

LINGUISTIC VARIABLES

Types of variables

- Lexical - vocabulary
- Grammatical
- Phonological
 - pronunciation

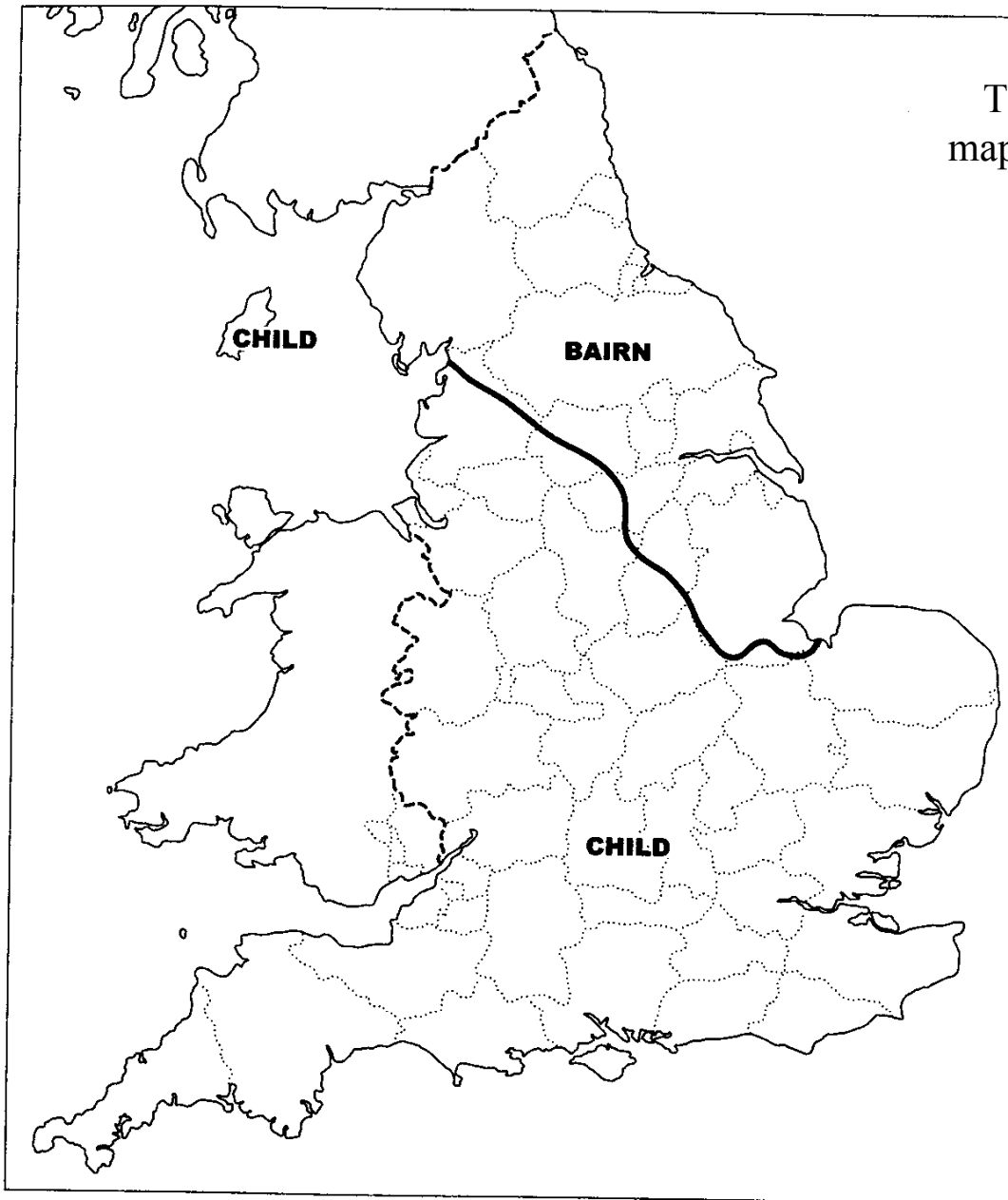


Types of variables

- Lexical - vocabulary



CHILD

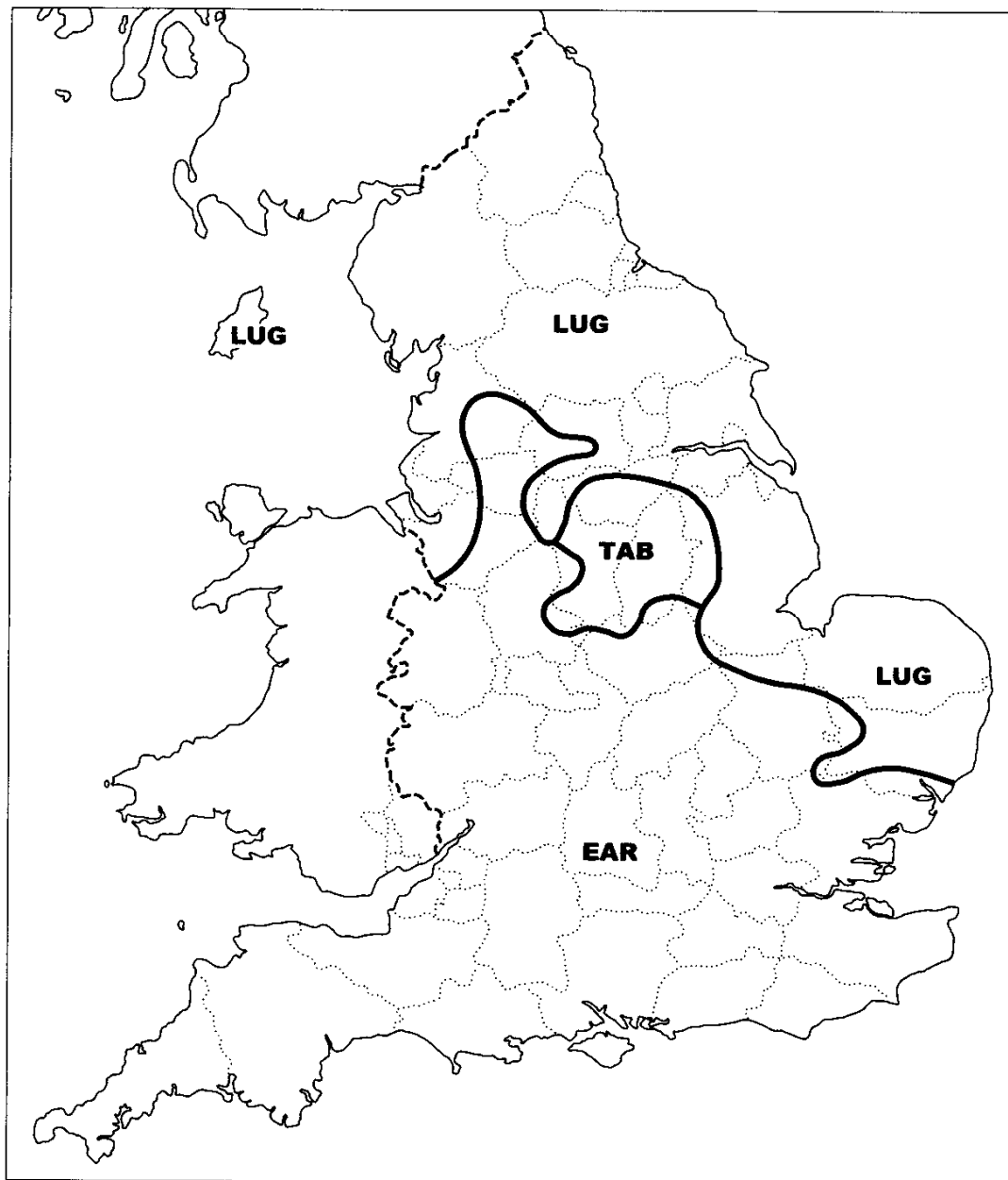


This and the following maps are from Widdowson and Upton

