



# A Descriptive Analysis of British Accents in ‘Bring Me The Horizon’ Interview

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## Abstract

The British accent, spoken by individuals from the United Kingdom (UK), comes in various forms. "Bring Me The Horizon" is a renowned British band featuring British musicians who employ diverse British accents. This study aims to identify the prevalent British accent utilized by Oliver Sykes and Jordan Fish and to assess students' perceptions of the British accent spoken in the video, with the goal of facilitating their English language learning. The researcher used a descriptive qualitative research in order to gain the data. The researcher used an article from 'Accent Bias Britain' and was guided by a native speaker from UK in order to validate the data. The participants in this study included four students who had viewed the video. The data collection instruments comprised the video itself, transcripts of the dialogue, and an article sourced from Accent Bias Britain.. The research reveals that Oliver Sykes used General Northern English, and Jordan Fish used Multicultural London English

**Keywords:** British, Interview, Perception

## Introduction

Since accents serve as significant indicators of a person's social background, it is reasonable to anticipate that attitudes toward language contribute to the continuation of these patterns of inequality. (Johnson et al., 2022). There exist numerous accents in languages spoken globally. A British accent refers to the manner in which individuals who are native English speakers from the United Kingdom (UK) articulate words and convey their thoughts is known as Received Pronunciation (RP). Despite being regarded as the standard UK accent, it is not frequently spoken or employed by the

majority of the population in the UK. Although individuals may not consistently employ the standard accent, they still conform to conventional grammar in their communication. In this research, the researcher wanted to know and recognize more deeply about the variety of British Accents which were utilized by a famous band, 'Bring Me The Horizon'

Due to the researcher, who is obsessed with this band and curiously wonders about their British Band. This is one of the reasons why this research will be revealed directly

What kind of British Accent utilized from the vocalist, Oliver Sykes and the Pianist,

Jordan Fish who had an occasion to utter and speak in interview from Youtube with the name of the channel 'KROQ' and the title is 'Bring Me The Horizon discuss making new music and how they stayed connected during the pandemic'

This study seeks to address the following set of research inquiries.

1. Which British accent is predominantly utilized by Oliver Sykes and Jordan Fish in the interview?
2. What factors contribute to these variations by the members?
3. How does the students' interpretation of British accents during the interview contribute to the process of learning English?

To answer the research questions hereby the Objectives of the Studies

1. To inform the dominant British accent used by Oliver Sykes and Jordan Fish during the interview
2. To tell what factors which contribute to these variations by the members
3. To recognize the students' perception of British accents in the interview to help in learning English

By undertaking this research, the aim is to uncover several benefits. Initially, the study intends to provide valuable insights into the prevalent type of British accent featured in the video. Additionally, it may serve as a valuable resource for educators, enabling them to utilize the video as a reference for teaching a range of British accents. Furthermore, students can enhance their speaking skills and pronunciation by watching the video. Ultimately, the findings of this research not only offer encouragement for broader investigations

but also contribute as a stepping stone for upcoming research endeavors.

### Literature Review

Accent serves as a dynamic sociolinguistic aspect of speech, fostering a multifaceted assembly of linguistic characteristics, norms, and social representations (Hülya Mısır, 2021). Additionally, an individual's accent or dialect offers insights into their origin and ethnicity by providing specific details. (Al-Jumaili et al., 2022)

Bring Me The Horizon is a British Band which were formed in Sheffield, 2004. Most people in UK know about this wonderful band regardless of their masterpiece, all the members indeed utilize British Accents distinctively because they have diverse background in Social-Culture. They have many rewards and also songs that almost everybody knows such as 'Can You Feel My Heart', 'Kingslayer' and many more. To divide the variety of British Accent, from In the context of Accent Bias Britain 2021, there exist five prevalent English accents spoken in England today, distinguished by factors such as region, social class, and ethnicity. These accents include Received Pronunciation (RP), Estuary English (EE), Multicultural London English (MLE), General Northern English (GNE), and Urban West Yorkshire English (UWYE).

