

Title:

Aberdeen

Shelfmark:

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Recording date:

09.11.2004

Speakers:

Arthur, Billie, b. 1930 Footdee, Aberdeen; female; bus conductor (father stonemason; mother cleaner & housewife)

Gibb, Robert (Bob), b. Footdee, Aberdeen; male; journalist (father boilermaker; mother fishwife)

Richardson, Margaret, b. 1923 Torry, Aberdeen; female; legal secretary (father railwayman; mother housewife)

Thomson, Sheila, b. Torry, Aberdeen; male; fish filleter (father engineer on trawler; mother housewife)

The interviewees are all members of Torry Community Council in Aberdeen.

PLEASE NOTE: this recording is still awaiting full linguistic description (i.e. phonological, grammatical and spontaneous lexical items).

A summary of the specific lexis elicited by the interviewer is given below.

ELICITED LEXIS

† see Dictionary of the Scots Language (online edition)
 ‡ see Linguistic Atlas of Scotland (1975-1986)
 Δ see New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English (2006)
 ◊ no previous source (with this sense) identified

pleased *chuffed* (“fair chuffed”); *fine* (“I’m fine”); *great*; *rare* (used frequently in Aberdeen of e.g. “rare day/feeling rare”)
tired *knackered* (modern); *buggered* (“I’m buggered” used in past)
unwell *nae weel*[†] (“nae weel the day”¹)
hot *het* (“I’m het”); *steaming*; *blazing*² (“bleezing hot”³)
cold *caul*[†] (“it’s awfy caul”⁴, “it’s caul the day”¹, pronounced “caal” locally); *frozen*

¹ Dictionary of the Scots Language (online) records ‘the day’ in sense of ‘today’.

² Collins Dictionary (<https://www.collinsdictionary.com/>) includes ‘blazing’ in this sense.

³ Dictionary of the Scots Language (online) records ‘bleeze’ in sense of ‘to blaze’.

⁴ Dictionary of the Scots Language (online) records ‘awfy’ in sense of ‘very/extremely’.

annoyed	<i>fizzing</i> [†] (“ <i>really fizzing/fair fizzing/absolutely fizzing</i> ”); <i>angry</i> ; <i>annoyed</i> ; <i>angered</i> (“ <i>I’m really angered</i> ”)
throw	<i>chuck</i> ; <i>shy</i> (common locally, “ <i>shy awa fae something</i> ” ⁵ also used for ‘to avoid’); <i>stot</i> ⁶ (“ <i>stot a ba’ aff the wa</i> ” ⁷)
play truant	<i>skulk the school</i> [†] ; <i>jinking the school</i> [†] ; <i>skulking</i> [†] ; <i>jinking</i> [†] (“ <i>jinking school the day</i> ” ¹); <i>skulk</i> [†] ; <i>skive</i> (suggested by interviewer, used in army); <i>skiving</i> (“ <i>skive the school</i> ”)
sleep	<i>kip</i> (“ <i>going for a kip</i> ”); <i>going for a nap</i> ; <i>doze</i> ; <i>snooze</i>
play a game	<i>play</i>
hit hard	<i>swiped</i> ; <i>swipe</i> ; <i>whack</i> (“ <i>gie somebody a right whack</i> ” ⁸); <i>bash</i> ; <i>dunt</i> (“ <i>gie somebody a good dunt</i> ” ⁸ , disputed: used of “ <i>gentle hit</i> ”)
clothes	<i>claes</i> (pronounced “ <i>clies</i> ” locally)
trousers	<i>breeks</i> ; <i>troosers</i> [†]
child’s shoe	<i>jimmies</i> [△] (still used by younger generation); <i>cooties</i> [△] (used by parents from Buckie in past)
mother	<i>ma</i> (“ <i>it was aye da and ma</i> ” ⁹ of father and mother in past); <i>mither</i> [†]
gmother	<i>grunnie</i> [†] (most common locally); <i>granny</i> ; <i>grandma</i> ; <i>nanny</i> (“ <i>posher</i> ”, used now)
m partner	<i>bidie in</i> [†] (used in past of “ <i>sleeping ower the brush</i> ” ¹⁰ i.e. unmarried partner, thought to be “ <i>gipsy thing</i> ”); <i>my man</i> ; <i>him</i> ¹¹ , <i>he</i> ¹¹ (used by own mother of husband); <i>da</i> ¹² (used by mother of father); <i>husband</i>
friend	<i>freind</i> [†] (pronounced “ <i>freen</i> ” locally, “ <i>good freinds</i> ”)
gfather	<i>grandpa</i> (used by own grandchildren of self); <i>grand-da</i> [†] (used in past); <i>Bill</i> (i.e. by name used by own grandmother to husband); <i>deydie</i> [†] (used by own family from Buckie in past, thought to mean “ <i>head o the family</i> ” ¹³)
forgot name	<i>thingamabob</i> ; <i>thingme</i> ; <i>you mind it was yon wifie that we met at ...</i> ¹⁴ ; <i>that mannie</i> ¹⁵ ; <i>ye ken</i> ¹⁶ (uttered repeatedly); <i>what-d’ye-cry-her</i> ¹⁷ ; <i>her wi the big nose</i> ^{△18} ; <i>her wi the droopy eyes</i> ^{△19}
kit of tools	<i>tools</i> (“ <i>work tools</i> ” used by joiner brother); <i>tool-kit</i> ; <i>the box</i> (“ <i>wa and get the box</i> ” ¹⁹ used by father); <i>tool-box</i>
trendy	<i>tart</i> ; <i>slapper</i> (modern); <i>see her/him</i> ²⁰ ; “ <i>ye canna wear that ye look like a shorewalker get that aff ye look terrible</i> ” ²¹ (used to own children, “ <i>shorewalker</i> ” used locally for “ <i>prostitute</i> ” ²²)