Isoglosses showing lexical variables



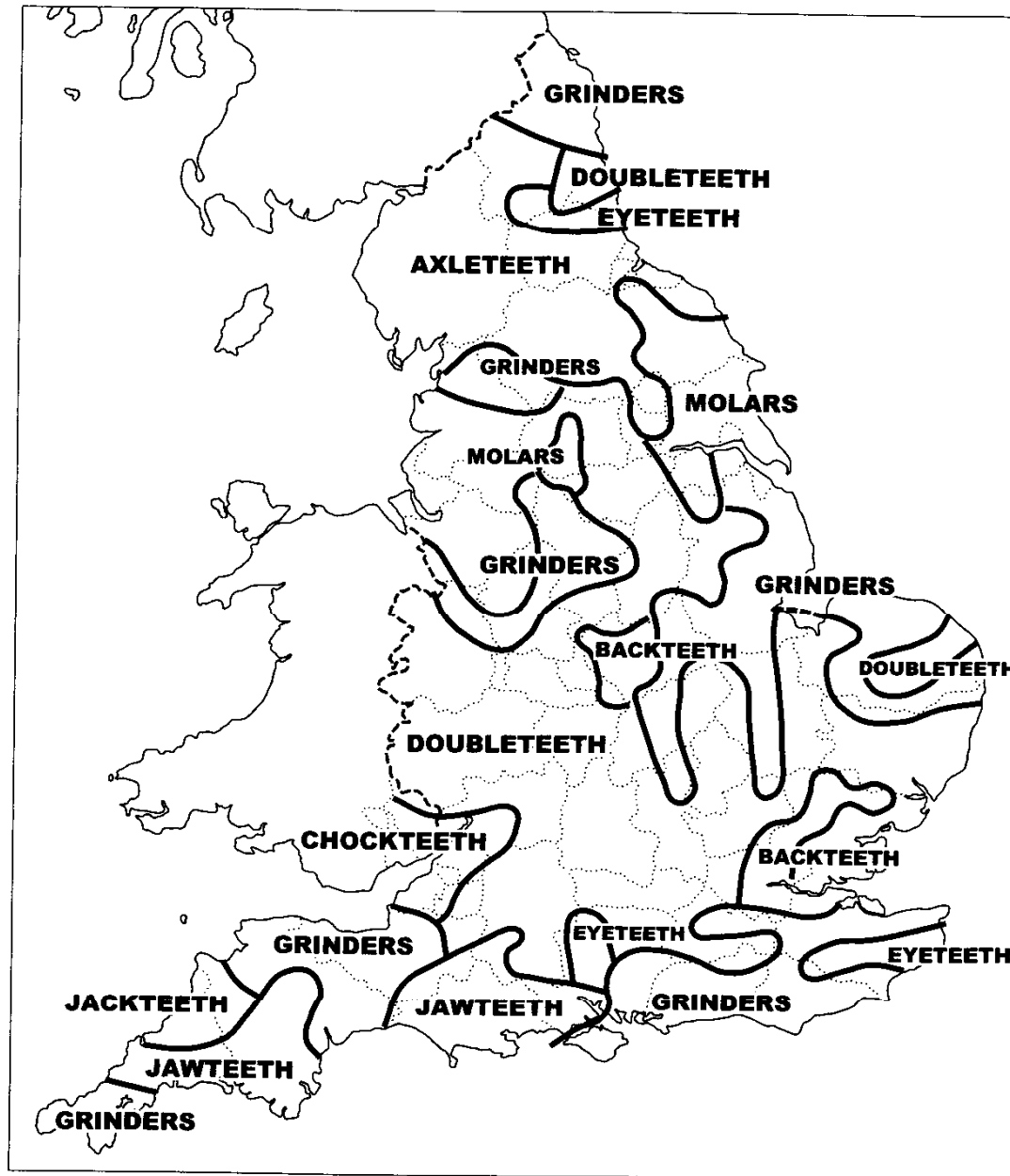
EAR



Isoglosses
showing
lexical
variables



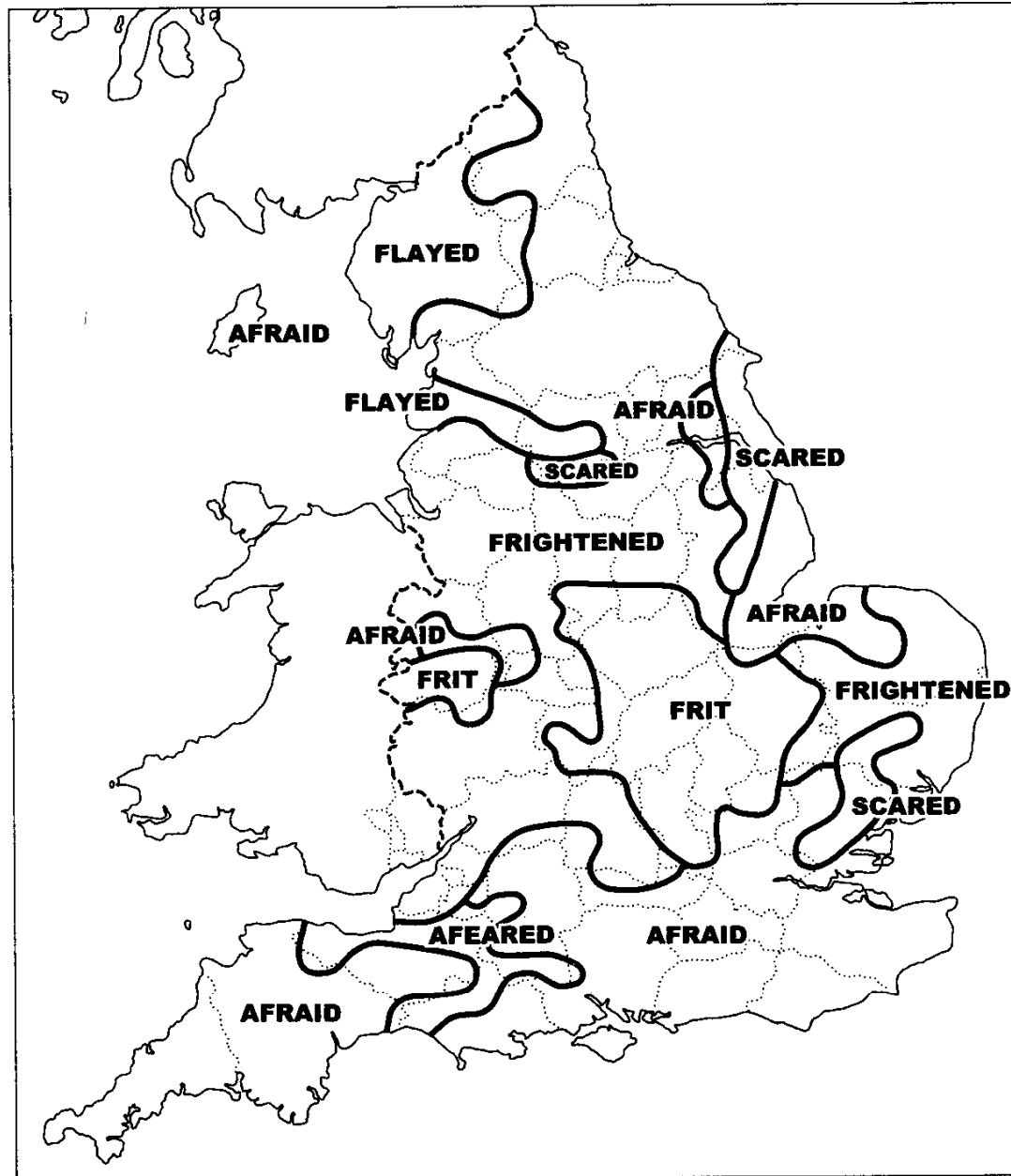
MOLARS



Isoglosses
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lexical
variables