#### I. Received Pronunciation (RP)

Received Pronunciation, also referred to as Queen's English, BBC English, or Southern Standard British English, is linked to an identity linked with the upper and middle-upper class, symbolizing a status associated with the elite. While not restricted to specific regions in England, it is predominantly associated with southeastern

England. Accent Bias Britain's article titled "Accents in Britain" outlines various variants of Received Pronunciation categorized by social groups, including Conservative Received Pronunciation, Mainstream Received Pronunciation, and Contemporary Received Pronunciation.

Conservative Received Pronunciation is commonly used by the elderly, certain aristocratic circles, or royal families, setting it apart from the predominant Mainstream Received Pronunciation, which is more commonly encountered on BBC news programs and is available to the broader public. Meanwhile, Contemporary Received Pronunciation is preferred by the younger segment of the upper to middle class and exhibits resemblances to Estuary English. RP has distinctive features such as being non-rhotic, having a long "aa" pronunciation, TRAP-BATH split, and FOOT-STRUT split. Non-rhotic refers to the unclear pronunciation of "r," as seen in the word "part" pronounced as "paht." The long "aa" is exemplified in words like "craft," where the "a" is pronounced for an extended duration. The TRAP-BATH split is evident in the distinct pronunciation of "gas" and "glass." Meanwhile, the FOOT-STRUT split is demonstrated in the different pronunciation of "book" and "buck."

## II. Estuary English (EE)

Originating in the 1980s within the southeastern part of England and named after the Thames estuary, Estuary English (EE) embodies a modern accent. It is characterized as a blend of the upper-class Received Pronunciation and Cockney, the conventional accent associated with the working class in England, EE has developed as a compromise between

speakers of Estuary English and Received Pronunciation, with the intention of sounding less posh. Concurrently, speakers of Cockney have tended to discard certain accent features, contributing to the distinctive characteristics of Estuary English. The article identifies four common features of EE. Firstly, the use of "oi" instead of "ai" in words such as "time." Secondly, vocalization, where the "l" in words like "well" is pronounced as "w." The third feature is th-fronting, observed in words like "think" where the "f" sound replaces the "th" sound. Lastly, the glottal "t" is exemplified in words like "noticed," where it is pronounced as "no'iced."

## III. Multicultural London English (MLE)

Multicultural London English (MLE), prevalent across London but originally associated with East London, particularly in areas like Tower Hamlets and Hackney, is considered a contemporary British accent. This accent is believed to have emerged from direct interactions among individuals from diverse ethnic and linguistic backgrounds in London over the past three decades. Indicative of the city's native population, Multicultural London English is closely associated with minority ethnic groups, embodying a fusion of English with various linguistic elements from these minority backgrounds, resulting in a distinctive new accent. Five characteristics of MLE include dh-fronting, where "d" is used instead of "th" in words like "think"; the vowel sound in words such as "noticed" and "lower," resembling the vowel sound in the word "thought"; l-vocalization, as observed in the word "while"; glottal "t," as seen in the word "noticed," pronounced as "no'iced"; and the elongated "aa" sound in words like "night," pronounced as "naht."

#### IV. General Northern English

The General Northern English accent, commonly utilized by the middle class, is considered the "regional standard" in the northern part of England. Similar to Received Pronunciation in the southern regions, General Northern English holds prominence in the northern area. While it shares similarities with Received Pronunciation, what distinguishes it is the presence of unique elements specific to the northern English context. Unlike the southern accent, the northern accent does not engage in the FOOT-STRUT split, which results in different pronunciations for words like "book" and "buck." It also does not adhere to the TRAP-BATH split observed in the south of England, as seen in words like "gas" and "glass" that have different pronunciations. In the northern region of England, these words are pronounced the same way. Additionally, in the north, the word "craft" is pronounced differently, resembling the sound in the word "man."

#### V. Urban West Yorkshire English (UWYE)

The Urban West Yorkshire English accent is widespread in major urban areas of western Yorkshire, encompassing cities like Leeds and Bradford. It emerges from a blend of the traditional Yorkshire accent with evolving contemporary accents. The rapid proliferation of Urban West Yorkshire English can be traced back to rural inhabitants migrating to cities during the Industrial Revolution. The increased frequency of communication in these urban settings further fueled the significant development of this accent. Over time, it has expanded across West Yorkshire and become the prevailing accent in modern society. Unlike the General Northern

English accent, Urban West Yorkshire English does not employ the TRAP-BATH split and FOOT-STRUT split. The vowel sound in the word "craft" resembles the vowel sound in the word "crash."

