

# Content

Preface—v

Acknowledgements—ix

Map of Ireland—x

List of abbreviations—xiv

## 1 Geography, demography, and cultural factors—1

1.1 Introducing Irish English—1

1.2 First contacts—2

1.2.1 The first settlement of English—10

1.2.2 Linguistic relations in medieval Ireland—13

1.3 Irish English in transition—18

1.4 Language shift and linguistic realignment—30

1.5 English and the Republic—38

1.5.1 English, Irish, and the nation—38

1.5.2 New directions on language and the nation—42

## 2 Phonetics and phonology—46

2.1 Typological overview—47

2.2 Consonants—49

2.2.1 The labial group—49

2.2.2 The coronal group—50

2.2.3 Palatals and velars—57

2.3 Vowels—59

2.3.1 Vowels and lexical incidence—60

2.3.2 Variation in the front vowels: MEAT and CLEAR—63

2.3.3 The *pen/pin* merger: /ɛ/ raising—65

2.3.4 Mid vowel monophthongs—66

2.4 Syllables—67

2.4.1 Complex syllable codas—67

2.4.2 Further epenthesis—68

2.5 Word-level stress patterns—68

## 3 Morphosyntax—70

3.1 Information structure—71

3.2 Subordination and coordination—77

3.3 The verb phrase—85

3.3.1 Progressive verb forms—85

3.3.2 Generic-habitual forms—90

- 3.3.3 Indicative *be*—93
- 3.3.4 Perfect aspect—94
- 3.3.5 Verbal negation—106
- 3.3.6 Question formation—110
- 3.4 Words and morphemes—111
  - 3.4.1 Subject-verb agreement—112
  - 3.4.2 Verbal morphology—114
  - 3.4.3 Pronouns—118
  - 3.4.4 Nouns and noun phrases—122
  
- 4 Lexis and discourse features—126**
  - 4.1 Lexical perspectives—127
    - 4.1.1 Irish English and etymology—128
  - 4.2 Irish and the lexicon—132
    - 4.2.1 Lexical items and Irish—141
    - 4.2.2 The dual lexicon—148
  - 4.3 English, Scots, and other sources—152
    - 4.3.1 Irish English usage: the example of *kill*—170
  - 4.4 Prepositions—171
  - 4.5 The dialect of Forth and Bargo—176
  - 4.6 Discourse perspectives—179
    - 4.6.1 Lexical and phrasal elements—181
    - 4.6.2 Communicative style—203
  
- 5 History, including changes in progress—212**
  - 5.1 Early Irish English—212
  - 5.2 Modern Irish English—220
  - 5.3 Debating sources: a look at the perfect—224
  - 5.4 Contemporary change in progress—229
  
- 6 Survey of previous work—234**
  - 6.1 General works: chronological overview—234
  - 6.2 Historical, geographical, and cultural factors—241
  - 6.3 Phonetics and phonology—243
  - 6.4 Morphology and syntax—244
  - 6.5 Lexis and discourse features—248
  - 6.6 Historical change in Irish English—251
  - 6.7 Uses of Irish English in literature—252
  - 6.8 Irish English abroad—253

**7      Sample texts — 256**

**References — 272**

**Website references — 303**

**Index — 304**