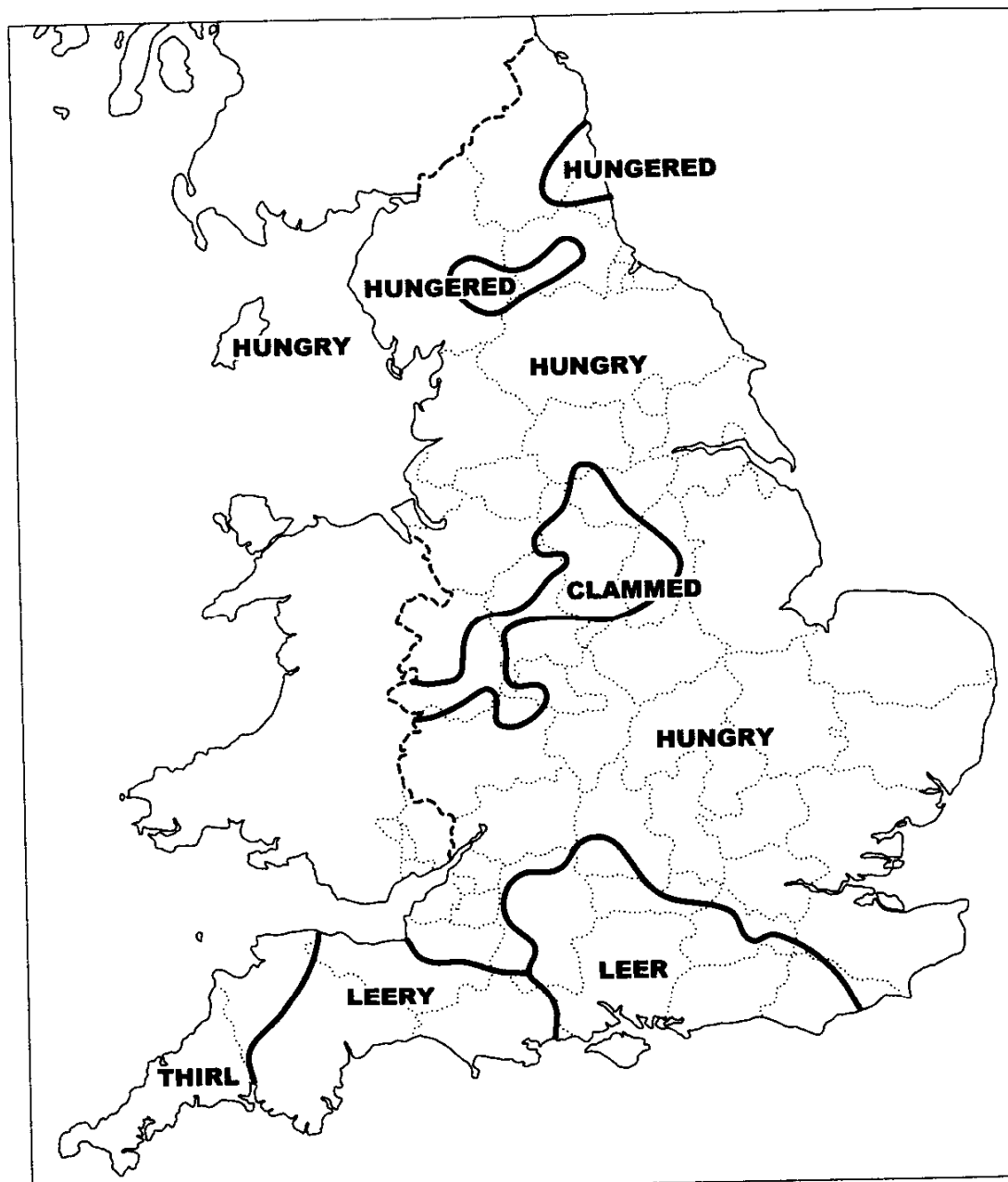
AFRAID



Isoglosses
showing
lexical
variables



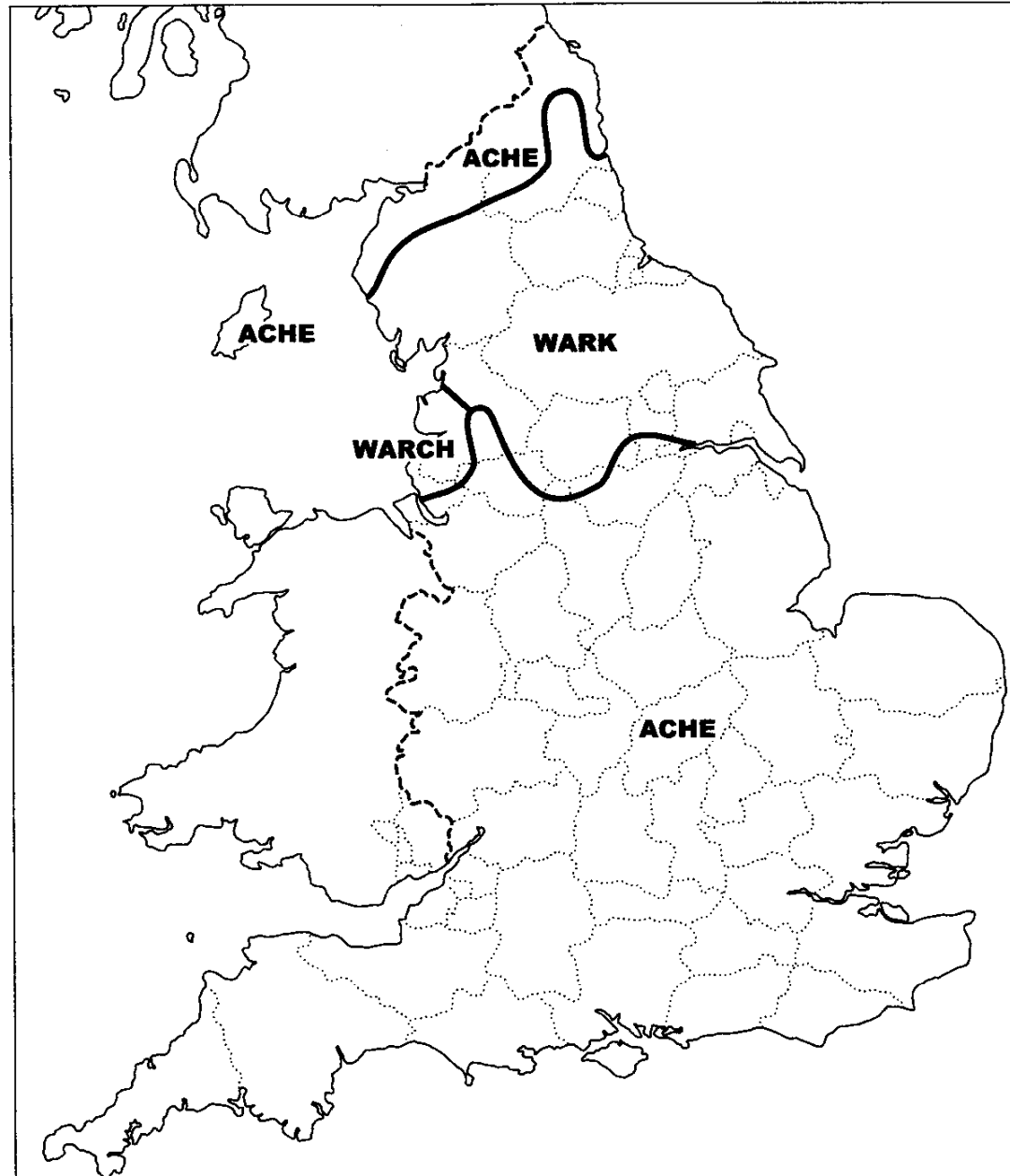
HUNGRY



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lexical
variables



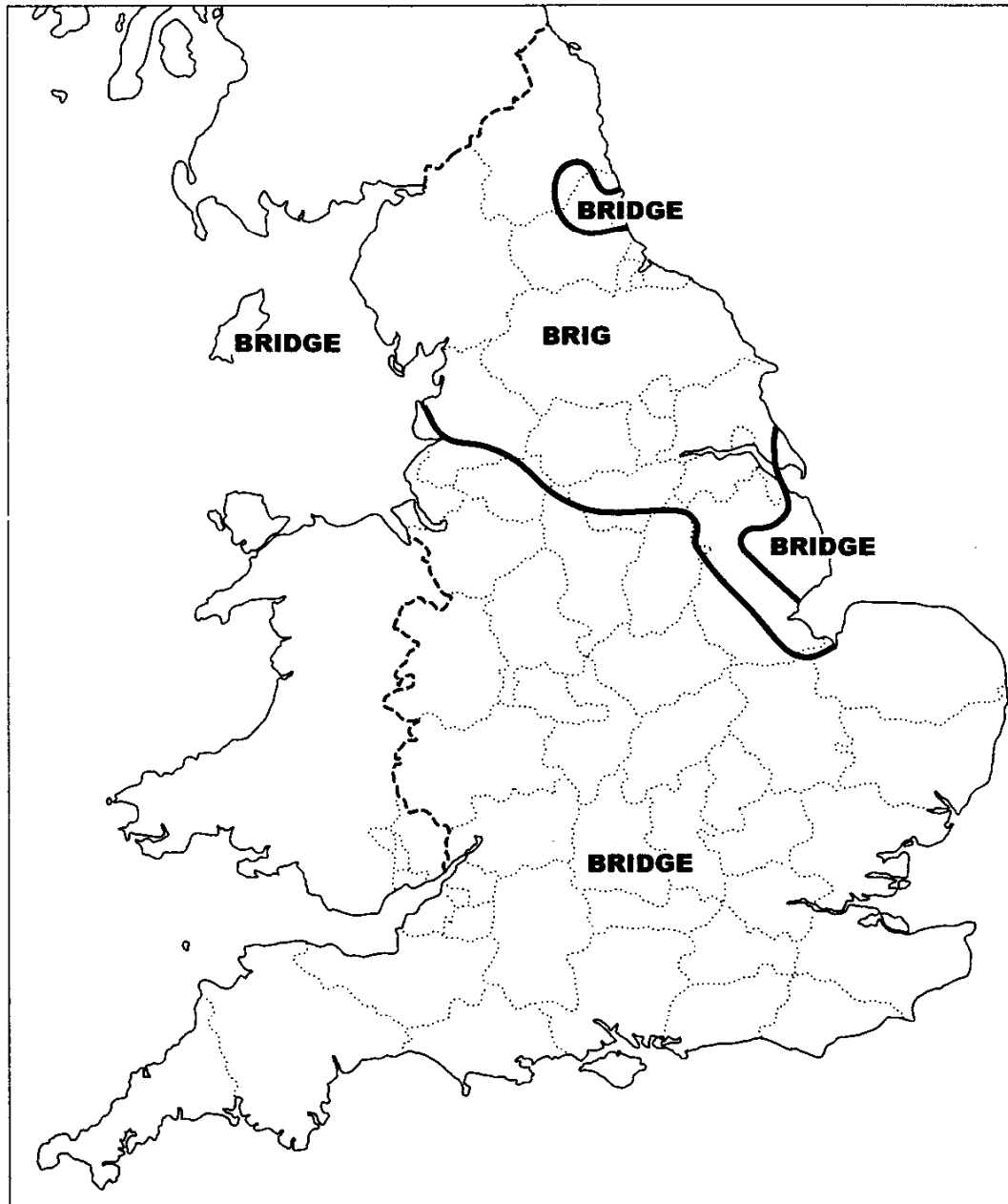
ACHE



Isoglosses
