Multilingual Children's Speech Development

ENGLISH (Irish)

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English (Irish) Authors

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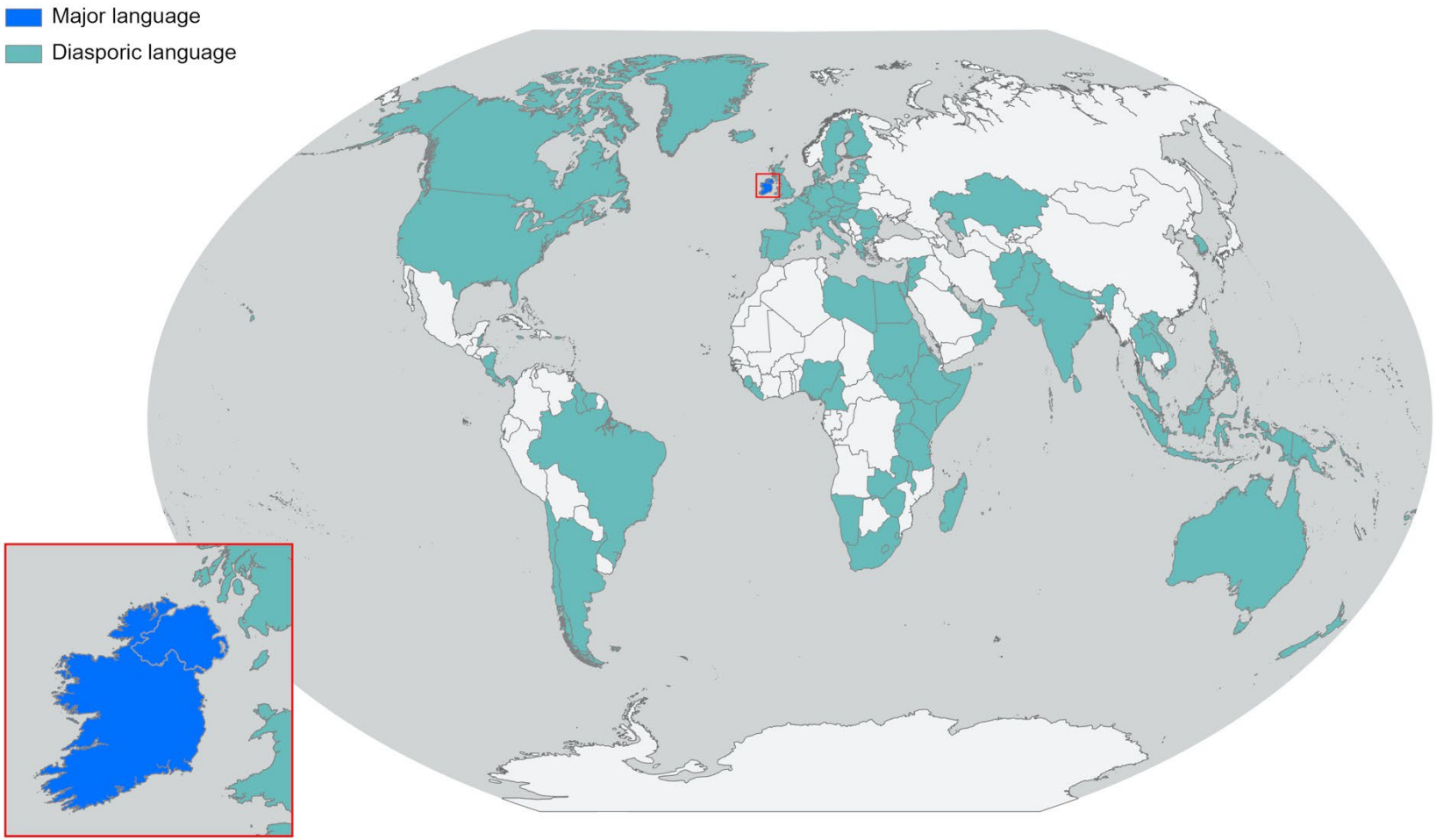
English (Irish)

- **Commonly spoken in**
  - Ireland
- **Dialects and variants**
  - Northern English (Irish) (NIE) and Southern English (Irish) (SIE)
  - 'Ulster Scots'; 'Irish English'; 'Ulster English'; 'Mid-Ulster' English
  - The term English (Irish) (EI) is used here when there are commonalities across both NIE and SIE
- **Writing**
  - Left to right. Latin alphabet (Roman script).

