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Apparent time changes in the phonological forms and pragmatic use of *because* in Bolton, Lancashire English



The second symposium on Historical Phonology, 3-4 December 2015, Edinburgh

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Phonological forms

The PAC Protocol

wordlists: vowels, consonants
text passage
interviews: guided and free

The PAC Lancashire Corpus (for this study)

8 females and 1 male
23-83 years of age and DK 29 years old
recorded in late 2002
5h of recordings
340 occurrences of *because*

Pragmatic uses

The structure **A – because B.... – so A'** (Passot 2007, for Standard British English)

A = submitted to addressee as potentially consensual
B = elements that allow to reach consensus
A' = A is considered as part of shared background

The variants

	emphatic		disyllabic		monosyllabic (123)	
	V:	full V	variant	reduced V	full V	full (varireduced V)
MO (83)		bɪ'kɔz (13)		---	---	
LC (77)		bɪ'kɔz (18)	bʊ'kɔz (4)	bɪ'kɛz (6)	kɔz (4+1?)	
MC (71)	bɪ'kɔ:s (1)	bɪ'kɔs (26)		---	kɔs (14)	
PK (58)		bɪ'kɔz (20)		---	kɔz (13)	kɔs (5) kɛz (5)
SC (40)	bɪ'kɔ:z (1)	bɪ'kɔz (23)		bɪ'kɛz (4+4?)	kɔz (6)	kɛz (3)
LB (38)	bɪ'kɔ:z (2)	bɪ'kɔz (8)		bɪ'kɛz (2), bɪkɛz (19)	---	kɛz (2)
DK (29)		bɪ'kɔz (3)		---	kɔz (24)	kɛz (2)
MD(23)		bɪ'kɔz (1)		bɪ'kɛz bɪkɛz (15)	kɔz (1)	kɛz (19), kz ks (10)
JM (23)	bɪ'kɔ:z (2)	bɪ'kɔz (8)		bɪ'kɛz (2)	kɔz (3)	kɛz (12)

PAC data

MD1f (23 years old)

[that was strange]
because [kɛz] I didn't know anybody **because** [ks] I'd gone to primary school in Bolton
so [it was completely different]

PK1f (58 years old)

but [yoga I really like]
because [bɪ'kɔz]...it's stretching it just stretches you and I can do it you see,
so [I / I like that,] it's not fast or, it's just nice and, slow and, yes and I like it yeah.

LC1f (77 years old)

but in a way
[I was lucky]...
because I'd been completely free since I was 39...
so [I'd been able to make the most of my freedom]

Apparent time changes

- 1/ MO (83) only uses disyllabic forms
- 2/ LC (77) and MC (71) do use [kɔz] but not a reduced form
- 3/ [kɛz] starts appearing with PK (58)
- 4/ younger speakers have the widest range
- 5/ younger speakers have a clear preference for reduced forms

Apparent time changes

- 1/ younger speakers have a syntactically constrained version of this structure