

Pseudonym	Dialect Zone	Provenance	Sex	Age	Educational Level	Religion	Ch.7 Text No.
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KPC *[laughs]*. Do you think that, em, attitudes across Northern Ireland to different groups are the same or different? So, you know, would you particularly, for instance, hear an accent from Belfast and kind of go, ‘Oh oh, that hurts my ear,’ or do you kind of feel that, sort of, when you hear accents that you have quite negative or positive reactions to them?

TS I think we’re very conscious of trying to figure out... I think we probably do it subconsciously...

KPC Mm.

TS ... where, when we talk to people, you know, by their name, the way they talk, or their dress, the first thing that we work out is what religion they are. I thi... maybe it’s a cl... maybe it’s because of where I’m from, but I kind of have this, this... we al... we all do this, whether we’re doing it, whether we’re conscious of it...

KPC Mm.

TS ... you know, we figure out, you know, if somebody says their name is, you know, Patrick, you know, th..the likelihood that they’re Catholic. So, therefore, that dictates the way that you will deal with them...

KPC Mm.

TS ... and what school people, you know what I mean? There’s this constant mind game going on...

KPC Mm.

TS ... ‘I’ll quickly figure out where these people are from, what religion they are...

KPC Mm-mm.

TS ... and then that’ll dictate what we speak about.’ You know what I mean?

KPC Mm-mm.

TS We're not going to... if I... if your name is Elizabeth, we're not going to speak about the *GAA* or...

KPC Mm-mm, mm-mm.

TS ... the fucking Pope's visit here, you know what I mean. It'll be about the weather, or what's on the news.

KPC Mm.

TS And I think that goes on. Eh, I don't know if that's going on is the next generation doing that? Do they have the same, eh, do they... are, are they, are, are, are they as, are they as conscious of it as we were?

KPC Mm.

TS Because I think, growing up where I grew up, you know, to find these things out was a matter of – not life and death.

KPC I know.

TS I don't mean to be dramatic about being life, life or death...

KPC Yeah.

TS ... but it could... You know, if you were in a wrong part of town, you very quickly wanted to know who you were dealing with, who you were talking to, because what you says could mean you were going to get a slap in the mouth, or you were going to have to run for your fucking life...

KPC Mm.

TS ... or it was going to be, it was going to be great, you know.

KPC Mm.

TS Eh, so that kind of survival mechanism. I don't know if it's the sa... like I say, I don't know if it's as conscious in young people now...

KPC Mm.

TS ... where it was with, with us. Eh, we were always kind of figuring out...

KPC Mm.

TS You know, if you heard a Belfast accent, you would have asked them, you know, 'What, what part of Belfast are you from?' and knowing that if by saying, west, north, east or south Belfast, that you could fi... you know, you could kind of generally take the

conversation in the direction where the next few questions was going to dictate, you know, what religion they were. *[laughs]*

- KPC** And they were probably playing the same game.
- TS** Oh, aye, aye. That's what we were doing. Every, everybody does it, you know.
- KPC** Mm.
- TS** Eh...
- KPC** And do you, would you...
- TS** And I still do that, yes.
- KPC** Mm-mm.
- TS** Aye.
- KPC** Mm.
- TS** I, I, I'm conscious that I'm doing it, and I fi... and I fi... find it funny...
- KPC** Mm.
- TS** ... that I'm, that I'm doing it. Eh, that even no... you know, th..the peace process and all that, but we're sti... I'm still judging, or I'm still tied to that. I don't know is it damage? Are we damaged? Or is it, like, is it survival? Is it...?
- KPC** Mm.
- TS** I th... I think the fact that I'm conscious of it makes it different. You know what I mean? If I was doing it subconsciously and didn't know why I was doing it...
- KPC** Mm.
- TS** ... then there would be something sad about that. But the fact that I know that I'm doing it...
- KPC** Mm.
- TS** ... and, eh... you know, like, if you're, if you're phoning somebody in the Housing Executive, and the guy's name's Sammy...
- KPC** *[laughs]*
- TS** ... you know, straight away, you know.
- KPC** What can you say?

TS You know, and...

KPC You talk about the weather.

TS Aye [*laughs*]. And it's the fact, you know, do you... when people say, you know, 'Where are you ph...?' where I'm phoning from, you know, and I say, 'The Bogside and Brandywell,' [*clicks fingers*] I notice a change.

KPC I'm sure.

TS Or, you know...

KPC Mm.

TS And that whole thing about somebody says to you, 'Where are you from?' ...

KPC Mm.

TS ... do you say, 'Derry,' or 'Londonderry'?

KPC Mm-mm.

TS It...

KPC What do you say?

TS I would say 'Derry'.

KPC Irrespective?

TS Aye. I would say 'Derry'.

KPC Even if it was fairly important?

TS And then look to see what the response is going to be, because I love to see what way people are going to [*laughs*].

KPC So have you had any res... any responses where people kind of go, 'You mean Londonderry?'

TS Aye, oh, aye, aye. That's...

KPC Yeah?

TS Or you'll talk to somebody on the phone and, you know, like, if you're phoning up Directory Enquiries, or if you're phoning an...

KPC Yeah.

TS ... an insurance company or whatever, and you're saying, 'It's Derry,' and they go, you know... If you're dealing with people

outside of the North, then they don't know, so you say to them, 'Look, it's going to say, it's going to say 'Londonderry''.

KPC Yeah.

TS But if I'm dealing with somebody from the North, I tr... push it as far as I can.

KPC *[laughs]*

TS You know, you know, 'It's Derry'. And they're going, 'Oh, no...' Or if you know, like, the train from Belfast to Derry, getting... I used to come up on a S... and I would, like, the girl I was going out with was at Queen's...

KPC Aye.

TS ... so I would have been coming back up and you'd be going to the, on a Sunday night say coming back up again. And this happened over the space of about four or five weeks where...

KPC Uh-huh.

TS ... I was dealing with the same two guys who worked in the train station.

KPC Yeah.

TS Two working class Protestant fellows who were working...

KPC Yeah.

TS So you would go and I would say, 'I w... A ticket for Derry'. 'Ah, no, nowhere called Derry here'. And they would, this banter would go on, you know. 'This boy's looking to go to somewhere called Derry. You know, where's that?' And, and this would go back and forward, you know, where they would... the... and the boy would say, 'Look, we, you know, Londonderry. Do you want to go to Londonderry?' So you would get the ticket. So this went on a couple of weeks, and then what happened was I eventually says... and at the time, o... now I look back on it, I would go, you know they were doing that to wind me up.

KPC Of course they were.

TS And, you know, the fucking, what a good job they done of it. You know, I says, 'I want to speak to your manager. I want to speak to somebody further up the...' And the two guys got all flustered. They were all, 'Jesus, no, you know what I mean you know. Look, here's your ticket. Fucking...

KPC Go.

TS

... get on the train and go.' I was going and I was roaring and shouting, 'I want to see your manager. This is discrimination. You are making, you are making me say 'Londonderry'. How fucked up is that like?' [*laughs*]. 'I'm being forced to use words that I'm... I don't want to use.' Eh...