Additionally, there is the utilization of "flattening a" in words like "able," and the presence of a dark and muddy "l" sound at the beginning and end of words, such as in "able" and "lower."

#### Perception

(Pareek, 1996) proposes that perception involves the processes of receiving, selecting, coordinating, interpreting, testing, and reacting to sensory stimuli or data. Perception is intricately linked to the five senses, as it occurs after an individual sees, hears, or feels something and then coordinates and interprets it, giving rise to perception. This process is also evident in students' perceptions of learning in the classroom, ultimately influencing their academic achievements. An illustrative example is found in people's attitudes toward learning English. Some individuals consider mastering an international language crucial, as they believe it offers numerous benefits, such as enhanced communication skills and future utility in the era of globalization. Conversely, a significant portion of the population does not deem it important and remains indifferent to the matter. This example underscores the variability in people's perceptions, a phenomenon similarly observed among students, where not everyone shares the perception that learning English is essential. As per (Adediwura & Tayo, 2007), students' views on teachers' grasp of the subject matter, work demeanor, and teaching abilities are entirely contingent on their direct experiences of being instructed by the evaluated teachers and their familiarity with them.

Consequently, students approach the assessment with pre-existing impressions, influenced by memories and responses that the data collection inventory aims to gauge.

## Methodology

Qualitative descriptive studies set themselves apart from other qualitative research designs, although they may share some characteristics with those approaches. Put differently, a qualitative descriptive study might exhibit elements reminiscent of grounded theory, as it employs constant comparative analysis during data examination. It's important to note, however, that a qualitative descriptive study is distinct from grounded theory in that it doesn't generate a theory based on the data collected. (V.A. Lambert, 2012). Within the qualitative methodology, there are four approaches for gathering data: questionnaire, interview, observation, and document analysis.

Choosing a qualitative descriptive approach is optimal when a straightforward depiction of a phenomenon is the goal. This method proves highly effective when researchers seek answers about who was involved, what occurred, and where events transpired. Researchers should confidently label their research design as qualitative descriptive. If there are elements reminiscent of other qualitative research methods, these nuances should be explicitly described, avoiding the incorrect classification of the research approach, such as phenomenology, grounded theory, or ethnography. It is noteworthy how often researchers mistakenly identify their studies as adopting a grounded theory, ethnographic, or phenomenological

approach when, in reality, the design aligns with qualitative descriptive methods. (V.A. Lambert, 2012)

The Youtube video started on the internet since February 20<sup>th</sup> 2022 To understand students' perceptions of British accents, the researcher gathered information from four students who had viewed the video. Additionally, data from the video, including transcribed dialogues and an article from Accent Bias Britain, were collected to analyze the British accents of The Trio in the video and identify the dominant accent used by The Trio. For the data collected from the four students, interviews were conducted to explore their perceptions of British accents in the video as a learning aid for English.

The data analysis process followed a three-phase structure based on the qualitative analysis framework developed by Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña in 1994. These phases include data reduction, data display, and conclusion/verification. During data reduction, analysis was conducted on scenes where characters spoke, and interview data from voice notes on WhatsApp. The British accent data were organized in a table, and the students' perceptions, as revealed in the interviews, were then described.

While the primary research question might be used as the initial interview question, typically, 5 to 10 more specific questions are developed to delve deeper into various aspects of the research issue. The iterative nature of qualitative research allows for adjustments to the questions as investigators gain more insights into the subject. Ineffective questions can be discarded, and new ones may be

introduced. Additionally, interviewers should be prepared to deviate from the planned interview structure, as digressions can be productive by following the interviewee's interest and knowledge. (DiCicco-Bloom & Crabtree, 2006)

1. How was the interview video (from the content etc.)?
2. How did you perceive their British Accents?
3. Are their accents and pronunciations clear enough to make you understand?
4. Will this make you feel free in learning British accent from the video?
5. Can you give me a sentence that you really remember from their British accents?

