

3. VOWELS

(Readers unfamiliar with the phonetics symbols and terms used, will find explanations in the Glossary.)

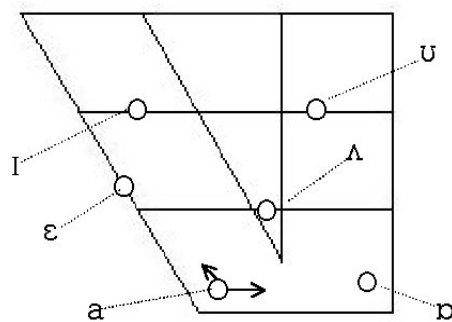
3.1 RVE Vowels: Overview

3.1.1 The vowels of RVE

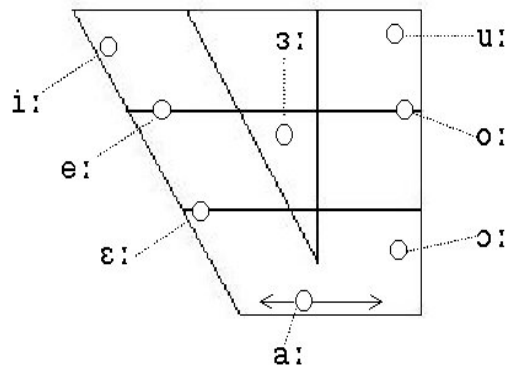
The RVE vowel system consists of:

(1) Monophthongs

- six short vowels: / ɪ, ε, a, ɒ, u, ʌ /

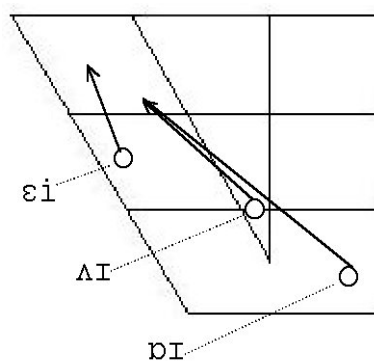


- eight long vowels: / i:, e:, ε:, a:, ɔ:, o:, u:, ɜ:~æ:/

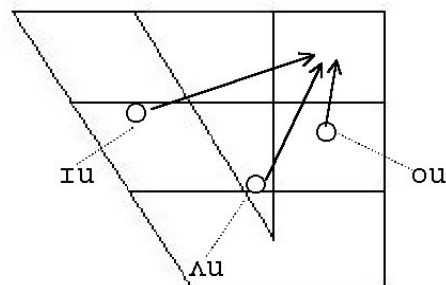


(2) Diphthongs

- Three fronting diphthongs: / ʌɪ, ɒɪ, eɪ /



- Three backing diphthongs: / Δ u/, ou, $\text{ɪ}u$ /



The vowels of RVE are similar to those of Port Talbot English (Connolly 1990). The main differences from RP are:

- *monophthongs*:
 - the presence of / ϵ :/ and / o :/, used for a range of words in the FACE and GOAT *lexical sets* (Appendices 3.11 & 3.14)
 - the presence of / ϵ :/, used in place of the RP *centring diphthong* / $e\epsilon$ / for words of the SQUARE *lexical set* (Appendix 3.20)
 - the absence of contrast between / Δ / and *schwa*.
- *diphthongs*:
 - the presence of a *falling diphthong* / $\text{ɪ}u$ /, used in place of RP / $j\text{u}$:/ for a range of words in the GOOSE *lexical set* (Appendix 3.15)
 - the absence of the RP *centring diphthongs* / $\text{ɪ}\epsilon$, $u\epsilon$, $e\epsilon$ /.

3.1.2 Vowel realizations

Some features of RVE vowel realization are:

- / a / may be markedly lengthened in certain words of the TRAP *lexical set* (Appendix 3.3), e.g. ‘*man*’, ‘*bad*’, ‘*bag*’, ‘*back*’, with the result that it may be indistinguishable in realization from the vowel of the PALM, START *lexical sets* (Appendices 3.12 & 3.21).
- The long / a :/ vowel, used for words of the PALM, START *lexical sets*, is very variable in realization, ranging from a fully *fronted* [a :] to a *backed* [ɔ^{b} :].
- With some speakers, the pairs / a , a :/; / ϵ , ϵ :/ may be similar in vowel quality, so that contrast between the two vowels may be achieved only via length.
- The vowel used for the NURSE *lexical set* (Appendix 3.9), although given the same phoneme symbol / ɜ :/ as RP, is very commonly *rounded* [ɔ^{r} :].
- The diphthong used for some words of the GOAT *lexical set* (‘*bow*’, ‘*soul*’ etc) (Appendix 3.14) typically starts more backed [ou] than in RP [$e\text{u}$].
- The diphthongs / $\Delta\text{ɪ}$ / (‘*price*’, ‘*kind*’ etc) and / Δu / (‘*cow*’, ‘*house*’ etc) generally have more central starting points than their RP equivalents / $a\text{ɪ}$ / and / au /.

3.1.3 Lexical distribution

The following are among the differences in *lexical distribution* of RVE vowels from RP:

- / i :/ is used in RVE for the unstressed final syllables of words like ‘*happy*’, ‘*jury*’, ‘*early*’, and also for words of the NEAR *lexical set* (Appendix 3.19).
- The diphthong / $e\text{i}$ / is typically used only for a limited sub-set of the FACE *lexical set*. (Appendix 3.11). For other FACE words, RVE speakers use a

monophthong /e: /

- For the BATH lexical set (3.7), a short vowel /a/ is often used rather than a long one, notably before consonant clusters e.g. ‘*aunt*’, ‘*command*’, ‘*clasp*’, ‘*shaft*’.

The table below (Figure 12) compares the vowels used for different lexical sets in RP, Cardiff English and RVE.

LEXICAL SETS AND VOWEL INCIDENCE: RP, CARDIFF ENGLISH (CE), RVE .

Keywords	RP	CE	RVE	Keywords	RP	CE	RVE
KIT	ɪ	ɪ	ɪ	FLEECE	i:	i:	i:
DRESS	e	ɛ	ɛ	PALM /START	ɑ:	a:~æ:	a:~ɑ:
TRAP	æ	a~æ	a	THOUGHT /NORTH	ɔ:	ʌ:	ɔ:
LOT / CLOTH	ɒ	ɑ	ɒ	FORCE	ɔ:	ʌ:	o:
STRUT	ʌ	e	ʌ	GOOSE	u:	u:	u:~ɪu
FOOT	ʊ	ʏ	ʊ	NURSE	ɜ:	ø:	ɜ:~œ:
				BATH	ɑ:	a~a:	a~a:~ɑ:
CommA	e	e	ʌ	FACE	eɪ	eɪ	e:~eɪ
Happy	ɪ	i:	i:	PRICE	aɪ	eɪ	ʌɪ
				CHOICE	ɔɪ	ʌi	ɒɪ
				GOAT	eʊ	eʊ	o:~ou
				MOUTH	aʊ	ʌu	ʌu
				SQUARE	eə	ɛ:	ɛ:
				NEAR	ɪə	ɪ:ə~jə:	i:ʌ~i:
				CURE	ʊə~ɔ:	u:ə~ʌ:	u:ʌ~ɪʌ

Figure 12. Lexical sets and vowels: RP, Cardiff English and RVE.

3.2 /ɪ/

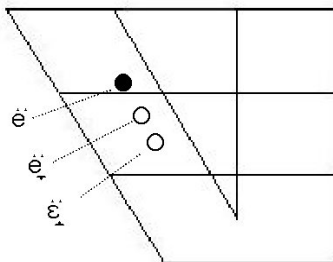


Figure 13. Realizations of /ɪ/.

RVE /ɪ/, as in ‘*pit*’, is similar in pronunciation to RP /ɪ/, realized typically as a centralized, approximately *half-close* front vowel [ë]. More open realizations, e.g. [ë~ë], are also common in the speech sampled. Acoustic analysis of responses to the questionnaire item ‘*pit*’, obtained F1 / F2 values averaging 483 / 1759 compared with RP 382 / 1958.

/ɪ/ is used for words of the KIT lexical set ('pit', 'win', 'tip' etc) (Appendix 3.1).