showing
lexical
variables



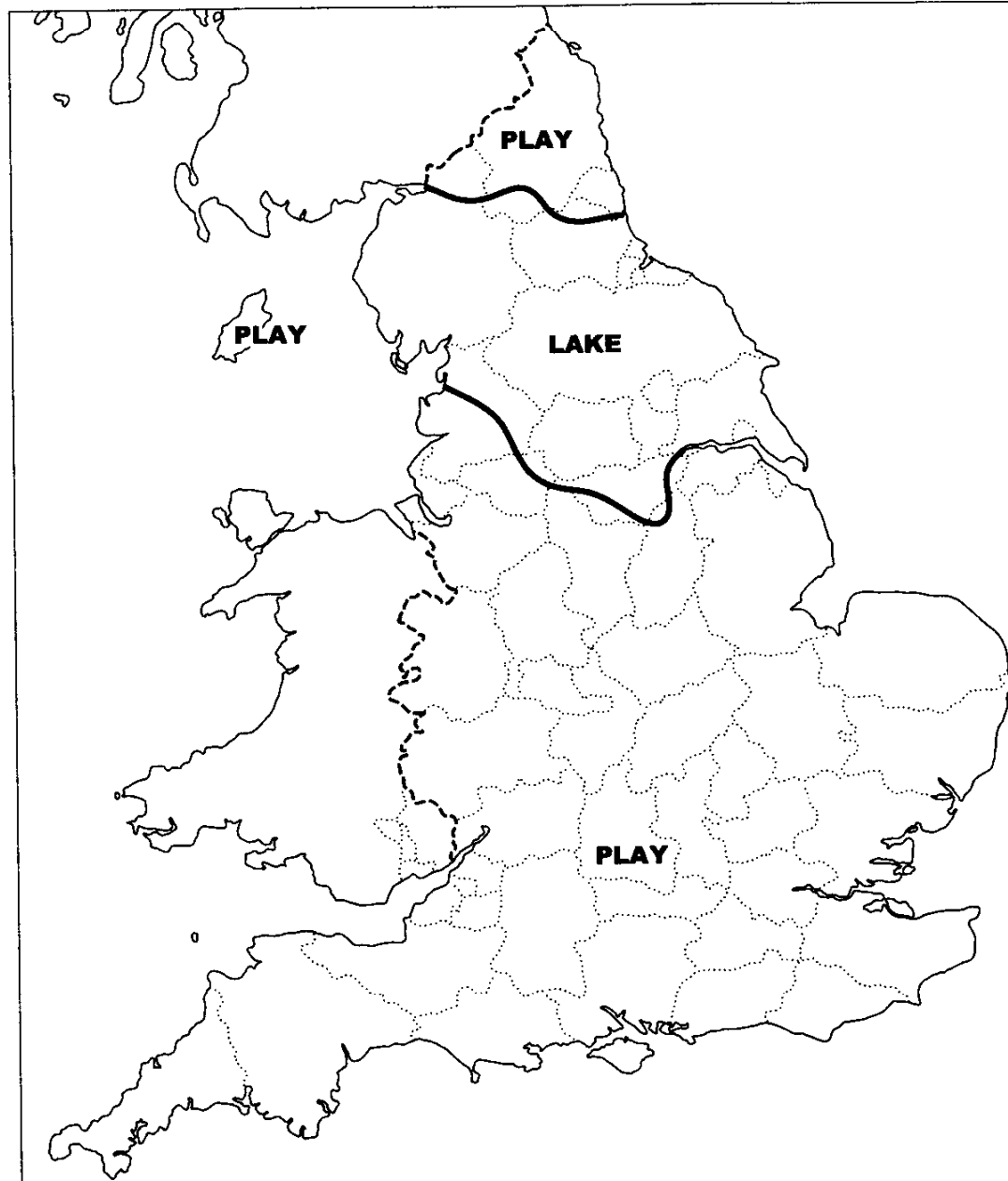
BRIDGE



Isoglosses
showing
lexical
variables



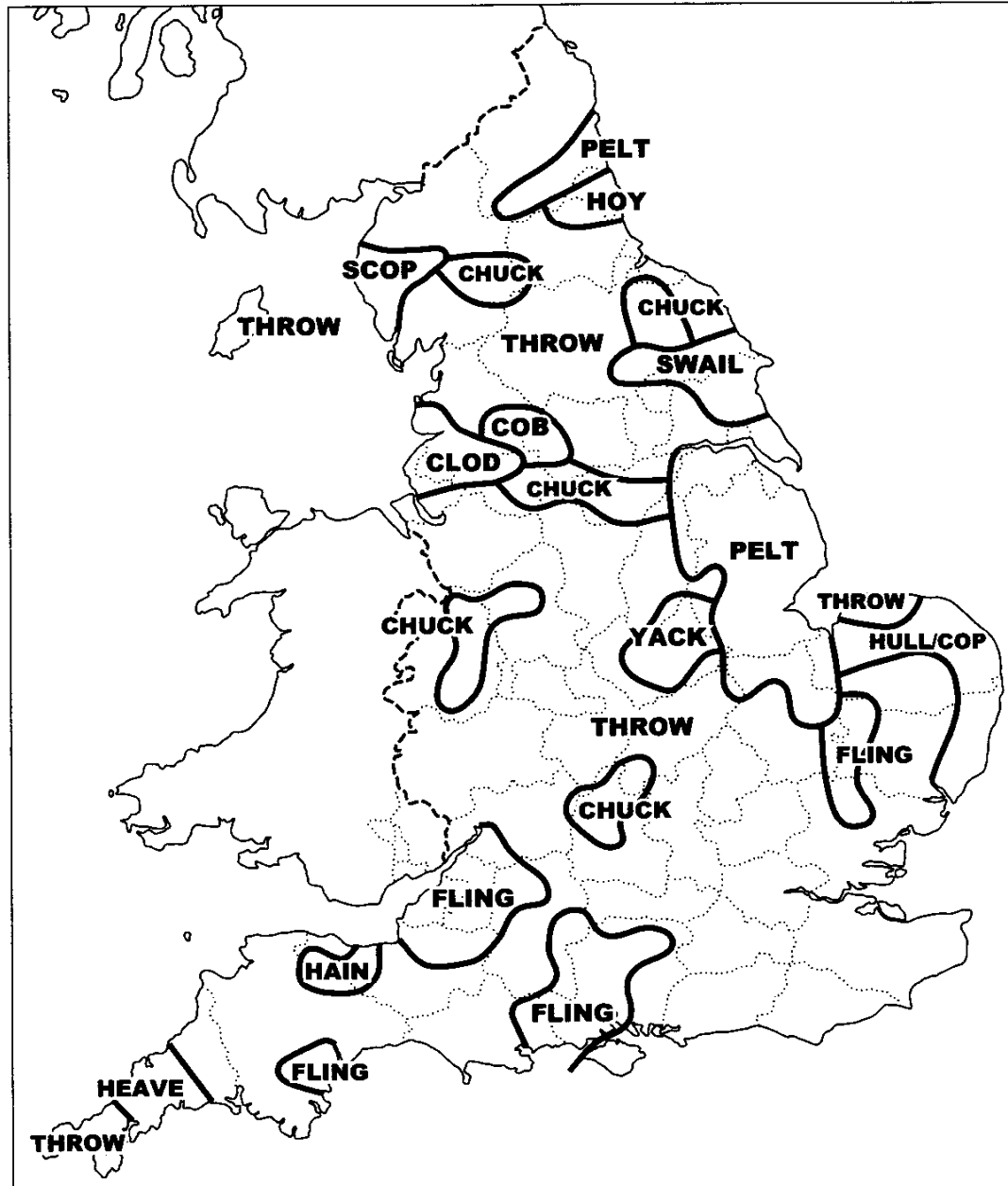
PLAY



Isoglosses
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lexical
variables



THROW



Isoglosses
showing
lexical
variables



Types of variables

- Lexical - vocabulary
- **Grammatical**



LINGUISTIC VARIABLES

Grammatical variables

- I'm not stupid
- I ain't stupid
- So I said to him ...
- So I says to him ...
- I don't want any more trouble
- I don't want no more trouble



