** are used as main verbs. **Need** may occur in the passive, and is also used non-progressively as is **want**.
* **Ex : He has got to come.**
* The verb **have** is used more like an auxiliary.
* The passive is usually expressed with **get** .
* **Ex : I got told off**.

**Might** occasionnaly combine with **should** and **would
Examples:**

* You might would like to come with us
* You might should claim your expenses.
* He might no could do it.

 **Modal verbs occur after the infinitive marker “to” :**

* I have to can drive a car to get that job.
* I’d like to could to do that.
* Ah would uh could uh done it. ( I would have been able to do it).

Different irregular (strong) forms in Scots and Standard English – ***seen*** *(*Scots*) vs* ***saw***(Standard English).
A given verb may be strong in Standard English but weak in Scots – compare ***sold*** (Standard English) and ***sellt*** (Scots)"
***The following lists of words are illustrative, not exhaustive.*
*Past Tense forms of verbs :***

* ***brung*****‘**brought**’**
* ***driv* ‘**drove**’**
* ***seen* ‘**saw**’**
* ***taen* ‘**took**’**
* ***come* ‘**came**’**
* ***killt* ‘**killed**’**

* ***sellt* ‘sold’**
* ***tellt* ‘told’**
* ***done* ‘did’**
* ***run* ‘ran’**
* ***sunk* ‘sank’**
* ***writ* ‘wrote’**
* **Ex : *Ah telt ye* (**English 'told**'); *Ah've keepit a seat for ye* (**English 'kept**').**

**Tense and aspect**

* Standard English stative verbs such as***: know, like, want*** do not occur in the progressive.
* “Know” behaves in the same way in Scots but other stative verbs occur regularly in the progressive.
* **Ex** : **1.** I wasnae liking it and the lassie I was going wi wasnae liking it.
* **2.** We werenae really wanting to go last year but they sent us a lot of letters to come.

**Pronouns**
***Us*** is informal but widespread instead of **‘me’,** particularly with verbs such as give, show, lend:

*Can you lend us a quid?*
The possessive pronoun ‘mines’ is analogous to ***yours, his***, and **hisself** and **theirselves** are analogous to **yourself** :

Me and Jimmy are on Monday our two selves (by ourselves).

**Demonstratives adjectives:**

Scots has thae (‘those’) as in:
***Thae*** *cakes was awfy dear (‘awfully dear’).*

**Thae** is still alive but the most frequent form is now **Them**:

*Them cakes was awfy dear.*

**Prepositional adverbs**

**The typical prepositions in passive clauses are *from, frae, fae, off (of) and with.***

* Heh, ah’m gonna get killt fae ma maw (*by my mum*)
* We were all petrified frae him.
* Ah’d rather hae no job than bein beat frae pillar tae post off a that man (*by that man*)
* I got helped with the midwife.

**Time clauses can be introduced by tae (to) instead of till as in :**

* Wait here tae I come oot. (till I come out)

Number agreement
**Plural subject nouns usually combine with *is* and *was*:**

* 1. Ma glassis iz broakun. (My glasses are broken)
* 2. Is they yours ?
* 3. The windies wiz aw broakun. ( The windows are all broken).
* 4. The lambs is oot the field. ( The lambs are out of the field).

Syntax&Lexicon

***The way negation is formed***

Two indipendent words **no**, **not**
 (two suffixes **-nae**, -**n’t**)

Ex. «He **isn’t** still **not** working»
 «**Nobody** would dream of **not** coming»
 «Do you not want it?»

In SSE double negation is possible

***A particular use of some verbs, especially the modals***

* Many cases of double modals, such as:
«He’ll can help us tomorrow»
«She might can get away»
* **Shall**, **may** are not so frequent
**Would** replaces **should**:
RP «I should if I were you»
SSE «I would if I was you»

**Might**, **will maybe** express a sense of possibility:
RP «***He may come later***»
SSE «***He’ll maybe come later***»

* + - * To express a sense of compulsion, **have got**:
			RP «***She must leave***»
			SSE «***She has to leave***»
* **Have** is used as an auxiliary verb
Ex: «***Had you fun with them?»***

***Frequent resort to a progressive form***

Stative verbs often occur in a progressive form, e.g.

«He’s not understanding a single thing you say»

«They were meaning to join you»

***Reflexive forms & verbs of motion***

* Reflexive forms are often used in speech and writing where RP does not require them

Ex: «How’s yourself today?»
«If it hadn’t been for myself, she’d be dead»
* Verbs of motion are often elided before adverbs of motion

Ex: «I’ll away home, then»

***A «wee» bit of lexicon…***

* Aye! Yes!
* Bevvy Alcoholic drink
* Eejit …I know you know…
* Nowff Pub or drinking dan
* Ma My
* Mac Son of
* Sweetiewife A gossipy man
* Wee Little
* Weel Well

Idioms

* A'll see ye at the back o thrie.
* A'm feelin a bittie wabbit.
* He wis anerlie a bit laddie.
* Tak yir ain tale hame.
* Ye'r a sicht fir sair een.
* Yir eens bigger nor yir belly.

**Many Scots idioms and phrases have been carried over into SSE.**

**SSE Anglo English**

**How are you keeping? How are you?**

**I doubt he's not coming. I expect he isn't coming.**

**Away to your bed. Go to bed.**

**That's me away. I'm going now.**

**I've got the cold I've got a cold.**

**It's for your Christmas. It's your Christmas present.**

I gave her a row. **I scolded her.**

He gave me a fright. **He frightened me.**

I'm finished it. **I'm finished.**

I'll get you home. **I'll take you home.**

Cheerio just now! **Goodbye for now!**

To go the messages. **To go shopping.**

The back of nine. **Just after nine (o' clock).**

**«I cannae help the way I speak. I feel comfortable and at ease in my**

**own language in the same way I feel comfortable and at ease in my**

**dear old Scotland. Scottish, to me, will never be a foreign Country»**

***Christopher Brookmeyer***