

Contents

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <i>List of figures</i>                       | <i>page</i> viii |
| <i>List of tables</i>                        | x                |
| <i>Preface</i>                               | xi               |
| <i>Acknowledgements</i>                      | xiii             |
| <i>Abbreviations</i>                         | xv               |
| 1. Introduction                              | 1                |
| 2. Dialects as a window on the past          | 6                |
| 3. The Roots Archive                         | 27               |
| 4. Methods of analysis                       | 49               |
| 5. Word endings                              | 64               |
| 6. Joining sentences                         | 94               |
| 7. Time, necessity and possession            | 121              |
| 8. Expressions                               | 161              |
| 9. Comparative sociolinguistics              | 185              |
| 10. The legacy of British and Irish dialects | 195              |
| <i>Notes</i>                                 | 214              |
| <i>References</i>                            | 225              |
| <i>Index</i>                                 | 248              |

Figures

---

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| 2.1 Location of Scotch Corner in context with the Roots Archive Communities  | page 22 |
| 2.2 The Roots Archive and the British Dialects Archive in relation to Scotch Corner  | 23      |
| 5.1 Lexical verbs, –s ending in 3rd person plural by type of subject   | 68      |
| 5.2 Proportion of <i>is</i> in 3rd person plural noun phrases in the present tense of the verb ‘to be’                                   | 69      |
| 5.3 Proportion of <i>was</i> in 3rd person plural by type of subject in the past tense of the verb ‘to be’                               | 70      |
| 5.4 Use of <i>was</i> in contexts of existential <i>there is</i>   | 71      |
| 5.5 Distribution of <i>was</i> according to negative vs affirmative  | 72      |
| 5.6 Proportion of zero adverbs by community  | 77      |
| 5.7 Proportion of zero adverbs by type by community  | 79      |
| 5.8 Distribution of zero adverbs isolating two common adverbs  | 82      |
| 5.9 Proportion of –ly by meaning   | 83      |
| 5.10 Distribution of AUX contraction with <i>be</i> by community   | 88      |
| 5.11 Distribution of AUX contraction with <i>have</i> by community   | 88      |
| 5.12 Distribution of AUX contraction with <i>would</i> and <i>will</i> by community  | 89      |
| 5.13 Distribution of AUX contraction with <i>have</i> and <i>be</i> in apparent time in York   | 90      |
| 5.14 Effect of preceding phonological environment on AUX contraction with <i>be</i> across communities with variable NEG/AUX contraction | 91      |
| 6.1 Frequency of subject relative pronouns across communities  | 100     |
| 6.2 Zero subject relatives across communities by sentence structure  | 102     |
| 6.3 Proportion of <i>that</i> by verb type across communities  | 111     |
| 6.4 Proportion of ‘believe’ type verbs across communities  | 112     |
| 6.5 Frequency of causal connector <i>for</i> across communities  | 114     |
| 6.6 Distribution of <i>for</i> according to location in sentence   | 115     |
| 6.7 Descriptions of the <i>for to</i> infinitive in purpose and non-purpose contexts   | 119     |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| List of figures  | ix  |
| 7.1 Distribution of main future variants by community  | 126 |
| 7.2 Distribution of <i>going to</i> by age group in York   | 126 |
| 7.3 Distribution of <i>going to</i> by type of clause  | 128 |
| 7.4 Distribution of <i>going to</i> according to grammatical person  | 128 |
| 7.5 Distribution of <i>going to</i> according to temporal reference across communities                                   | 129 |
| 7.6 Distribution of <i>going to</i> according to type of sentence  | 130 |
| 7.7 Distribution of <i>going to</i> by type of clause in York  | 130 |
| 7.8 Distribution of <i>going to</i> by type of sentence in York  | 131 |
| 7.9 Distribution of <i>going to</i> by temporal reference in York  | 131 |
| 7.10 Distribution of <i>going to</i> by grammatical person in York   | 132 |
| 7.11 Distribution of main variants used for obligation/necessity by community  | 139 |
| 7.12 Distribution of <i>have to</i> according to type of obligation by community   | 143 |
| 7.13 Distribution of forms for deontic modality according to type of obligation, all communities combined                | 143 |
| 7.14 Proportion of stative possession forms by community   | 149 |
| 7.15 Proportion of <i>have got</i> across age groups by community  | 150 |
| 7.16 Distribution of forms of negated <i>have</i> across communities   | 151 |
| 7.17 Distribution of forms of <i>have</i> in questions across communities  | 152 |
| 7.18 Distribution of <i>have</i> and <i>have got</i> contraction across communities                                      | 153 |
| 7.19 Distribution of forms of contraction by subject type across communities   | 155 |
| 7.20 Distribution of <i>have got</i> by subject type by age in York  | 156 |
| 7.21 Distribution of abstract vs concrete complements across communities   | 157 |
| 7.22 Distribution of <i>have got</i> by complement type by age in York   | 158 |
| 8.1 Frequency of discourse <i>like</i> out of the total number of words by community                                     | 169 |
| 8.2 Frequency of <i>like</i> by individual speaker by community  | 170 |
| 8.3 Frequency of discourse <i>like</i> contexts across communities   | 171 |
| 8.4 Distribution of GE types by community  | 177 |
| 8.5 Frequency of length of GE by community   | 179 |
| 8.6 Proportion of long vs short variants with generic ‘something’  | 180 |
| 8.7 Proportion of long vs short variants with generic ‘thing’  | 180 |
| 8.8 Proportion of long vs short variants with generic ‘everything’   | 180 |
| 8.9 Proportion of long vs short variants with generic ‘stuff’  | 181 |
| 8.10 Distribution of <i>and all</i> , <i>and that</i> and <i>and all that</i> by community                               | 183 |
| 8.11 Proportion of <i>and that</i> in the Roots Archive compared to Pichler and Levey, 2011, Berwick-upon-Tweed, England | 183 |

Tables

---

|     |   |                |
|-----|---|----------------|
| 3.1 | The Roots Archive   | <i>page</i> 33 |
| 3.2 | British Dialects Archive  | 37             |
| 5.1 | Frequency of Ø adverbs by lexical item (N ≥ 10)   | 80             |
| 5.2 | The three most frequent adverbs by community and their proportion out of all adverbs used in each community | 81             |
| 5.3 | Overall distribution of AUX contraction by community  | 87             |
| 6.1 | Distribution of relative markers by animacy in SUBJECT relatives  | 99             |
| 6.2 | Overall frequency of <i>who</i> in subject relatives in England and Scotland                                | 101            |
| 6.3 | Distribution of NON-SUBJECT relative markers by animacy of the antecedent NP                                | 103            |
| 6.4 | Low frequency (<15%) <i>that</i> constructions by verb  | 109            |
| 6.5 | Distribution of <i>that</i> by verb type and speaker sex in York  | 111            |
| 6.6 | Distribution of <i>for to</i> infinitive across varieties   | 118            |
| 6.7 | Diffusion of <i>for to</i> in each community  | 118            |
| 8.1 | Distribution of GEs in the Roots Archive  | 176            |
| 8.2 | Distribution of ‘Other’ GEs in the Roots Archive  | 177            |
| 8.3 | Co-occurrence patterns with general extenders and discourse features  | 182            |
| 9.1 | Comparison of linguistic features across communities  | 188            |
| 9.2 | Comparison of select words and expressions across communities   | 189            |
| 9.3 | Comparison of dialect verb forms across communities   | 191            |
| 9.4 | Comparison of dialect pronunciations across communities   | 191            |