English (Irish) Map



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English (Irish)
Speech Components

- **Consonants (25):** /p, b, t, d, k, g, m, n, ŋ, f, v, θ, ð, s, z, ʃ, ʒ, h, ɹ, j, l, w, ʍ, ʧ, ʤ/
- **Consonant clusters:** Patterns follow English (although some are reduced); palatal insertions are common following velar plosives. Some CCs emerge as a result of metathesis.
- **Vowels (13+7):** /i, ɪ, e, ɛ, æ, a, ɑ, ɒ, ʌ, ɔ, o, u, ʊ/; /ai, aʊ, ɛi, ɒi, ɑɰ, ɔi, iə/
- **Tones (0):** None
- **Phonotactic restrictions:** $C_{(0-3)}VC_{(0-4)}$. Note that EI is a rhotic variety.
- **Prosody:** EI is a stress-timed variety

English (Irish)
Age of Acquisition

- **Consonants**
  - Patterns of acquisition correspond to English (English), with exceptions for SIE (Hickey, 1997; Leahy & Dodd, 2011) as noted below:
    - ‘Early' fricativization of alveolar stops, fortition of dental fricatives, and syllable final /ɹ/
    - Distinction between alveolar and dental stops emerges around 7;9 years
    - /ð/ not present by 6;11 years
- **Consonant clusters**
  - Patterns correspond to English (English), with allophonic differences such as [t̪ɹ] or [tɹ] for /θɹ/ in SIE
- **Vowels**
  - Patterns correspond to English (English), with some (west coast SIE) exceptions in acquiring /ɛ/ versus /ɪ/ contrast
- **Tones**
  - Not applicable

English (Irish) Speech Development

- **Percentage correct**
  - Ní Cholmáin (2002) reported percentage of consonants correct (PCC) ranging from 73 to 100, with a mean of 95 and SD of 6.95 for SIE typically developing 24- to 84-month-olds (*n*=37)
  - Leahy and Dodd (2011) provided standardized scores for percentage consonants, vowels and phonemes correct in 5-month intervals for 306 3;0-6;11-year-old SIE children in their SIE standardization of the DEAP (Dodd et al., 2002)
    As an example, 5;6-5;11-year-olds with a PCC of 97-98 will map to a percentile rank of 50
- **Intelligibility**
  - Typically developing children's intelligibility over time has not been investigated in EI. Currently, the Australian cut-offs for the Intelligibility in Context Scale (ICS)* are used
- **Common phonological patterns**
  - SIE standardisation of the DEAP (Dodd et al., 2002) shows some differences between suppression of natural phonological processes in SIE compared to English English (EE), e.g., stopping and deaffrication are not evidenced from ≥3;0-years-old for the SIE compared to the EE group

*ICS, Intelligibility in Context Scale (McLeod et al., 2012)

English (Irish)
Children with Speech Sound Disorders

- **Also called**
  - The overarching term used is speech sound disorder. Terminology of subtypes are based on Dodd's classification system (Dodd, 2014): phonological delay, consistent phonological disorder, inconsistent phonological disorder, articulation disorder, childhood apraxia of speech. Other terminology used: phonological disorder, dysarthria
- **Research has focused on**
  - Prevalence, variability in outcomes for deaf cochlear implant users, supporting SLTs with evidence-based practice
- **Studies (examples)**
  - Prevalence of speech and language difficulties in 5- to 9-year-old SIE children (McConkey et al., 2021)
  - Weak syllable processing in deaf cochlear implant users (n=20) compared to typical developers (n=30) aged 3-14 years (Titterington et al., 2006)
  - Supporting SLTs with evidence-based choices around intervention and target selection for children with consistent phonological disorder (Hegarty et al., 2018a and b; Hegarty et al., 2020)
  - Supporting SLTs with delivery of evidence-based intensity of intervention for children with speech sound disorder (McFaul et al., 2022)

English (Irish) Speech Assessments

- The Diagnostic Evaluation of Articulation and Phonology (DEAP) (Dodd et al., 2002) with the SIE standardisation manual (Leahy & Dodd, 2011)

English (Irish) Speech Interventions

- As per other countries with English as a first language
- Speech and language therapists in the UK (including NI) mostly use speech discrimination, conventional minimal pairs, phonological awareness and traditional articulation therapy for children with consistent phonological disorder (Hegarty et al., 2018a)
- **SuSSD: Supporting and Understanding speech sound disorder** (ulster.ac.uk) is an online clinical decision maker and evidence-based resource for conventional minimal pairs, multiple oppositions and the complexity approach co-produced with SLTs in NI/UK (Hegarty et al., 2018b)

Reference

Book chapter

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Presentation

- Rahilly, J., & Titterington, J.(2023). *English (Irish): Multilingual children's speech development*. Charles Sturt University, Australia. https://www.csu.edu.au/research/multilingual-speech/languages

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