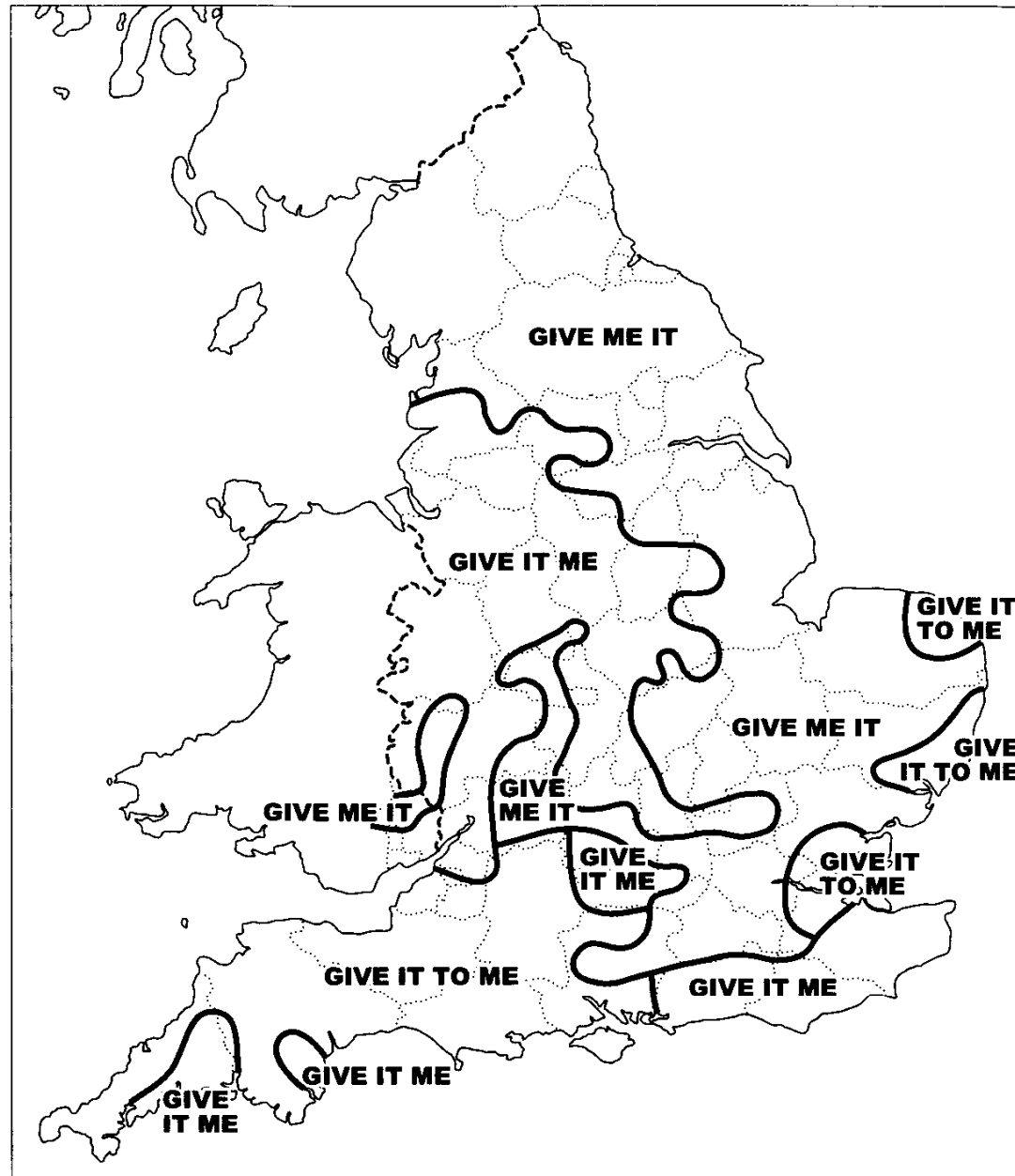
LINGUISTIC VARIABLES

Grammatical variables

- I saw/seed her yesterday
- I did/done it
- We were/was all there
- She is /Er be the love of my life
- The lady who/which/what/as rang the police
- He looks after himself/hisself
- You/you all/yous got to believe me