The main differences in lexical distribution of /ɪ/ from RP are:

- In the unstressed final vowel of words like 'happy', 'fairy', RVE speakers typically use a vowel quality nearer [ɪ̞] than [ɪ]. Acoustic analysis of responses to the questionnaire items 'beauty', 'fairy', 'ferry' and 'jury' obtained average F1 / F2 values of 345 / 2157, closer to RVE /ɪ̞/ than /ɪ/ values.¹⁷
- Final syllables with -age, -ate etc, realized by /ɪ/ in RP, for example 'heritage', 'language', 'private', are most commonly pronounced as [e̞ ~ ε], so that the underlying phoneme is assumed to be /ε/ or /e̞/.

3.3 /ε/

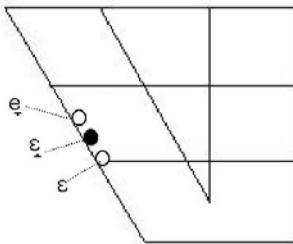


Figure 14. Realizations of /ε/.

RVE /ε/ in 'dress', 'pet' etc is similar in pronunciation to RP /e/, although with a tendency to be more open (Figure 14); hence it is given the phonemic symbol of /ε/ rather than /e/. This accords with other south-east Wales accents, for example Port Talbot English (Connolly 1990: 122) and Cardiff English (Collins and Mees 1990: 93). Acoustic analysis of responses to the questionnaire items 'pets' and 'ferry' obtained average F1 / F2 values of 578 / 1732, not significantly different from RP 560 / 1797. As with the RVE short vowels /a/ and /ɒ/, /ε/ can be markedly lengthened in stressed syllables [ε̞ː ~ ε̞ːː] (Section 5.2.2).

/ε/ is used for words of the DRESS lexical set (Appendix 3.2). As seen in section 3.2 above, it may replace RP /ɪ/ in the unstressed final syllables of words like 'Heritage', 'language', 'private'.

3.4 /a/

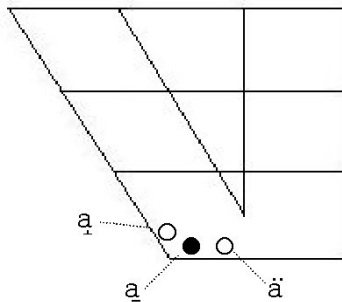


Figure 15. Realizations of /a/.

As in other varieties of Welsh English (Connolly 1990: 122; Collins and Mees 1990: 92-3), pronunciations of RVE /a/ ('trap', 'bat' etc) are typically more *open* than in RP. Acoustic analysis of the questionnaire items 'bat', 'dance' (always with a short vowel in the RVE speech sampled) obtained average F1 /F2 values of 685 / 1300 compared with RP 732 / 1527.

The vowel is used mainly for words of the TRAP lexical set (Appendix 3.3) and for a range of words in the BATH lexical set (Appendix 3.7). As with the RVE short vowels /ε/ and /ɒ/, /a/ can be markedly lengthened (section 5.2.2). In words of the TRAP lexical set, this lengthening is most noticeable in *monosyllables* like 'back', 'bad', 'bag', 'badge', 'man'. Similar lengthenings of /a/ have been noted in Cardiff English (Collins and Mees 1990: 94), Port Talbot English (Connolly 1990: 124), RP and the West Country.¹⁸ Realization of the lengthened /a/ varies. Some speakers produce longer versions of the short vowel they use elsewhere. Others produce a more backed vowel, similar in quality to the one they use for the PALM, START lexical sets.

Pronunciations of words of the BATH lexical set (Appendix 3.7) were investigated in the RVE data, to see whether informants used a short or long vowel.¹⁹ Responses to the questionnaire items 'grass', 'dance', 'laughing', 'example' and pronunciations of the much wider range of BATH words occurring in the conversational data were examined. Deciding whether a given pronunciation was /a:/ or /a/ proved to be difficult in cases where the informant concerned had a similar vowel quality for both: a response of [a'] might be interpreted either as the long vowel or the short vowel lengthened through stress. The findings can be summarised as follows:

- Where the BATH vowel is followed by a consonant cluster beginning with a nasal ('example', 'dance' etc), 97% of occurrences are with a short vowel /a/.
An exception is the word 'France', found with both the short and long vowel.
- A short vowel is also much the more common when followed by other consonant clusters:
 - 88% of occurrences in the environment of ____/s/C (e.g. 'past', 'master', 'ask') are with /a/. A notable exception is the word 'last', found more often with a long than short vowel.
 - 91% of occurrences in the environment of ____/f/C (e.g. 'graft', 'draught', 'shaft') are with /a/.
- By contrast, when followed by a single voiceless fricative /s, f, θ/, vowel length is more variable:
 - 66% of occurrences in the environment of ____/s/ (e.g. 'grass') are short, and 34% long.
 - 88% of those in the environment of ____/f/ (e.g. 'laughing', 'staff') are long.
 - In the environment of ____/θ/ (the only three items occurring in the data are 'bath', 'bathing' and 'path'), there is no significant tendency towards short or long vowel. 52% of occurrences are short and 48% long.

Fuller findings for the incidence of short vs long vowel for the BATH lexical set can be seen in Appendix 4. The findings are similar to those described in Port Talbot English (Connolly 1990: 124).

3.5 /ɒ/

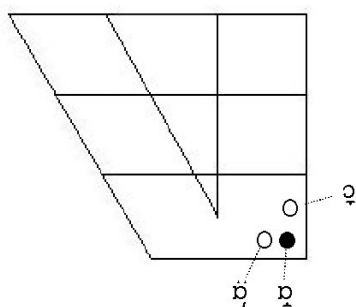


Figure 16. Realizations of /ɒ/.

RVE /ɒ/ is used for words of the LOT set ('rod', 'watch' etc) (Appendix 3.4), for the CLOTH set ('often', 'broth' etc) (Appendix 3.8) and also for words of the THOUGHT lexical set with <al> spellings such as 'false', 'salt' (Appendix 3.13).

It is pronounced as a backed, slightly rounded short vowel in the region of C5. Acoustic analysis of the questionnaire items 'rod', 'broth' obtained average F1 / F2 values of 582 / 983 compared with RP 593 / 866. As with the RVE short vowels /a/ and /ɛ/, /ɒ/ can be markedly lengthened in stressed syllables (Section 5.2.2).

These findings for /ɒ/ in RVE are substantially the same as reported for Port Talbot English (Connolly 1990: 124-5), Abercrave English (Tench 1990: 133-5) and SAWD (Parry: 1977). An unrounded vowel, by contrast, is observed in Cardiff English (Collins & Mees 1990: 93-4).²⁰

3.6 /ʊ/

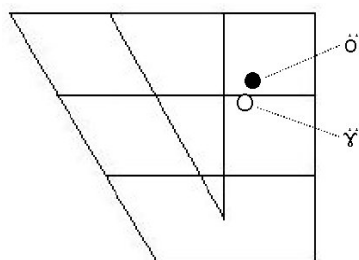


Figure 17. Realizations of /ʊ/.

The pronunciation of RVE /ʊ/ for 'foot', 'wood' etc is similar to RP, realized typically as a nearer centre than back, half-close vowel with medium lip-rounding. As with /ɪ/, more open pronunciations may be heard [ö̥ - ö̥].

In addition to being used for words of the FOOT lexical set (Appendix 3.6), it is used for 'soot' and 'tooth' from the GOOSE lexical set. All but one of the sixty informants pronounced both of these words with /ʊ/. Acoustic analysis of 'tooth', 'soot' obtained average F1 / F2 values of 494 / 1142 compared to RP 414 / 1051, giving some support to auditory finding of a tendency to greater open-ness than in RP.

3.7 /ʌ/ [ə]

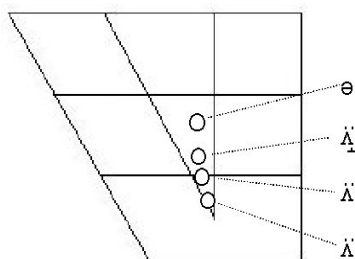




Figure 18. Realizations of /ʌ/ [ə].

Pronunciations of /ʌ/ in the STRUT lexical set ('blood', 'butter' etc) (Appendix 3.5) tend to be more raised than in RP;  realizations in the data were typically central and in the region of half-open [ä ~ ä ~ ä] (Figure 18). Acoustic analysis of the questionnaire items 'blood', 'butter' obtained average F1 / F2 values of 566 / 1370, compared with RP 695 / 1224, providing some confirmation of a more raised vowel quality.

