L20 : Current Changes
-- Sounds

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Language change
- the ability to change is a defining characteristic of a living organism
- all languages change
- only dead languages do not change

Current changes
- /æ/
- loss of /œə/
- vocalisation of /l/
- glottalling
- EE becoming increasingly popular?
- anglicisation of words

/œə/
- /æ/ is becoming more open
- the Queen has /ɛ/ in poor

Vocalisation of /l/
- according to Wells (2000), 82% of young BrE speakers have /œə/ in poor
- for some speakers, /œə/ remains in pure and cure

- historically, /l/ existed in all words where there is 'l' in the spelling: calm, could, folk
- this process is now affecting other words: gold, school
- Wells (1982: 259) suggests this may soon become the norm
glottalling
• final /t/ is generally [\"] before another consonant: network, at last
• intervocalic glottalling (city, water) less common

EE
• EE seems to have a strong influence on accent
• speaking RP sounds very old-fashioned
• Tony Blair has noticeable traces of EE

how do you pronounce them?
• garage
• massage
• genre

regularisation of sound contrasts
• historically, 'v' was only [v] intervocalically
• otherwise it was [f]
• currently, initial and final /f/ sound foreign
• maybe one day, if we borrow enough words from other languages, /ʃ/ will become natural in all positions
• if that happens, all fricatives will have full voicing contrast

Reading