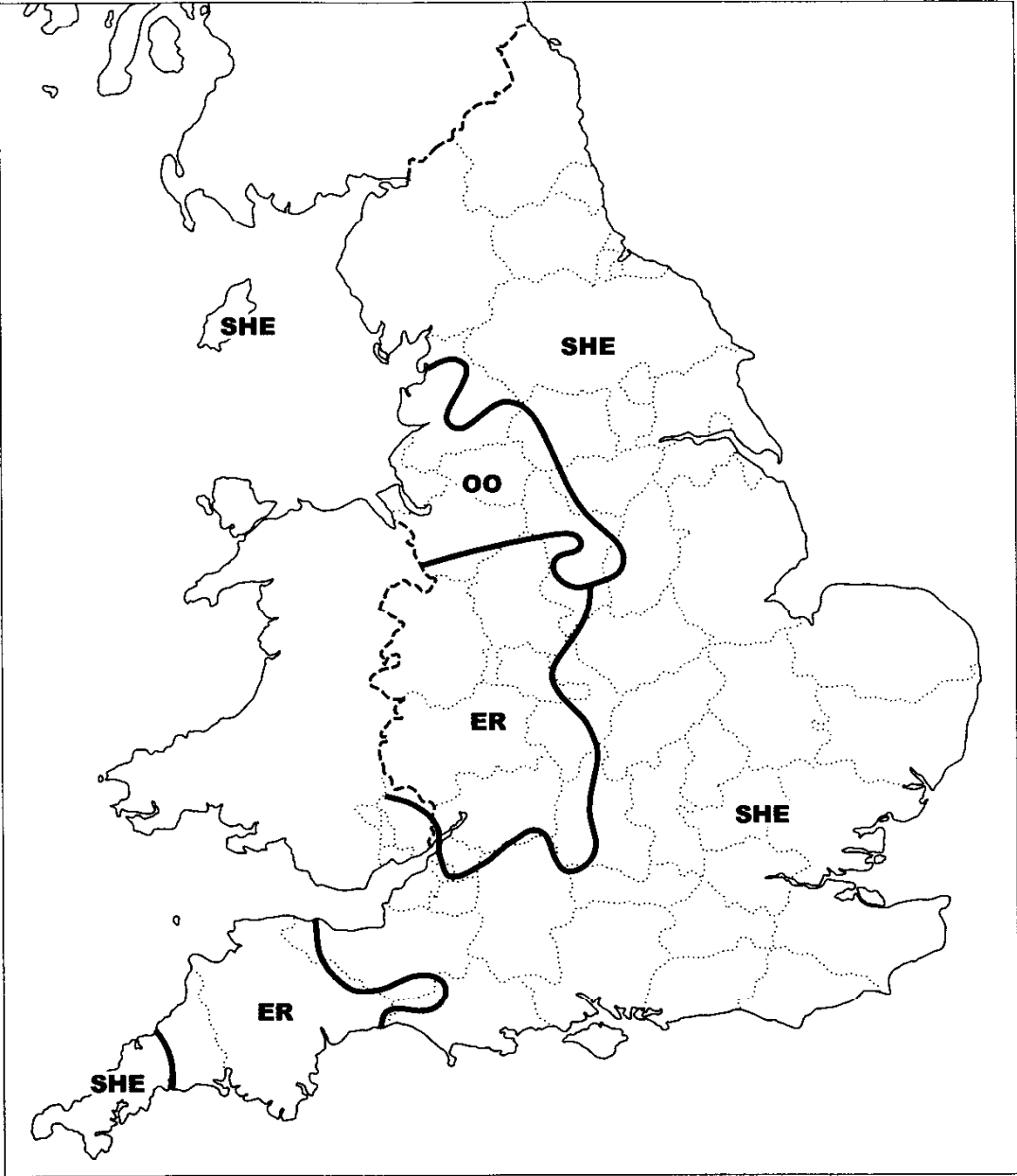
GIVE IT ME



Isoglosses
showing
grammatical
variables



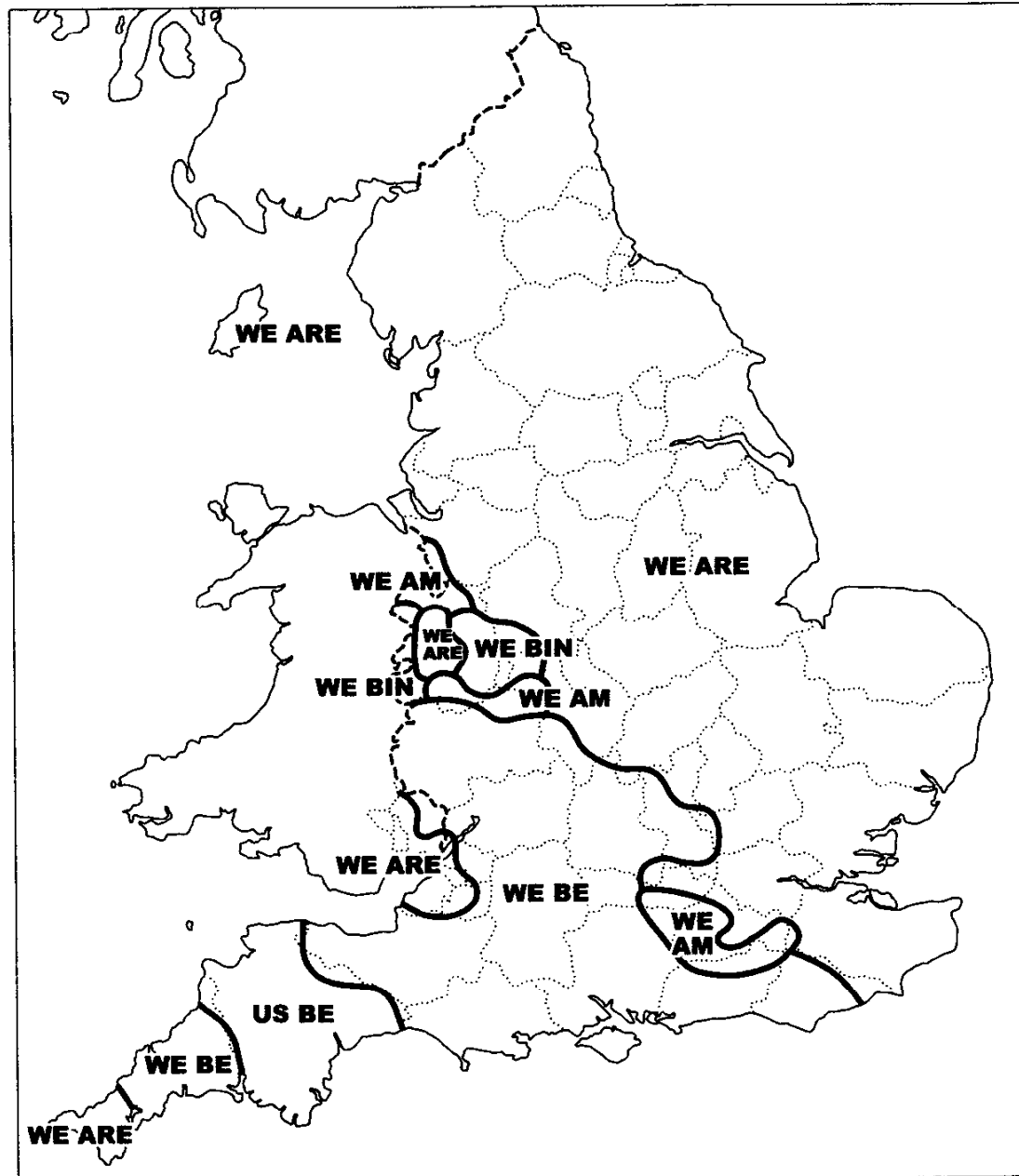
SHE



Isoglosses
showing
grammatical
variables



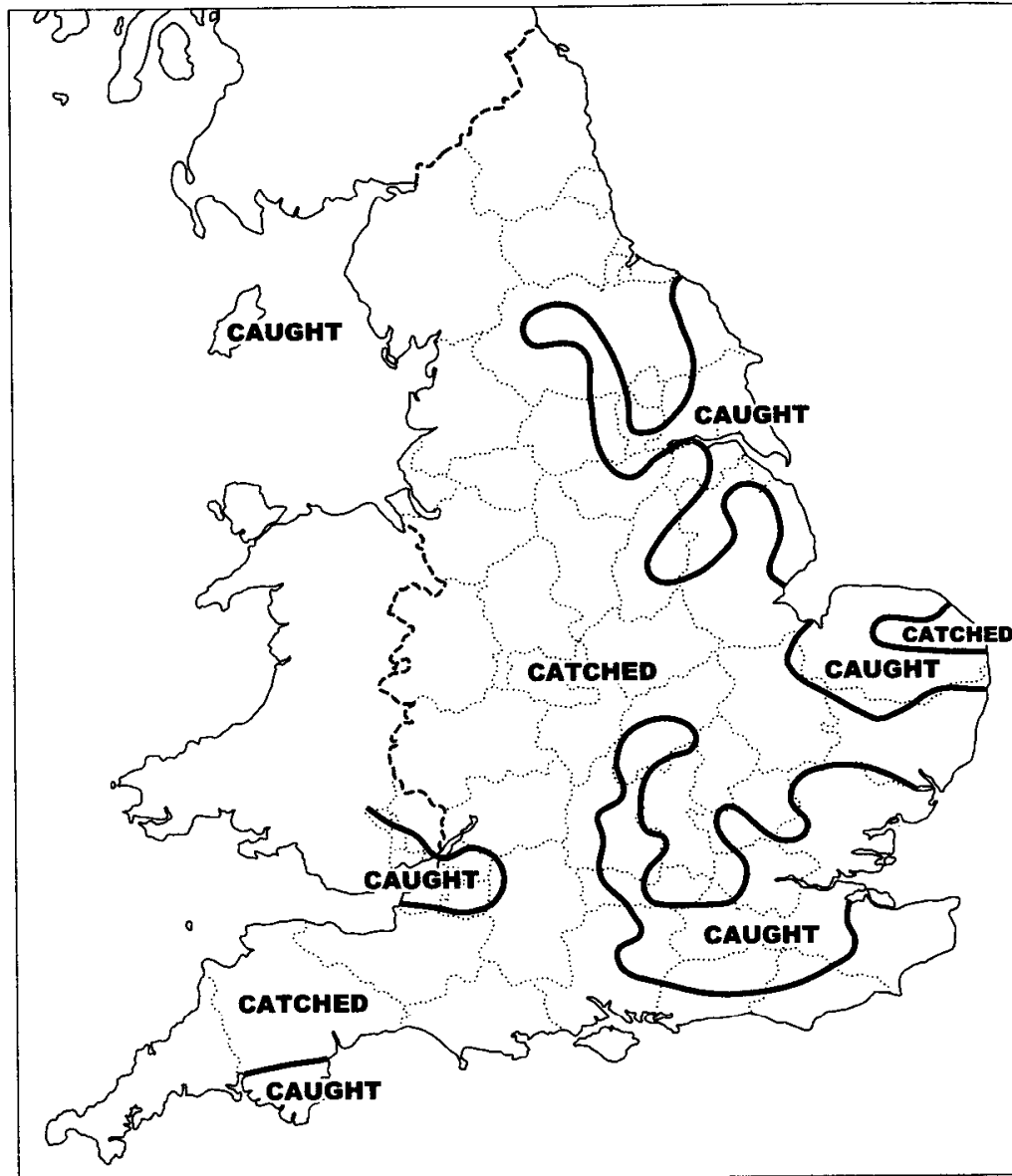
WE ARE



Isoglosses
showing
grammatical