Pronunciations of the final unstressed syllables in words like 'butter', 'sofa' are typically with vowels of a fuller and more open quality [ä ~ ä] than RP [ə].  This is similar to the situation in the Welsh language, in which final unstressed vowels are said never to be reduced to *schwa* (Jones, G. 1984: 54; Awberry 1984: 77). It is a feature of RVE which will be discussed further in Sections 4.4.4 & 5.2.3. Since schwa [ə] is thus not the typical realization of unstressed final syllables in RVE, and is nowhere in the data in systematic contrast with /ʌ/ or /ɜ:/, it is not accorded a separate phonemic status.

Acoustic analysis provided some confirmation of the tendency towards a fuller, more open (than RP) unstressed final vowel, with average F1 / F2 values for final vowels as follows:

- *fire & beer* (both disyllabic in RVE) - 569 / 1593
- *butter & father* - 591 / 1429
- *sofa* - 592 / 1272
- *shower, poor, sure & cure* (all disyllabic in RVE) - 551 / 1273

The findings for /ʌ/ and [ə] in RVE are similar to those in other varieties of south-east Wales English, such as West Glamorgan English (Connolly 1981: 52) and Abercrave English (Tench 1990: 133). The lack of contrast between /ʌ/ and [ə] may derive from West Country influence or from the Welsh language, which contains a single central vowel.²¹

3.8 /i: /

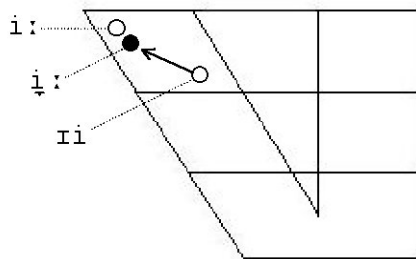


Figure 19. Realizations of /i: /

The vowel /i: /, used for the FLEECE lexical set ('tea', 'receive', 'wheel' etc) (Appendix 3.10) is generally similar in pronunciation to RP (Figure 19). Closer realizations are observed in some varieties of Welsh English, for example Abercraze English (Tench 1990: 135) and Cardiff English (Collins and Mees 1990: 94-95). Acoustic analysis of the questionnaire items 'meat', 'wheel' obtained average F1 / F2 values of 324 / 2251 and 321 / 2202 respectively, compared to RP /i: / values of 275 / 2221.

The following were the main differences in lexical incidence of /i: / from RP:

- As seen in Section 3.2, a vowel of the quality of [i̇] is used for the unstressed final vowel in words like 'beauty', 'fairy', rather than [ɪ].
- With the NEAR lexical set (Appendix 3.19), it is used for the first syllable of disyllabic 'beer', 'fear', 'pier' etc and for the stressed syllable of 'serious', 'period', 'hero' etc.

Such findings for lexical distribution of /i: / in RVE are substantially the same as in other south-east Wales varieties of English, for example Port Talbot English (Connolly 1990: 124) and Cardiff English (Collins and Mees 1990: 93).

3.9 /e: / /ei /

Most RVE speakers use a monophthong /e: / for some words of the FACE lexical set ('make', 'steak', 'play', 'rain' etc) (Appendix 3.11) and a diphthong /ei / for others. Thus 'blazer' may be pronounced with /e: / and 'train' with /ei /. By contrast, in RP all FACE words are with a diphthong /eɪ /.

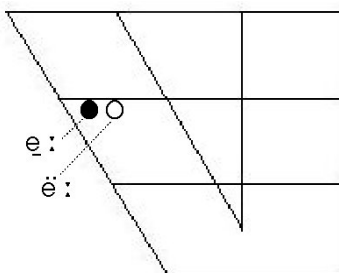


Figure 20(a). Realizations of /e: /.

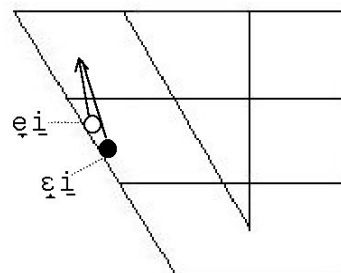


Figure 20(b). Realizations of /ei /.

Monophthongs are half-close (Figure 20). Diphthongs generally have a start point between half-open and half-close, and a finishing point closer than RP [ɛ̄ ī~ɛ̄ ī]. F1 / F2 values for the start and finishing points of diphthongal pronunciations of 'K' (letter of the alphabet) and 'tail', compared with RP /eɪ/, were:

	START POINT		FINISHING POINT	
	F1	F2	F1	F2
RVE /eɪ/	452	1968	363	2158
RP /eɪ/	587	1945	413	2130

The research attempted to discover if there was any discernable patterning in the lexical distribution of /eɪ/ vs /eɪ̄/, and if so what the origin of this might be. The Linguistic Atlas of England (LAE) (Orton et al 1978), based on the Survey of English Dialects (SED) (Orton et al 1962-71), records pronunciations throughout England for

1. 'grave', 'spade', 'bacon', 'April', 'make' etc, from Middle English /a: /
2. 'break', 'great' etc from Middle English /ɛ: /
3. 'drain', 'daisy', 'faint', 'tail', 'lay', 'weigh' etc from Middle English /ɛi~æi/.

Varying pronunciations are recorded in LAE for the areas of England that adjoin or are near Wales (Appendix 5):

- In the South Midlands, extending into Herefordshire and northern Gloucestershire, the LAE findings for most locations were of diphthongs for 'drain', 'faint', 'tail', 'lay', 'weigh' etc and also for 'grave', 'spade', 'bacon', 'April', 'make' etc and 'break', 'great'; so these areas were 'diphthong only' at the time of the SED survey.
- In the South West, including southern Gloucestershire and North Devon, some locations were 'diphthong only', and the remaining locations tended to exhibit a patterning between monophthong and diphthong in which
 - a monophthong was used for 'grave', 'spade', 'bacon', 'April', 'make' etc and for 'break', 'great',
 - a diphthong was used for 'drain', 'daisy', 'faint', 'tail', 'lay', 'weigh' etc.
 Such a patterning seems to reflect retention of distinctions existing in Middle English between monophthongal /a: / & /ɛ: / and diphthongal /ɛi~æi/, which in other dialects disappeared as these vowels merged as [ɛ:], before moving qualitatively to [eɪ] and subsequently, in RP, to a diphthong [eɪ] (Wells 1982: 192-3).²²

In Wales itself, the SAWD volume for the south-east (Parry 1977: 45-6, 50-1, 72-4) observes similar variability in the incidence of monophthong vs diphthong (Appendix 6):

- In Gwent near the Gloucestershire / Herefordshire border (e.g. Pandy and Tintern), and certain other locations (e.g. Hengoed and Tonteg), only diphthongs were found.²³
- In some locations, only or mainly monophthongs were found (e.g. Resolven and Cowbridge).
- In South Gower [Middleton and Horton], a patterning was found similar to that shown by LAE for locations across the Bristol channel in North Devon: mainly monophthongs for 'grave', 'spade' etc & 'break', 'great' etc, and mainly

diphthongs for ‘*drain*’, ‘*daisy*’ etc. A similar patterning was observed in some other locations in south-east Wales (e.g. Glais and Manmoel).

- In other locations surveyed by SAWD there was an apparently random distribution of monophthong vs diphthong.

Such variability in south-east Wales may be due to different reasons, any of which might be operative in particular locations or with particular informants:

- 1) conflicting influences between the RP diphthong, taught by school-teachers in the early days and still exerting influence as the 'correct' form, and the Welsh Language monophthong /e : / [as in /he : n/ 'old']
- 2) influence from neighbouring counties of England, whether towards the diphthong found in Herefordshire and North Gloucestershire or towards a patterning of monophthong and diphthong found in certain areas of the South West of England
- 3) spellings: the Welsh Language being pronounced more or less as it is spelled, words such as ‘*rain*’, ‘*play*’ with <i> or <y> spellings could have looked to learners of English like diphthongs, and words such as ‘*face*’, ‘*made*’ like monophthongs.

To explore the distribution of monophthong vs diphthong in RVE, informants’ responses to the questionnaire items ‘A’ & ‘K’, ‘*waste*’ & ‘*waist*’, ‘*stale*’ & ‘*tail*’, ‘*behave*’, ‘*waiting*’ together with pronunciations of all FACE words found in the conversational data were examined. It was found that no informant produced exclusively monophthongal or diphthongal realizations in the data, and that to a large extent there was a patterning in which

- a diphthong was found for words spelled with *i* or *y*, e.g. ‘*tail*’, ‘*plays*’
- a monophthong was found otherwise e.g. in ‘*make*’, ‘*great*’.