Here are the 5 questions of interview which the researcher adapted from (DiCicco-Bloom & Crabtree, 2006)

### **Result and Finding**

In this section, the researcher presents the research findings in response to the research questions, accompanied by relevant literature cited by experts. Following the findings is a discussion section, which involves a critical analysis and examination of the subject matter presented.

#### **What is the dominant British accent used by Oliver Sykes and Jordan Fish**

The literature review provides an explanation of five types of British accent, those are Received Pronunciation (RP), Estuary English (EE), Multicultural London English (MLE), General Northern English (GNE), and Urban West Yorkshire English (UWYE). In this finding, the researcher finds that there are two dominant British accents used by Oliver Sykes, and Jordan Fish in the interview video, The two dominant British accents used are General

Northern English that is used by Oliver Sykes and Multicultural London English that is used by Jordan Fish in the video. The characteristic of General Northern English found is the vowel sound in words like "bath" might be pronounced with a shorter vowel, sounding more like "bath" as opposed to the longer vowel sound in Southern accents. The finding has been validated by the external validators, Mr Mohammed Wilkinson. who was born in UK and has been teaching English as a "Native Speaker" for years.

#### **How is the students' perception of British accents in the video to help learning English?**

Four students enrolled in an English course participated as interview respondents. The researcher conducted the interviews using WhatsApp voice notes, with each student providing video responses.

##### **The first Student's perception**

1. The interview video was interesting and can motivate people to learn English, like me I feel wonderful due to their persistence during the pandemic when they still can release songs during the hard days
2. their accents are good as a amateur person like me, I still can understand their English
3. their accents are very good, usually when I watch listen to people who use british they speak really fast but in this video they spoke it calmly
4. of course I can enhance my vocabulary based on the video
5. "you just want to get out and play music" (fikah)

##### **The second Student's perception**

1. "I think the video was really entertaining especially the content of the video like how they were working with tom morello"

2. "I perceive the accent just by the sound of it I think the guy speaks really british like he said 'format' with the invisible 't'"
3. "yes it makes me feel free because the video interview is not really academic"
4. "yes most of they speak I understand but there are some parts that I can's understand what they speak"
5. "it was kind of something we wanted to do for a while"

(akbar)

#### **The third student's perception**

1. "The topic tells about the project they are making, collaboration and creating something during pandemic"
2. "I perceive their british accent is something sophisticated and well delivered"
3. "Their accent mostly clear enough for me"
4. "Absolutely feel free to learn british accent for me because I think to learn accent is by watching it"
5. "it became the song is like parallel, talking about disease"

(farra)

#### **The forth student's perception**

1. "I think the interview video was interesting, since they tell about how they confront during the pandemic, collaborating their music. It's a good video to listen to"
2. "I found it easy to understand, although they speak a bit because but it's still normal for british people."
3. "in my opinion the members deliver their accents are understandable and easy enough to understand"
4. "yeah after watching video, I think I will find more video because their accents are understandable to understand unlike adele"
5. "yeah I like it personally 'we are writing' 'it already to be an artist'"

(ilmi)

#### **Conclusion**

This research concludes that Oliver sykes, known as the user of General Norther English. And Jordan fish is Multicultural London English. Oliver said "isolation", it may sound closer to "is-uh-lation" rather than a longer "eye-so-lation" found in some Southern accent as the characteristics that represent his General Norther English. Meanwhile, Jordan Fish's Accent accents is Multicultural London English because he used "different" In MLE, there can be a tendency to pronounce the "th" sound as a "f" or a "v" sound. Therefore, when saying "different," you might hear it pronounced as "diff-er-ent" with the "th" sound replaced by a "f" sound in some cases. This is part of the phonological variations observed in MLE. Besides, the students' perception of British accents in the video reveals that the clear and clean pronunciation makes the students enjoy the video. They also remember some lines spoken by the Trio and recommend the video to learn English especially British accent because they think that there is a few videos used British accent that pronounce the words as clear as the speakers in this video

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