⁵ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘*awa*’ in sense of ‘away’ and ‘*fae*’ in sense of ‘from’.

⁶ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘*stot*’ in sense of ‘to bounce’.

⁷ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘*ba*’ in sense of ‘ball’, ‘*aff*’ in sense of ‘off’ and ‘*wa*’ in sense of ‘wall’.

⁸ *English Dialect Dictionary* (1898-1905) records ‘*gie*’ in sense of ‘to give’.

⁹ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘*aye*’ in sense of ‘always’.

¹⁰ Nigel Rees’s *Phrases & Sayings* (1995) records ‘*live over the brush*’ in sense of ‘to live together as though married’; *English Dialect Dictionary* (1898-1905) records ‘*ower*’ in sense of ‘over’.

¹¹ *Green’s Dictionary of Slang* (1898-1905) records ‘*her*’ in sense of ‘female partner’.

¹² *OED* (online edition) records ‘*da*’ in sense of ‘father’.

¹³ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘*o*’ in sense of ‘of’.

¹⁴ *OED* (online edition) records ‘*mind*’ in sense of ‘to remember’ and ‘*yon*’ in sense of ‘that (over there)’; *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘*wifie*’ in sense of ‘woman’.

¹⁵ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘*mannie*’ in sense of ‘little man’.

¹⁶ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘*ye*’ in sense of ‘you’ and ‘*ken*’ in sense of ‘to know’; *OED* (online edition) records ‘*you know*’ in this sense.

¹⁷ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘*cry*’ in sense of ‘to call’; *OED* (online edition) records ‘*what-d’ye-call-her*’ in this sense.

¹⁸ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘*wi*’ in sense of ‘with’.

¹⁹ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘*wa*’ in sense of ‘away’.

²⁰ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘*see*’ in sense of ‘mark/look at’.

f partner	<i>bidie in</i> [†] (of unmarried partner in past); <i>partner</i> (disliked, “covers a multitude of sins”); <i>wife</i>
baby	<i>bairnie</i> [†] (considered typical of Torry/Footdee tendency to add “ie” diminutive suffix e.g. “lounie quinie bussie shoppie doggie mannie wifie” ²³); <i>bairn</i>
rain heavily	<i>pouring</i> (“absolutely pouring”); <i>raining cats and dogs</i> ; <i>chucking it doon</i> ^{Δ24} ; <i>drookit</i> [†] (used locally for “soaking”, “ye’re absolutely drookit” ²⁵)
toilet	<i>lavvy</i> ; <i>loo</i> ; <i>cluggie</i> [‡] (“outside clug” used in Footdee in past); <i>watterie</i> [‡] (“awa doon tae the watterie” ²⁶ used by grandmother in past)
walkway	<i>lanie</i> [‡] ; <i>close</i> (suggested by interviewer, used on West Coast); <i>closie</i> [‡] (used locally of covered walkway)
long seat	<i>cooch</i> [†] ; <i>settee</i> ; <i>suite</i> (of “settee and twa chairs” ²⁷ in posh room in past)
run water	<i>burn</i> (of “wide ane” ²⁸); <i>burnie</i> ²⁹ (of “narrow ane” ²⁹)
main room	<i>kitchen</i> (most common in past, used in past for ‘living-room’ in contrast to “scullery” for ‘kitchen’); <i>parlour</i> (used by “posh aunties” in past of room reserved for Sunday/funerals/weddings); <i>living-room</i> ; <i>the room</i> (used in past of “pristine” room with piano reserved for visitors/funerals/weddings)
rain lightly	<i>drizzling</i> ; <i>Scotch mist</i> (“Scotch mist today” used occasionally); <i>smur</i> (suggested by interviewer, not heard locally)
rich	<i>rich</i> ; <i>weel-aff</i> [†] ; <i>weel-endowed</i> ³⁰ (also used for ‘fat’/of buxom woman)
left-handed	<i>corrie fisted</i> [‡] ; <i>cack-handed</i>
unattractive	<i>nae bonny</i> [†] (“she’s nae bonny, her”); “what a face she has it would clip clouts” (disputed: “a face that would clip clouts” thought to be used for “scowling” ³¹); <i>a face like a Buckie drifter</i> ³² (thought to be used in north, learnt from parents)
lack money	<i>poor</i> ; <i>skint</i> (“most used word”); <i>broke</i> ; <i>never a maik tae rub thegither</i> ³³ , <i>never twa maiks tae rub thegither</i> ³⁴ , <i>hae nae got twa maiks</i> ³⁵ (“maik” used for ‘halfpenny’ in past [†])
drunk	<i>blooter</i> ^{ed} (“look at him he’s just blooter ^{ed} ”); <i>blazing</i> ^Δ ; <i>bleezing</i> [†] ; <i>foonert</i> [†] (“absolutely foonert [†] ”)