92% of the informants thereby distinguished substantially (in at least 80% of the FACE-word instances recorded for them), between words with *_i* or *_y* spellings and words with other spellings. No difference at all was found between the age groups.

The patterning was sufficiently marked, with informants contrasting words like *eight* / *ate*; *tail* / *stale* with sufficient regularity, for it to be maintained that the diphthong and monophthong constitute separate phonemes:

- 95% of informants (⁵⁷/₆₀) contrasted *stale* / *tail* in the questionnaire data.²⁴ 🦋 🦋
- several other contrasts emerged in the speech of individual informants e.g. *great* / *eight* (M9A); ‘*claim to fame*’ (P7A); and *made* / *maiden* (M3A)
- nearly all informants differentiated between the phonemes in the pronunciation of place-names; for example, ‘*Wales*’, ‘*Ferndale*’, ‘*Beddau*’ and ‘(Clydach) *Vale*’ were with a monophthong and ‘(Cardiff) *Bay*’, ‘*Maindee*’ and ‘*Spain*’ with a diphthong
- all informants, similarly, differentiated systematically between the phonemes in personal names, ‘*James*’, ‘*Davies*’, ‘*David*’, ‘(Aunty) *Kate*’ and ‘(Stanley) *Baker*’ etc being with /e : /, while ‘*Wayne*’, ‘*Bill (Paynter)*’, ‘*Hayden*’ and ‘*Taylor*’ were with /eɪ/.

Of the words with <i> and <y> orthography in the data, the questionnaire word ‘*waist*’ seemed to form a significant departure from the 'rule': 80% of informants pronouncing it with /e : /. Despite its orthography, however, the word derives from Middle English /a : /, which may thereby provide some evidence of a Middle

English influence on the patterning. There was a greater number of ‘exceptions’ in the other direction. For example, where the FACE vowel is spelled with *a* in the environment of a following consonant cluster beginning with a nasal (e.g. ‘changes’ ‘dangerous’, ‘ancient’), 75% ($\frac{6}{8}$) of occurrences in the data were with /eɪ/.

Figure 21 below shows the lexical incidence of /e:/ vs /eɪ/ in the pronunciations of twelve informants, taking every fifth informant from each location. Further details of the findings for the vowel in FACE words can be seen in Appendix 7. The findings are generally similar to those reported in West Glamorgan English (Connolly 1981: 52-3.)

FACE VOWEL: Lexical incidence of /e:/ vs /eɪ/ with 12 informants.

informant	/e:/	/eɪ/
T3A	<i>waste; waist; stale; behave; name; name; became; age; face; rapier</i>	<i>tail; waiting; Hayden; played; training</i>
T5B	<i>waste; waist; stale; behave; game; Dunraven; parades</i>	<i>tail; waiting; against</i>
T8A	<i>waste; waist; stale*; behave; same; basically; Wales; conservation; places</i>	<i>stale*; tail; waiting; days</i>
T10B	<i>waste; stale; behave; rapier; ale; Davies</i>	<i>waist; tail; waiting</i>
M3A	<i>waste; waist; stale; behave; made; breaking; Labour; Ferndale; rapier</i>	<i>tail; waiting; maiden; eight;</i>
M5B	<i>waste; waist; stale; behave</i>	<i>tail; waiting</i>
M8A	<i>waste; waist; stale; behave; place; (Stanley) Baker; Ferndale; Wales; great</i>	<i>tail; waiting; entertainers; takes; train; maintain</i>
M10B	<i>waste; waist; stale; behave; make; desecrated; plaiice;</i>	<i>tail; waiting; neighbours; rain; conveyors</i>
P3A	<i>waste; stale; cooper'ative; blazer; education; great; Davies; date; Wales</i>	<i>waist; tail; behave; waiting; gained; days; race</i>
P5B	<i>waste; waist; stale; behave; great; base; famous; age; came; mates; taken; related; Wales</i>	<i>tail; waiting; main</i>
P8A	<i>waste; waist; stale; behave; same, name; mates; (Stanley) Baker</i>	<i>tail; waiting; explain, stayed; maintenance</i>
P10B	<i>waste; waist; stale; behave; lemonade; taking; slates</i>	<i>tail; waiting; eight</i>
*	indicates that informant pronounced it with both monophthong and diphthong	

Figure 21. Lexical incidence of /e:/ vs /eɪ/, twelve informants.

3.10 /ɛː/

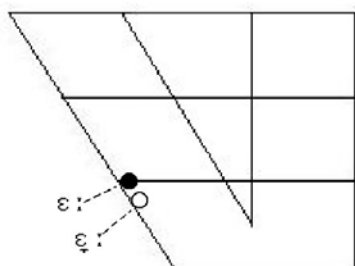


Figure 22. Realizations of /ɛː/.

RVE speakers use a monophthong /ɛː/ for the SQUARE lexical set ‘share’, ‘wear’, ‘pair’ etc (Appendix 3.20), whereas conservative RP has a diphthong /eə/.²⁵ Similar findings of /ɛː/ for the SQUARE set are reported in Port Talbot English (Connolly 1990: 122), Abercrave English (Tench 1990: 136), Cardiff English²⁶ and throughout south-east Wales by SAWD.²⁷

RVE /ɛː/ is realized as a front vowel of approximately half open quality (Figure 22). Acoustic analysis of responses to the questionnaire items ‘pair’ and ‘fairy’ yielded average F1 / F2 values of 520 / 1802.

/ɛː/ is similar in quality to the DRESS vowel /ɛ/, and so the phonemic distinction between them may rest on contrast of length alone. However, because /ɛː/ may be pronounced with reduced length, the difference between the two phonemes may be neutralized. Shortening of /ɛː/ was sometimes found in the data when the vowel is followed by intervocalic /r/, with the result that pronunciations of the questionnaire pair ‘fairy’ and ‘ferry’ may sound similar, as do ‘vary’ and ‘very’ in the conversational data. Such pronunciations occurred mainly with the older (over 60s) age-group, indicating that they may be recessive in RVE. The feature could be influenced by the Welsh language, which has no long /ɛː/, only the short vowel /ɛ/, which is stated by Thomas C. to be lengthened in the local Welsh dialect ‘only in stressed monosyllables or in stressed final syllables’ (1961: 102).

3.11 /ɑː/

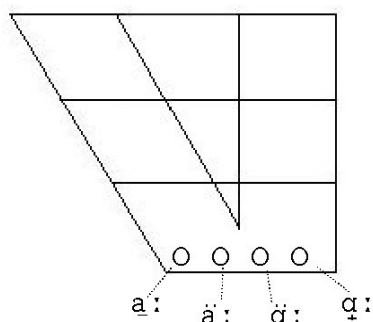


Figure 23. Realizations of /ɑː/.

A long vowel /ɑː/ is used for the PALM lexical set (‘drama’, ‘calm’, ‘father’ etc) (Appendix 3.12), and for the START lexical set (‘far’, ‘heart’, ‘start’ etc)

(Appendix 3.21). It is variable in quality (Figure 23), ranging from fronted versions [a : ~a : ~ä :] to RP-like backed versions [ɑ : ~ɑ :]. Acoustic analysis of responses to the questionnaire items ‘calm’, ‘father’ obtained F1 / F2 values that ranged from 791 / 1417 for fronted versions to 682 / 1117 for backed versions, the latter comparable with RP /ɑ : / 687 / 1077. For informants who consistently produce a fronted version, the phonemic contrast between the TRAP vowel /a/ and the PALM / START vowel /a : / is carried by length alone.

Informants’ pronunciations of the questionnaire items ‘calm’, ‘father’, ‘start’ and of words from the PALM and START lexical set in the conversational data were examined for frontness-backness of realizations. Scorings were given as follows:

- informants with predominantly fronted pronunciations *scored 1*
- those with predominantly backed versions *scored 0*
- those with realizations that were very variable or indeterminate *scored 0.5*

The resulting scores can be seen in Figure 24. Numbers in brackets are maximum scores, i.e. the scores that would be obtained if all the realizations were fronted.

Backness-Frontness of PALM vowel realizations

PALM Realizations Index Scores				
Age Group	Treherbert	Maerdy	Porth	TOTAL
Over 60s	4 (10)	6.5 (10)	8 (10)	18.5 (30)
30s	5.5 (10)	6 (10)	5 (10)	16.5 (30)
TOTAL	9.5 (20)	12.5 (20)	13 (20)	35 (60)

Figure 24(a). PALM vowel realizations (1=fronted, 0.5=variable/indeterminate, 0=backing).

