

Malcom Petyt (1985) – Bradford Study

- **Findings:** Petyt conducted an experiment on 'H' dropping (e.g. dropping the 'H' from 'hat') and whether it was relevant to social class. He found that people often adapted their accent as they moved up a social class in order to try to fit in.
- **Grammatical/dialectal features of theory:** Upward divergence. Aspirational accents. Dialect levelling. Ellipsis - hat → 'at

Substratum Theory

- **Summary:** Focuses on the influences of different language forms that affect English, mainly through the languages of non-native speakers or regional dialects. **E.g.** The use of 'like' being introduced into young English language by the influences of America and the media.
- E.g. when immigrants go to a new area or when natives learn the language of newly arrived conquerors, they learn their adopted language imperfectly. These slight imperfections will be handed down to their children and to other people in their social group, eventually altering the language. E.g. The Norman invasion of England (1066) – language associated with education and intelligence.
- Different language forms have derived from invasions (bringing over features of the invading forces language). Immigration; media (language features in TV and film); through travel.
- **Grammatical/dialectal features of theory:** dialect levelling, fillers (like), prestige accents

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