

Model(s) of spoken language in 18th-century English pronouncing dictionaries?

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Outline

- I. Background: Survey of 18th-century orthoepists and their dictionaries
- II. Analysis of their representational strategies and metadiscourse
- III. Emergence of a model?

Survey of 18th-century English pronouncing dictionaries

Thomas Dyche, *A Guide to the English Tongue*, 1707.

su-do-ri"fic

fu-do-ri"fic

Nathan Bailey, *An Universal Etymological English Dictionary*, 1740 (9th edition).

SUDORIF'ICK

SUDORIF'ICK

James Buchanan, *Linguae Britannicae Vera Pronunciatio*, 1757.

Sūdoriſ'fics

Sūdoriſ'fics

William Kenrick, *A New Dictionary of the English Language*, 1773.

SU`DORI´FIC—SU⁶-DO⁷-RIF¹⁵-IC¹⁵

SU`DORI´FIC—S⁶U-DO⁷-RIF¹⁵-IC¹⁵.

Survey of 18th-century English pronouncing dictionaries

Thomas Spence, *A Grand Repository of the English Language*, 1775.

SUDORɪfɪk Sudorífic, (SUDORɪfɪk)

Thomas Sheridan, *A General Dictionary of the English Language*, 1780.

sho³-do²-ri¹f'-fi¹k **ʃhò-dò-rɪf'-fɪk**

John Walker, *A Critical Pronouncing Dictionary*, 1791.

su¹-do¹-ri²f'fi²k **sù-dò-rɪf'fɪk**

D. Jones et al., *English Pronouncing Dictionary*, 2006.

,sjuː.dər'ɪf.ɪk

J.C. Wells, *Longman Pronunciation Dictionary*, 2008.

,suːd ə 'rɪf ɪk

Strategies and metadiscourse: stress

From the beginning, the stress mark used to indicate more than stress: syllable structure

- “Double Accent”, Dyche 1707:v

“the bearing of the accent, or stress of the voice, upon that syllable, draws the following consonant to the preceding vowel [...]. Thus we spell *ve”stry*, *vi”sit*, *ba”nish*: but we pronounce *ves-try*, *vis-it*, *ban-ish*; [...] the words are everywhere marked where the rule and the ear disagree ”

Strategies and metadiscourse: stress

- 'Discriminant' stress mark, Bailey 1740 (9th edition)

NA'TURE NAT'URALNESS

- Two “modes” of stress, Kenrick 1773:iv

“With respect to accent, it is to be remarked that, we have in English two modes of laying a forcible stress on particular syllables: the one by pronouncing them sharp and quick, the other by pronouncing them flat and slow.”

DE'DICA'TION—DED-I-CA-TION

DE'DICA'TION—DED-I-CA-TION

Strategies and metadiscourse: stress

- Theory of “accent”, Sheridan 1780:39-40

“The great distinction of our accent depends upon its seat ; which may be either upon a vowel, or a consonant. Upon a vowel, as in the words, *glóry*, *fáther*, *hóly*. Upon a consonant, as in the words, *hab´it*, *bor´row*, *bat´tle*. When the accent is on the vowel, the syllable is long; because the accent is made by dwelling upon the vowel. When it is on the consonant, the syllable is short; because the accent is made by passing rapidly over the vowel, and by giving a smart stroke of the voice to the following consonant.”

ASSIGNMENT || a1s-si2'ne-me1nt TO BOUND || bou'nd

To ANTIQUATE || a1n'-ty1-kwa2te DRAUGHT || dra1ft'

Strategies and metadiscourse: stress

- Corollary of Sheridan's theory of “accent” in terms of syllabification (see Pouillon & Ballier 2013)

FLATTERY || fla1**t'**-te1r-y1

ACTIVITY || a1k-ti1**v'**-vi1-ty1

BAREHEADED || ba2're-he1**d-di**1d

DECESSION || de2-se1**s'-shu**1n

DEPREDATION || de1**p-pre**2-da2'-shu1n

Strategies and metadiscourse: stress

- Additional complexity in Sheridan's treatment of certain coda clusters

To DEDUCT || de2-du1k't FLAXEN || fla1k's-i1n
FORBIDDENLY || fo1r-bi1d'n-ly1

Strategies and metadiscourse: stress

- Theory of stress hierarchy, Sheridan 1780:40

“It has been said above, that every word in our language has one accented syllable; but it is to be observed, that in some of our longer polyllables there are two accents to be perceived ; one stronger, the other fainter. Thus, in the word **expos'tulator'y**, the stronger accent is on the syllable pos' ; but there is a fainter one on the last syllable but one, sounded tur': but this makes no difference with regard to the rule, as the primary accent is so much more forcible than the secondary one, as evidently to shew that it is but one word which contains both.”