Backness-Frontness of START vowel realizations

START Realizations Index Scores				
Age Group	Treherbert	Maerdy	Porth	TOTAL
Over 60s	5 (10)	7 (10)	7.5 (10)	19.5 (30)
30s	5 (10)	5.5 (10)	6.5 (10)	17 (30)
TOTAL	10 (20)	12.5 (20)	14 (20)	36.5 (60)

Figure 24(b). START vowel realizations (1=fronted, 0.5=variable/indeterminate, 0=backing).

The overall results only narrowly, if at all, justify the phoneme notation /a : / rather than /ɑ : /: a score of 35.0 out of a possible 60 for PALM vowels and 36.5 for START vowels. Comparing the two age-groups, the scores of the ‘over 60s’ on average show marginally more fronting of the vowel than ‘the 30s’. Comparing the three locations, the scores at Porth are the most fronted and at Treherbert the most backed. It is assumed that RP forms an influence towards a backed /ɑ : /, but the Welsh language might also do so. Jones, G. (1984: 53), states that southern Welsh has both /ɑ / and /a /, and that there is ‘a marked *qualitative* and *quantitative* difference’ between them [my italics]. Welsh language influence, thereby, might partially explain why the highest number of backed versions was found amongst the over 60s in Treherbert, the location with the highest proportion of Welsh speakers.

3.12 /ɔː/

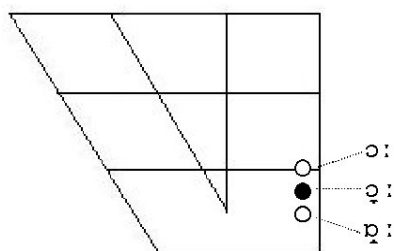







Figure 25. Realizations of /ɔː/.

RVE /ɔː/ is used for the THOUGHT lexical set ('law', 'talk', 'caught' etc) (Appendix 3.13),  and also for the NORTH lexical set ('storm', 'order', 'war' etc) (Appendix 3.22). 

Its pronunciation is similar to RP, but may be more open with some speakers [ɔː ~ ɔ̃ː ~ ɔ̃ː] (Figure 25).²⁸ Acoustic analysis of the questionnaire items 'north', 'caught' obtained average F1 / F2 values of 539 / 878 and 542 / 873 respectively, compared to RP 453 / 642. Open realizations are reported in West Glamorgan English (Connolly 1981: 56-7), and in Abercrave English (Tench 1990: 136-7), where the vowel is given the phonemic symbol of /ɔ̃ː/.

Among the differences of lexical distribution from RP are:

- /ɔː/ is not used in RVE for items of the THOUGHT lexical sub-set (b) (Appendix 3.13), e.g. 'false', 'salt', 'also', 'fault', 'alter'. Instead, as seen in Section 3.5, these are pronounced with the LOT vowel /ɒ/. 
- /ɔː/ is used by a very small number of RVE speakers in the speech sampled for certain words of the CURE lexical set:
 - Two of the sixty informants used /ɔː/ for the item 'tour' (typically in RVE /tuːɹ/), both pronouncing it with rhoticity as /tɔːr/
 - One of them used /ɔə/ for the item 'poor' (typically in RVE /puːɹ/).

Unlike in RP, where /ɔː/ is used for all three of the THOUGHT, NORTH and FORCE lexical sets, in RVE, words of the FORCE lexical set ('store', 'sword', 'Tory' etc) (Appendix 3.23) tend to be pronounced with /ɔː/.  

Realization of Vowel in Sword as [ɔː]

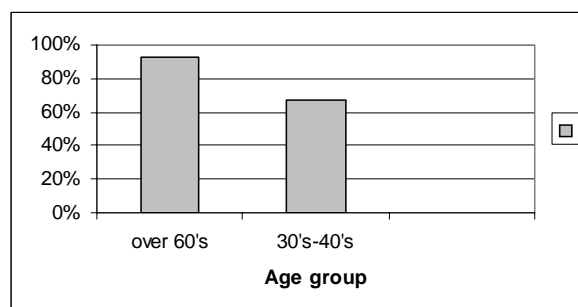


Figure 26. Realization of the FORCE vowel as [ɔː] in the questionnaire item SWORD.

Figure 26 above shows that 80% of informants (93% of the over 60s and 67% of the 30s age-group) pronounced the questionnaire item 'sword' with a vowel of an [o:] quality.

Acoustic analysis provides some confirmation. F1 / F2 values for 'sword' averaged out as 421 / 842, similar to the values for the /o:/ monophthong used for the GOAT vowel (Section 3.13), and with markedly lower F1 values than the RVE NORTH / THOUGHT vowel /ɔ:/ (F1 539 and 542 respectively).

Words of the FORCE lexical set occurring with [o:] in the data
<i>door; store; more; floor; four; fourteen; fore; bore; ignore; Singapore; before; oar;</i>
<i>score / scoring; sport; torn; course; damp-course; sword; Board; afford; important;</i>
<i>support[er]; force[d]; [armed] forces ; story; storey(s); Tories; historian; memorial.</i>

Figure 27. Some FORCE words that were pronounced with [o:] in the data.

Figure 27 above shows some of the FORCE words that are pronounced with [o:] in the data. Such pronunciations brought about the following contrasts or near contrasts between THOUGHT / NORTH words on the one hand and FORCE words on the other, the first word of each pair being found with /ɔ:/ and the second with /o:/:

/ɔ:/	/o:/
<i>for</i>	<i>four</i>
<i>saw</i>	<i>store</i>
<i>or</i>	<i>oar</i>
<i>morning</i>	<i>more</i>

These differing pronunciations may have been imported from dialects in which, since the days of Middle English, a merging of pronunciations of the THOUGHT / NORTH lexical sets with the FORCE lexical set had not taken place (Wells 1982: 234-7). The Welsh language vowels /ɒ/ and /o:/ may also have exerted an influence, reinforcing the vowel distinction between THOUGHT / NORTH and FORCE words.

RVE findings for the FORCE vowel are similar to those in other south-east Wales accents. In Port Talbot English, Connolly (1990: 123) assigns /o:/ to FORCE words, as does Tench (1990: 136-8) for Abercrave English. In Cardiff English, on the other hand, the distinction between THOUGHT / NORTH and FORCE words is said to 'have disappeared' from the dialect, being only found with some older speakers (Collins and Mees 1990: 95).

3.13 /o: / /ou /

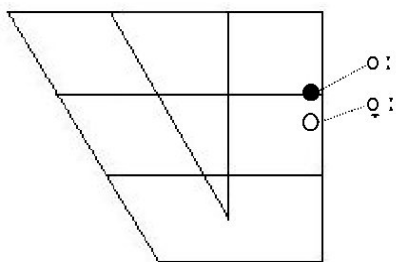


Figure 28(a). Realizations of /o: /.

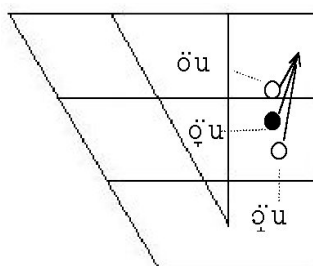


Figure 28(b). Realizations of /ou /.

For words of the GOAT lexical set ('road', 'home', 'go', 'soul', 'bowl' etc) (Appendix 3.14) nearly all RVE speakers sampled used a monophthong /o: / for some words and a diphthong /ou / for others. Thus, 'holes' is with /o: /, and 'shows' with /ou /. The monophthong is pronounced as a backed vowel, half-close or slightly below, with medium lip rounding [o: - õ:] (Figure 28(a)). Average F1 / F2 values for monophthongal pronunciations of the letter of the alphabet 'O' were 436 / 726 and of 'toes', 'nose' 432 / 820. Diphthongs have a start point that is half-close and centralized [öu~ õ'u~ õ'u] (Figure 28(b)). Average F1/ F2 values for the start and finishing elements of diphthongal pronunciations of the questionnaire items 'soul', 'tows', 'knows' (compared to RP) were:

	START POINT		FINISHING POINT	
	F1	F2	F1	F2
RVE /ou/	467	974	378	787
RP /əʊ/	537	1266	379	1024

Across south-east Wales, as with FACE words, monophthongs and diphthongs are found for GOAT words. SAWD (Parry: 1977) observed pronunciations of:

1. 'coal', 'foal', 'home', 'loaf', 'nose', 'oak', 'road' (from Middle English /o~o/)
2. 'gold', 'old', 'cold' (from Middle English /o~o/ before /ld/)
3. 'shoulder' (from Middle English /u/)
4. 'mow', 'snow', 'dough', 'grow' (from ME /ou~ ou/)

SAWD findings can be seen in Appendix 6. They may be summarised as follows:

- Diphthongs only (or substantially so) were found in three locations:
 - Rockfield and Tintern, which are just across the Welsh border from North Gloucestershire / South Herefordshire
 - Gorseinon, near Swansea and Gower.
- Monophthongs only (or substantially so) were found in four locations:
 - Manmoel, Llanhilleth and Miskin, in the Valleys area
 - Cowbridge, in the coastal area west of Cardiff.
- A clear tendency towards patterning of monophthong and diphthong was found in about 40% of the locations surveyed by SAWD, with a monophthong being used for set (1), and a diphthong for sets (3) & (4):
 - Blaenavon and Cwmfelin, in the Valleys area
 - Peterston-super-Ely, Llancarfan, Llantwit Major and Llangan & Treoes, in

- the coastal area west of Cardiff
 - Glais, in the Swansea Valley
 - Middleton and Horton, in South Gower.
- Monophthongs and diphthongs without any obvious patterning were found in the remaining 30% of locations.

