

ACROLECT AND HYPERLECT: REVISITING ENGLISH RP

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Abstract: *Determining the accent that we use is a notoriously vexing problem for a number of reasons. This paper focuses on one of the most well-known accents in England, Received Pronunciation. Among the complicating factors which invite us to re-examine the concept of RP are the uses to which it is put, taking into consideration the fact that British English is a language learned by an increasing number of foreign speakers, the evolution of language itself and of society, as well as the Americanization in grammar but also in pronunciation. The main purpose of this study is to review some of the most important theories regarding the evolution of RP, while briefly mentioning the vowels and consonants of present-day RP.*

Keywords: *Received Pronunciation, marked RP, unmarked RP, acrolect, hyperlect, paralect, accent, England.*