²¹ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘canna’ in sense of ‘cannot’ and ‘aff’ in sense of ‘off’.

²² *OED* (online edition) records ‘streetwalker’ in this sense.

²³ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘loun’ in sense of ‘boy’, ‘quine’ in sense of ‘girl’ and ‘-ie’ in sense of ‘diminutive suffix’ incl. ‘lounie’, ‘doggie’, ‘mannie’ & ‘wifie’.

²⁴ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘doon’ in sense of ‘down’.

²⁵ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘ye’ in sense of ‘you’.

²⁶ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘awa’ in sense of ‘away’, ‘tae’ in sense of ‘to’ and ‘doon’ in sense of ‘down’.

²⁷ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘twa’ in sense of ‘two’.

²⁸ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘ane’ in sense of ‘one’.

²⁹ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘-ie’ in sense of ‘diminutive suffix’ incl. ‘burnie’.

³⁰ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘weel’ in sense of ‘well’; *OED* (online edition) includes ‘well-endowed’ in this sense.

³¹ *A Dictionary of Scottish Phrase & Fable* (2012) records ‘tongue that could clip clouts’ in sense of ‘sharp-tongued/abrasive/argumentative’.

³² Alan & Val Reid’s tweet *And as for Charlie Adam, once a mink always a mink, and a mink with an arse like a Buckie Drifter!* (01.03.14 – see <https://twitter.com/reids1988/status/439900804409872384>) includes phrase ‘arse like a Buckie drifter’.

³³ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘maik’ in sense of ‘halfpenny’, ‘tae’ in sense of ‘to’ and ‘thegither’ in sense of ‘together’; *Macmillan Dictionary* (<https://www.macmillandictionary.com/>) records ‘not have two pennies to rub together’ in this sense.

³⁴ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘twa’ in sense of ‘two’, ‘maik’ in sense of ‘halfpenny’, ‘tae’ in sense of ‘to’ and ‘thegither’ in sense of ‘together’; *Macmillan Dictionary* (<https://www.macmillandictionary.com/>) records ‘not have two pennies to rub together’ in this sense.

³⁵ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records records ‘hae’ in sense of ‘to have’, ‘nae’ in sense of ‘not’, ‘twa’ in sense of ‘two’ and ‘maik’ in sense of ‘halfpenny’.

pregnant	<i>up the spout; expecting; on wey</i> ³⁶ (“ <i>she’s on wey, ye ken</i> ” ³⁷ used by mother for ‘that way’ in preference to ‘pregnant’); <i>preggers</i>
attractive	<i>bonny</i> (“ <i>bonny lass/quine</i> ” ³⁸ , “ <i>awfy bonny</i> ” ³⁹ , “ <i>bonny bonny lass</i> ”, “ <i>bonny quine</i> ” ³⁹)
insane	<i>daft; nuts; feel</i> [†] (“ <i>hae awa ye feel</i> ” ⁴⁰)
moody	<i>look at her/his face what a girn</i> ⁴¹ ; <i>girn</i> [†] (disputed: used for “ <i>complaining/moaning</i> ”)

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³⁶ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records records ‘wey’ in sense of ‘way’; *OED* (online edition) records ‘on the way’ in this sense.

³⁷ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘ye ken’ in sense of ‘you know’.

³⁸ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘quine’ in sense of ‘girl’.

³⁹ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘awfy’ in sense of ‘very/extremely’.

⁴⁰ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘hae’ in sense of ‘to have/go’ and ‘awa’ in sense of ‘away’.

⁴¹ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘girn’ in sense of ‘grimace’.