Different sources of influence may have been at work in bringing about the varied situation for GOAT word pronunciations thus described. Influences towards a diphthong may include RP, the 'proper pronunciation' taught by schoolteachers in the early years of RVE and continuing to exert pressure as the 'correct' form,²⁹ Cardiff English, where only a diphthong is found (Collins & Mees 1990: 97),³⁰ and the Southern Midlands in which mainly a diphthong is recorded by LAE (Orton et al 1978) in most of Herefordshire and northern Gloucestershire (Appendix 5). Influences towards a monophthong, on the other hand, may have come from the Welsh Language monophthong /o:/,³¹ and from areas of South West where LAE (Orton et al 1978) records 'monophthongs only', including North Devon and parts of Somerset (Appendix 5). In other areas of the South West, however, LAE records a patterning of monophthong and diphthong that apparently derives from different Middle English vowels: /o~o/ and /ou~ɔu/ (Wells 1982: 192-4, 210-11) (Appendix 5). Spelling, additionally, could have exerted a 'sight-sound' influence on pronunciations, favouring the diphthong /ou/ where the vowel is spelled with <u> or <w> (e.g. in 'shoulder', 'shows'), and a monophthong /o:/ elsewhere (e.g. in 'soak', 'home').

The RVE questionnaire items 'sole' – 'soul', 'toes' – 'tows', 'nose' – 'knows', 'clothes', 'sofa' and words of the GOAT lexical set found in the conversational data were examined for occurrences of monophthong vs diphthong to see if any patterning emerged. The number of items occurring per individual speaker ranged from nine to twenty. It was found that all the sixty RVE informants used both a monophthong /o:/ and a diphthong /ou/ at some stage during their interviews. The monophthong was strongly entrenched. When asked to read the letters of the alphabet A - K - O - U, 85% of informants pronounced O as a monophthong. ☞ The monophthong was also typically used by informants for 'so', 'no' and the exclamation 'oh'.

The main finding, however, is of a strong tendency towards patterning of monophthong and diphthong in which a diphthong is used for words containing <u> or <w> in their spellings, and a monophthong for all others. 90% of all informants (93% of the over 60s and 87% of the 30s age-group) distinguished thus between monophthong and diphthong in the large majority (80% or more) of their pronunciations of GOAT words. Accordingly, 'toes' was generally with a monophthong ☞ and 'tows' with a diphthong.³² ☞ The patterning is sufficiently systematic to justify the assigning of two separate vowel phonemes: /o:/ and /ou/. Fuller findings can be seen in Appendix 8. They are broadly similar to the situation reported for West Glamorgan English (Connolly 1981: 53).

Figure 29 below illustrates the lexical incidence of /o:/ vs /ou/ in the pronunciations of twelve informants – four informants selected from each location (Treherbert, Maerdy, Porth) at regular numerical intervals.

GOAT vowel: lexical incidence of /o:/ vs /ou/ in the pronunciations of twelve informants

informant	/o: /	/ou /
T3A	<i>sole; toes; clothes; oh; old; coal, whole</i>	<i>soul; tows; nose, knows; sofa</i>
T5B	<i>sole; toes; nose; told; coal; throat</i>	<i>soul; knows; clothes; sofa</i>
T8A	<i>sole*; toes*; nose; clothes*; home; close; no; old; stone</i>	<i>sole*; soul; toes*; tows; knows; clothes*; sofa ; colder</i>
T10B	<i>sole; toes; nose; clothes; sofa; photo, no</i>	<i>soul; tows; knows</i>
M3A	<i>sole; soul*; toes; nose; clothes; home; gold Coldstream (Guards); broke; coal; nobody</i>	<i>soul*; tows; knows; sofa; gold</i>
M5B	<i>sole; toes; nose; clothes; sofa; no; open</i>	<i>soul; tows; knows</i>
M8A	<i>toes; clothes; no; oh; over; opened; both; coal; alone</i>	<i>sole; soul; tows, nose; knows sofa</i>
M10B	<i>sole; toes; nose; open, holy</i>	<i>soul; tows; knows, clothes; sofa</i>
P3A	<i>sole; toes; clothes; sofa; road; promotion; those; explosion; coal</i>	<i>soul; tows; nose; knows; Joe</i>
P5B	<i>toes; nose, spoke; open; don't: suppose; road; told; over</i>	<i>sole; soul; tows; knows; sofa; owned; flow;</i>
P8A	<i>sole; toes; nose; clothes; most; no; photo; road; old</i>	<i>soul; tows; knows; sofa</i>
P10B	<i>sole; toes; nose; road; local; over</i>	<i>soul; tows; knows; clothes; sofa</i>

Figure 29. GOAT vowel: the lexical incidence of monophthong vs diphthong with twelve informants. (* Indicates word pronounced by the informant with both monophthong and diphthong.)

Lexical distribution of the monophthong /o:/ generally extends, as seen in Section 3.12, to words of the FORCE lexical set. This produced in the data such homophones and near homophones as ‘coat’ /’court’; ‘(bull) dozer’ / ‘doors’.

3.14 /u: / /ɪu/

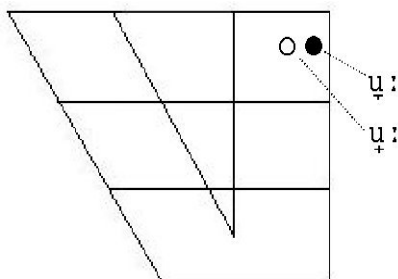


Figure 30(a). Realizations of /u: /.

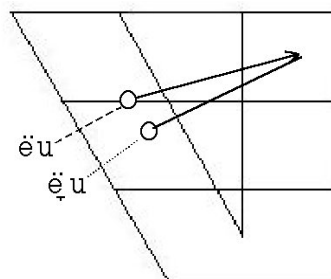


Figure 30(b). Realizations of /ɪu/.

RVE speakers use two vowels for words of the GOOSE lexical set (*'fool', 'group', 'duke', 'view', 'fruit' etc*) (Appendix 3.15): a monophthong [u:] for *'mood', 'tomb', 'do' etc* and a diphthong [ɪu], in place of RP /ju:/, for *'music', 'tune', 'Duw' etc*.

The monophthong /u: / is pronounced as in RP, although typically with less centralization (Figure 30(a)). Acoustic analysis of the questionnaire items *'mood', 'through'* obtained average F1 / F2 values of 336 / 801 compared with RP 302 / 1131.

The diphthong /ɪu/ is typically a *falling diphthong* [ɪũ] rather than RP [ju:]. The start point is in the vicinity of the KIT vowel (Figure 30(b)). It is similar to the diphthong used in the Welsh language for words with <iw> spellings, e.g. *'rhiw'* (hill /slope). Acoustic analysis of the starting and finishing points of /ɪu/, averaged over the questionnaire items *'threw', 'blew'*, yielded F1 / F2 values as follows:

	START		FINISH	
	F1	F2	F1	F2
RVE/ɪu/	418	1630	353	1095

To investigate the incidence of [u:] vs [ɪu], analysis was carried out of the questionnaire items *'through' / 'threw', 'blue' / 'blew', 'mood' & 'beauty'* (GOOSE lexical set) and *'cure', 'sure' & 'jury'* (CURE lexical set), and of occurrences of GOOSE words and of CURE words in the conversational data.