DECOMPOSITION || de3'-ko1m-po2-zī1sh''-u1n

DEMONIACAL || de'-mo2-ni2''-a1-ka1l

FORTUNETELLER || fa3''r-tu3n-te1l'-lu1r

To ANATHEMATIZE || a1n-a1th''-e2-ma1-ti2'ze

Strategies and metadiscourse: bijectivity

Perhaps surprisingly, secondary concern

- Inviolability of orthographic form (Tieken-Boon van Ostade 1998)
- Compensatory strategies

Strategies and metadiscourse: bijectivity

Buchanan 1757, Johnston 1764, Kenrick 1773,
Perry 1775: diacritics

- Classic typographic devices: breves, macrons, italics
- Superscript numbers with 'absolute' value

O⁷BLIGA¹⁵TORY — O¹¹B-LI-GA-TO-RY^{0 15}

Strategies and metadiscourse: bijectivity

Thomas Sheridan, 1762. *A Dissertation on the Causes of the Difficulties which occur, in learning the English Tongue. With a Scheme for publishing an English Grammar and Dictionary upon a Plan entirely New.*

1. No character should be set down in any word, which is not pronounced.
2. Every distinct simple sound, should have a distinct character to mark it; for which, it should uniformly stand.
3. The same character should never be set down, as the representative of two distinct sounds.
4. All compound sounds, should be marked only by such characters, as will naturally, and necessarily produce those sounds, upon being properly pronounced, in the order in which they are placed.

Strategies and metadiscourse: bijectivity

	First		Second		Third
æ	ha l t	e:	ha 2 te	ɔ:	ha 3 ll
ɛ	be l t	e:	be 2 ar	i:	be 3 er
ɪ	fi l t	aɪ	fi 2 ght	i:	fi 3 eld
ʊ	no l t	o:	no 2 te	u:	no 3 ose
ʌ	bu l t	ʊ	bu 2 sh	ju:	blu 3 e
i	love-ly 1	aɪ	ly 2 e		

Table 1: Sheridan's inventory of vowels

Plus, without supercrits:

« short <u>ee</u> » i	y
« short <u>oo</u> » u	w

And diphthongs:

ɔɪ	oi or <u>oy</u>
aʊ	<u>ou</u> or ow

(Adapted from Hickey 2009)

b	<u>eb</u>	l	el	s	es	θ	eth
d	ed	m	em	t	et	ð	<u>eth</u>
f	<u>ef</u>	n	en	v	<u>ev</u>	ʃ	<u>esh</u>
g	<u>eg</u>	p	<u>ep</u>	z	<u>ez</u>	ʒ	<u>ezh</u>
k	<u>ek</u>	r	er			ŋ	ing

Table 2: Sheridan's inventory of consonants

The NEW ALPHABET.

*Capi- Small Names.
tals. Letters.*

A	A	ā	as in mane, (MAN)
Λ		ă	as in man, (MAN)
Δ		ah	as in father, (FATHER)
Α		au	as in wall, (WALL)
B	B	ib or bī	
D	D	id or dī	
E	E	ē	as in mete, (MET)
F		ě	as in met, (MET)
G	G	if	
H	H	ig or gī	
I	I	hā	
Λ		ī	as in site, (SITE)
J	J	Y	as in fit, (FIT)
K	K	idge or jī	
L	L	ik or kī	
M	M	il	
N	N	im	
O	O	in	
⊖		ō	as in note, (NOTE)
P	P	ö	as in not, (NOT)
R	R	ip or pī	
S	S	ir	
T	T	ifs	
U	U	it or tī	
V	V	ū	as in tune, (TUNE)
W	W	ü	as in tun, (TUN)
		iv	
		wī	as in way, (WAY)

*Capi- Small Names.
tals. Letters.*

Y	y	yī	as in young, (YOUNG)
Z	z	iz	
⊙		oo	as in moon, (MOON)
⊖		oi	as in oil, (OIL)
⊙		ou	as in house, (HOUSE)
⊙		ish	as in shell, (SHELL)
⊙		izh	as in vision, (VISION)
⊙		itch	as in child, (CHILD)
⊙		ith	as in think, (THINK)
⊙		ith	as in they, (THEY)
⊙		whī	as in which, (WHICH)
⊙		ing	as in loving, (LOVING)

* * The vowels in this alphabet are A Λ Δ Α Ε Ε Ι Ι Ο Ο U U ⊙ ⊖ ⊙; and the consonants B D F G H J K L M N P R S T V W Y Z SI H CI H H WE NG.

To read what is printed in this alphabet, nothing is required but to apply the same sound immutably to each character (in whatever position) that the alphabet directs.

N. B. In the following work, n. stands for name, or substantive;—q. for quality, or adjective;—v. for verb;—part. for participle;—ad. for adverb;—conj. for conjunction;—prep. for preposition;—interj. for interjection.

Thomas
Spence's
"New
Alphabet"

Emergence of a model?

model: A simplified or idealized description or conception of a particular system, situation, or process [...] that is put forward as a basis for theoretical or empirical understanding, or for calculations, predictions, etc. *OED* 2002

Model-like features

- Descriptiveness?
- Consistency?
- Abstraction.

Emergence of a model?

Descriptiveness

- Increase in descriptive capacity in representations themselves
- Interdependence of elements in system
- Dearth of explicit metadiscourse and terminology

Emergence of a model?

Consistency

- Very consistent in some aspects
- Consistency proportional with degree of explicitness in metadiscourse

Emergence of a model?

Abstraction

- Status of “respellings”?
 - phonetic vs phonological
 - yoked to orthography
- Articulatory & acoustic description, rejection of top-down “laws”

Thank you!

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