All sixty informants contrasted the questionnaire pairs *'through'* [u:] and *'threw'* [ɪu], and *'blue'* [u:] and *'blew'* [ɪu]. Since other contrasts were found in the conversational data, e.g. *'moot' / 'mute', 'whose' / 'Hughes', 'do' / 'Duw'*, it can be maintained that RVE has two distinct vowel phonemes for the GOOSE lexical set: /u: / and /ɪu/.

The lexical incidence of /u: / and /ɪu/ in the RVE speech sampled can be summarised as follows:

- Where the vowel is spelt with <oo>, <o> or <ou> (e.g. *'mood', 'fool', 'who', 'move', 'group', 'through'*) it is always pronounced with a long monophthong

- [u:], with the exception of 'you', which is often [jɪu].
- Where the spelling is <ew>, <iew>, <eu>, <eau>, as in 'few', 'view', 'feudal', 'beauty', the vowel is always pronounced with [ɪu~ju:]
 - Where the spelling is with <u>, [ɪu] is found in place of RP [ju:] after
 - bi-labials ('abuse', 'pure', 'murals' etc)
 - labio-dentals ('funeral', 'future', 'fuel' etc)
 - alveolars /t, d, s, n/ ('tube', 'duty', 'super-', 'nutritious' etc)
 - velars ('cure', 'argue' etc)
 - /h/, even when dropped ('humour', 'huge', 'Hughes' etc).

Additionally, [ɪu] is occasionally found with some speakers after

- palato-alveolars /ʃ, ʒ, tʃ, dʒ/, for example in 'jury' and 'insurance'
- /l/: 'blue' (questionnaire item) is always /blu:/ but 'clue' is with some speakers /klɪu/, 'salute' is /sɒlɪut/, and 'seclusion' is /sɒklɪuʒən/
- /r/: 'rule' is /ru:l/, but 'cruel' can be /krɪuɹwɒl/, 'bruise' /brɪuz/ and 'ruin' /rɪuɪn/.

Among other findings, words beginning in RP with /ju:/ are generally with [jɪu], so that 'union' is typically [jɪʊnɪən] and you commonly [jɪʊ].

The following observations can be made about words of the CURE lexical set (Appendix 3.24), all of which are generally pronounced with a diphthong /ʊə/ in RP:

- 1) Words that are monosyllables in RP ('cure', 'sure', 'poor', 'tour' etc) or which have the CURE vowel in the final syllable ('allure', 'procure', 'manure' etc):
 - if such words are with <ur> spellings, pronunciation is almost invariably as a disyllabic sequence, e.g. 'sure' is /ʃu(w):ə/, and 'cure' is /kɪu(w)ə/
 - if they are with other spellings (e.g. 'poor', 'tour'), pronunciation is also generally disyllabic, e.g. 'poor' is /pu:(w)ə/ and 'tour' is /tu:(w)ə/, but other pronunciations are occasionally heard, for example 'tour' as a monophthong with rhoticity, and 'poor' as a diphthong /pɔə/.
- 2) Words which in RP have the CURE vowel as the penultimate syllable (e.g. 'jury', 'furious', 'during', 'mural' etc): With these, pronunciation of the vowel is with [u:] or [ɪu~ju:]. For example 'jury' is generally [dʒɪurɪ:].

Fuller findings for pronunciations of words of the GOOSE and CURE lexical sets can be seen in Appendix 9. They are similar to the findings for SAWD across most of south-east Wales (Parry 1977: 69, 71, 78, 79), for Port Talbot English (Connolly 1990: 122) and for Abercrave English (Tench 1990: 134). In Cardiff English (Collins and Mees 1990: 95, 98), by contrast, the GOOSE vowel is reported to be always with /u:~ju:/ and the CURE vowel in 'sure', 'cure', 'tour' often with an unrounded C6 monophthong /ɒ:/. Appendix 9 shows the lexical incidence discovered for /u:/ and /ɪu/ in the RVE speech sampled, although it should be emphasized that some items in the conversational data were only heard on a single occasion.

3.15 /ɜː/ [œː]

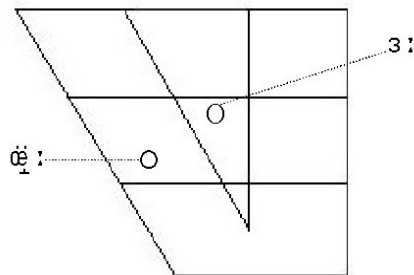





Figure 31. Realizations of the NURSE vowel.

For words of the NURSE lexical set (*'church', 'bird', 'early', 'work' etc*) (Appendix 3.9), some RVE speakers tend to use an unrounded vowel /ɜː/ similar to that used in RP,  while others seem to prefer a vowel with a rounded quality [œː] (Figure 31).  Realizations of the unrounded vowel [ɜː] are, as in RP, central and between half-open and half-close. The rounded vowel ranges from a slightly rounded central vowel [ɜː] to a more fronted [œː] or [øː].

The source of the rounded pronunciations is unknown. They have been found to predominate in easterly areas of South Wales, for example in Cardiff English (Collins and Mees 1990: 95), Port Talbot English (Connolly 1990: 125) and most locations surveyed by SAWD in south-east Wales (Parry: 1977). By contrast, unrounded versions predominate in westerly areas of South Wales, where the influence of the Welsh language is stronger, for example in Abercrave English (Tench 1990: 133,136) and in SAWD findings across south-west Wales (Parry 1979).³³ The same situation appears to be the case in North Wales. SAWD findings are of rounded versions predominating in easterly areas and unrounded versions in the Welsh language heartland area to the west (Penhallurick 1991: 45-56).

The easterly distribution of rounded versions in both North and South Wales would seem to indicate influence from across the border, however LAE (1978) does not record rounded pronunciations in any locations of England immediately adjacent to Wales. It is possible they may have come from urban areas such as Birmingham / West Midlands (Wells 1982: 363), or London (Wells 1982: 305), where rounded variants have been known to occur.

Analysis was carried out of the questionnaire responses *'nurse', 'ear'* (pronounced with the NURSE vowel in RVE) and of occurrences of words of the NURSE lexical set in the conversational data. It was found that

- there was no patterning of lexical distribution, rounded vs unrounded being apparently a matter of individual variation
- rounded pronunciations are at least as common as unrounded
- a significantly higher proportion of unrounded versions was found in Treherbert, with its larger proportion of Welsh-speakers (Section 1.1) than in the other two locations
- unstressed final syllables with /ɜː/ in *'forward', 'ruptured', 'features', 'treasure', 'Vickers' etc* were always unrounded. 

Lexical distribution of /ɜ:~œ:/ in the data extended to 'ear', 'year', 'here' & 'hear' of the NEAR lexical set, all of which, as seen in section 2.8, were generally homophonous as [jɜ:~jœ:].

3.16 /ɒɪ/

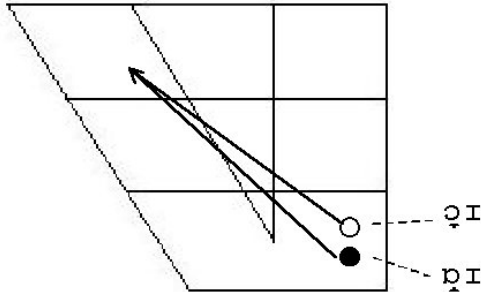


Figure 32. Realizations of /ɒɪ/.

RVE /ɒɪ/ is used for the CHOICE lexical set ('boy', 'coin', 'voice' etc) (see Appendix 3.17). Its pronunciation is typically with a more open start point than RP /ɔɪ/ [ɒɪ~ɔɪ] (Figure 32). Acoustic analysis of responses to the questionnaire item 'voice' obtained average F1 / F2 start and finish values, compared with RP, as follows:

	START		FINISH	
	F1	F2	F1	F2
RVE /ɒɪ/	532	1002	481	1646
RP /ɔɪ/	477	824	443	1924

The more open than RP start-point is also observed in Port Talbot English (Connolly 1990: 122) and in Abercrave English (Tench 1990: 133-5), and is transcribed in both as /ɒɪ/. In the local Welsh dialect, the vowel is transcribed as /ɔi/ (Thomas, C. 1966: 36) but is described as having a starting point more open than half-open.

3.17 /ʌɪ/ [ai]

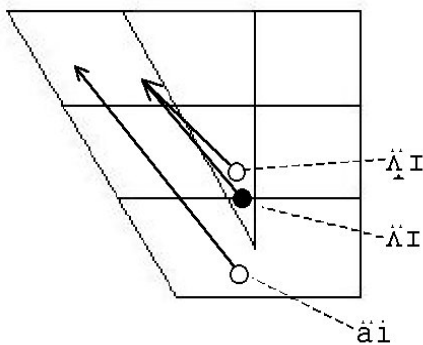


Figure 33. Realizations of the PRICE vowel.

The vowel in words of the PRICE lexical set (*'nice', 'mind', 'silent', 'white' etc*) (Appendix 3.16) is typically /ʌɪ/. This diphthong typically starts with a more central and raised start-point than RP [äɪ~äɪ]; realizations with a more open start point are also heard [aɪ] (Figure 33). Acoustic analysis of the two questionnaire items *'white', 'fire'* (first element) obtained average start and finishing point F1 / F2 values as follows:

	START		FINISH	
	F1	F2	F1	F2
RV /ʌɪ/	559	1307	456	1845
RP /aɪ/	734	1117	439	2058

The [aɪ] pronunciations are less common in the speech sampled, but tend to be used with certain words: e.g. the Welsh personal name *'Dai'*, the word *'aye'*, and for monosyllables and stressed final syllables in Welsh place names (*'Y Gaer', 'Ponty'gwaith', 'Peny'graig' etc*). This brings about a small number of contrasts / near contrasts between /ʌɪ/ and [aɪ]:

- *eye* /ʌɪ/ - *aye* [aɪ]
- *die* /ʌɪ/ - *Dai* [aɪ]
- *wine* /ʌɪ/ - [Pwll]gwaun [aɪ]

Since, however, all but the first of these involve Welsh personal or place names, [aɪ] can only be assigned marginal phonemic status. Other occurrences of [aɪ] pronunciations were in apparently in random variation with [äɪ].

The finding that /ʌɪ/ is the main pronunciation for the PRICE vowel in RVE corresponds with the situation in other south-east Wales varieties. In West Glamorgan English, the notation of /ʌɪ/ is given (Connolly 1981: 54) and in Cardiff English /əɪ/ (Collins and Mees 1990: 97), while SAWD records mainly [əɪ ~ äɪ] across the area (Parry 1977: 53-5). It is only in more westerly areas of South Wales that open start-points predominate, /aɪ/ pronunciations being observed in Abercrave English (Tench 1990: 137) and North Carmarthenshire English (Parry 1990: 144). Since [aɪ] pronunciations are also found by SAWD to predominate in Welsh-speaking areas of North Wales (Penhallurick 1991: 67-8), the Welsh language may form a source of influence.³⁴

PRICE vowel realizations in the RVE data can be seen in Appendix 10.

3.18 /ʌu/

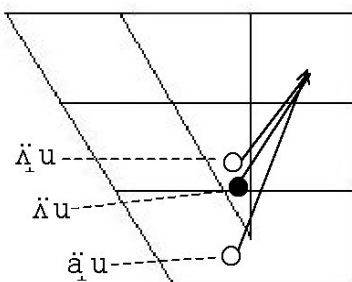


Figure 34. Realizations of /ʌu/.

The vowel in the MOUTH lexical set ('house', 'down', 'south' etc) (Appendix 3.18) is [ʌu]. It typically has a more raised, central start than RP /aʊ/ (Figure 34). Pronunciations with a more open start-point are also sometimes heard in RVE, but (as with the PRICE vowel) are associated with Welsh language influence, being found in areas of South Wales where there is a greater number of Welsh-speakers, such as North Carmarthenshire (Parry 1990: 147).

To investigate the lexical distribution of [ʌu] vs [aʊ], analysis was carried out of the questionnaire items 'south', 'house', 'shower' and of occurrences of words of the MOUTH lexical set in the conversational data. It was found that, in the data

- there are no words in which [aʊ] realizations of the MOUTH vowel are predominantly found (unlike [aɪ] with the PRICE vowel)
- with Welsh place and personal names
 - both variants are found in about equal proportions in monosyllables and stressed final syllables, e.g. '(Ty) Mawr', '(Rhondda) Fawr', '(Ty-)Draw'
 - [ʌu] predominates, however, when the vowel occurs in penultimate position, e.g. 'Hywel' [2 occurrences], '(the) Tower (Colliery)' [9 occurrences]
- Pronunciations otherwise varied from informant to informant, but with the large majority (95%) of informants using mainly [ʌu].

/ʌu/ is realized with an around central, half-open start point [ʌ̣u]. Acoustic analysis of responses to the questionnaire items 'south', 'house' obtained F1 / F2 start and finishing point values (compared with RP) as follows:

	START		FINISH	
	F1	F2	F1	F2
RV /ʌu/	525	1292	429	1108
RP /aʊ/	780	1368	372	1074

3.19 Miscellaneous

Whereas in RP the stressed vowels in words of the NEAR lexical set (Appendix 3.19) are generally pronounced with a diphthong /ɪə/, in the RVE speech sampled:

- (1) 'beer', 'pier', 'idea' etc generally have disyllabic sequences of /i: (j) ə/
- (2) 'period', 'serious', 'hero' etc are typically with /i: /.

Such findings are similar to those in all the South Wales accents to which we have been referring, for example Port Talbot English (Connolly 1981: 52), Cardiff English (Collins and Mees 1990: 92) and Abercrave English (Tench 1990: 134).

Responses to the questionnaire items ‘*beer*’, ‘*beard*’, ‘*period*’ and ‘*ear*’ and occurrences of NEAR words in the conversational data were analysed. It was found that

- 1) The questionnaire items ‘*beer*’, ‘*beard*’ are pronounced by all informants as disyllabic sequences, e.g. /bɪ: (j) Δ/, /bɪ: (j) Δd/. Similar pronunciations are found in the conversational data for ‘*appear*’, ‘*clear*’, ‘*dear*’, ‘*near*’, ‘*career*’, ‘*real*’, ‘*Fiat*’, ‘*idea*’, ‘*ideal*’ and ‘*museum*’.
- 2) The stressed penult syllable of *period* is always with the monophthong /i:/ /pɪ:rɪΔd/. Similar pronunciations of the NEAR vowel are found in the conversational data for the stressed syllables of ‘*experience*’, ‘*hero*’, ‘*mysterious*’, ‘*nearly*’, ‘*really*’, ‘*serious*’.
- 3) The words ‘*ear*’ and ‘*year*’, and also ‘*here*’ and ‘*hear*’ (with /h/- dropping), are usually homophonous as /jɜ:~jœ:] as seen in Sections 2.8 & 3.15, while ‘*heard*’ in the data is either [(h) ɜ:d~(h) œ:d] or [jɜ:d~jœ:d].

No pronunciations of the words ‘*near*’, ‘*mere*’ with the NURSE vowel /jø:/, as are reported in Cardiff English (Collins & Mees 1990: 92-3), were found in the RVE data.

The differing realizations of the NEAR vowel observed in (1) and (2) have the result that the following contrasting pronunciations are found:

- *clear* /kli:Δ/ vs *clearly* /kli:li/,
- *near* is /ni:Δ/ vs ‘*nearly*’ /ni:li/
- *real* is /ri:Δl/ vs ‘*really*’ /ri:li/
- ‘*ideal*’ is /Δɪ'di:Δl/ vs ‘*ideally*’ /Δɪ'di:li/

In RP, words like ‘*fire*’, ‘*player*’, ‘*coyer*’, ‘*shower*’, ‘*Noah*’ may have different pronunciations (Gimson, revised Cruttenden 2001: 138-141). For example, ‘*fire*’ can be pronounced

1. as a *triphthong* : /f aɪə/
2. with its second vowel element omitted (“smoothing”): /f a:ə/
3. reduced to a long monophthong : /f α: /.

Analysis was carried out of informants' pronunciations of the questionnaire items ‘*fire*’, ‘*shower*’, and of the several similar words occurring in the conversational data, e.g. ‘*choir*’, ‘*tyre*’, ‘*higher*’, ‘*player*’, ‘*layer*’, ‘*their*’, ‘*lawyer*’, ‘*Tower (Colliery)*’, ‘*power*’, ‘*hour*’. It was found that pronunciations in the speech sampled are almost always as disyllabic sequences of diphthong + /Δ/. For example, ‘*fire*’ is typically /f Δɪ (j) Δ/ and ‘*shower*’ typically /ʃ Δu (w) Δ/. There are no instances in the data of ‘smoothing’ or reduction to a monophthong.

Such disyllabic pronunciations are similar to those observed in other areas of South Wales, for example by SAWD (Parry 1977: 56, 69).