variables



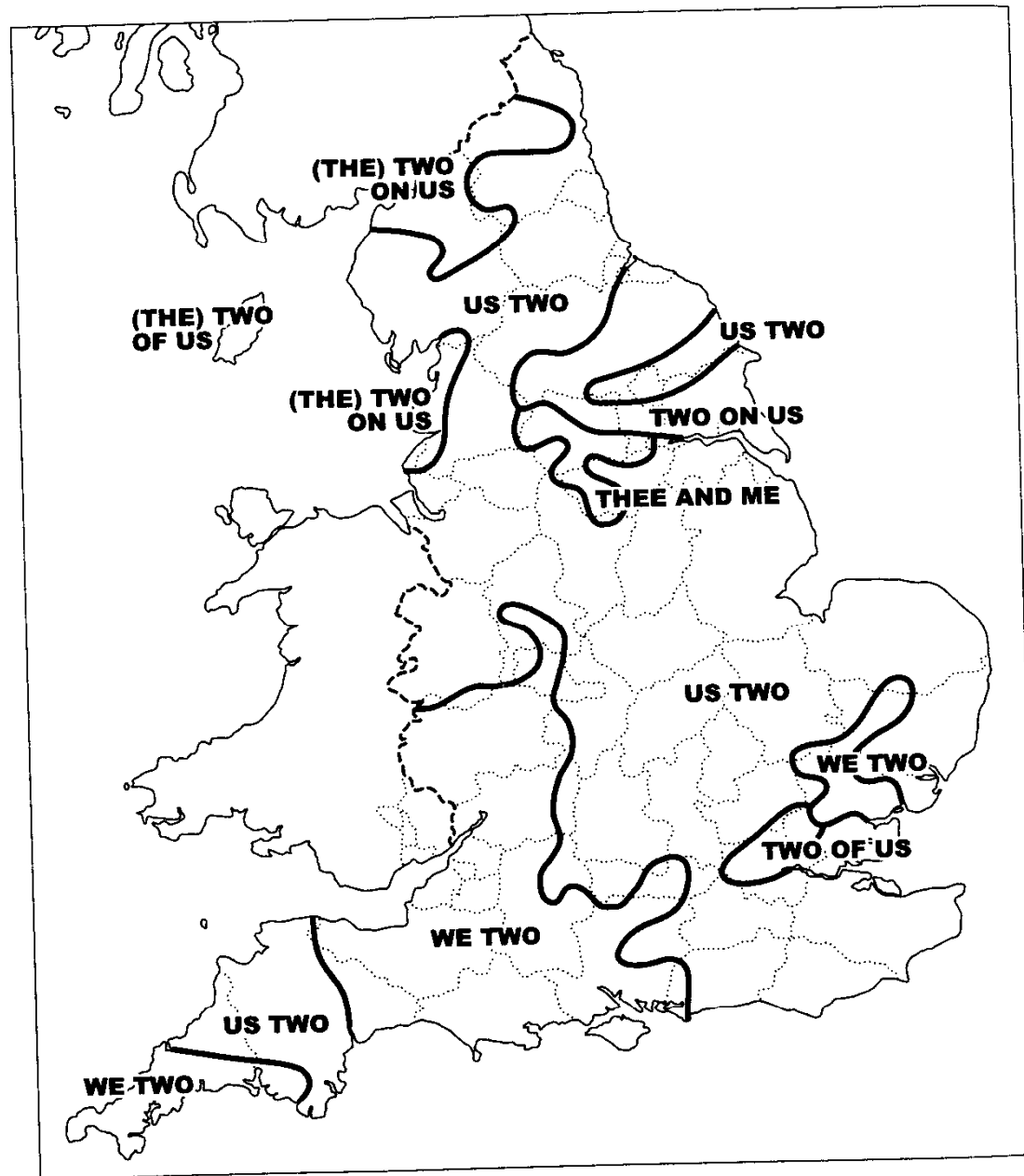
CAUGHT



Isoglosses
showing
grammatical
variables



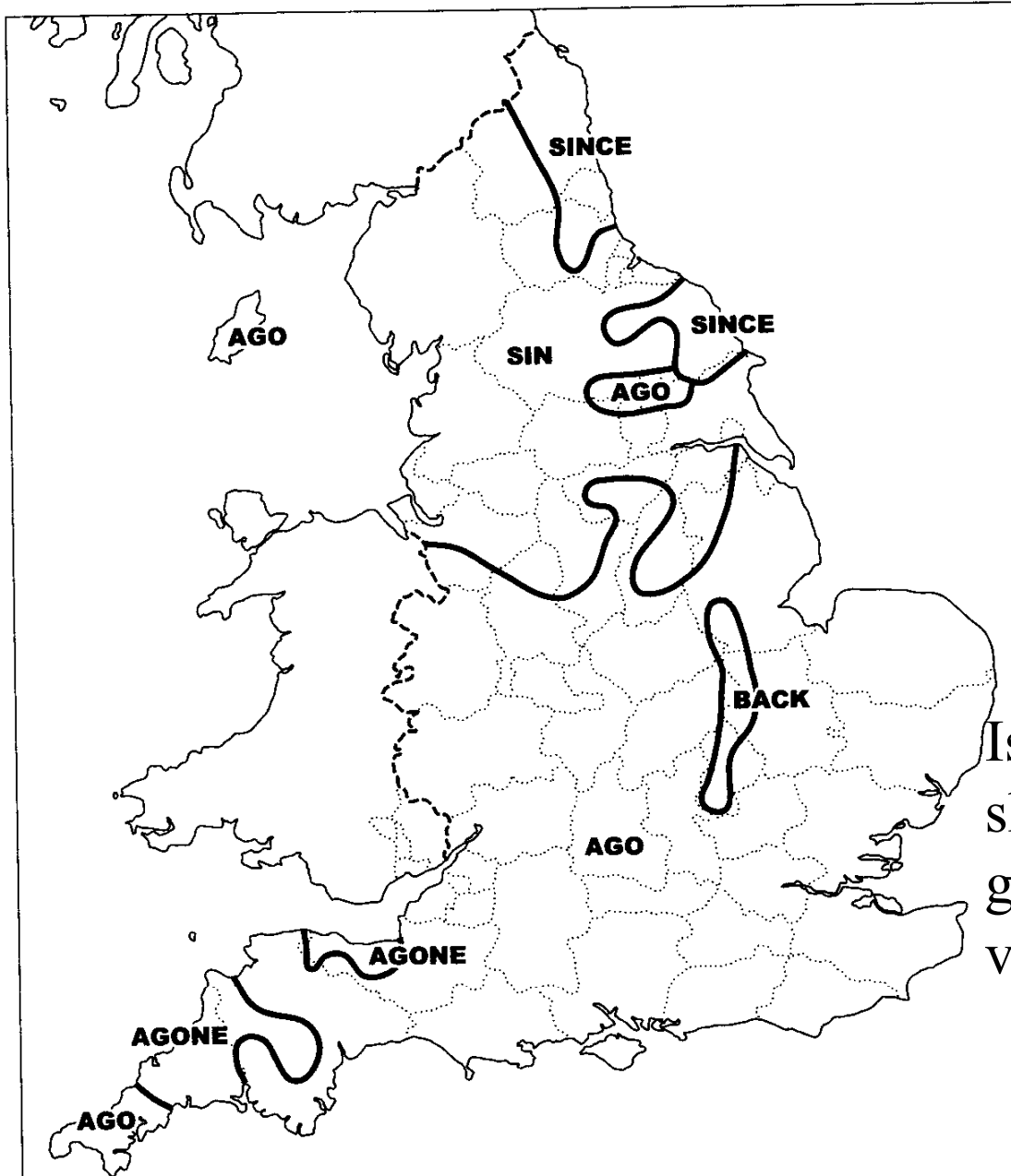
WE TWO



Isoglosses showing grammatical variables



AGO



Isoglosses
showing
grammatical
variables



Types of variables

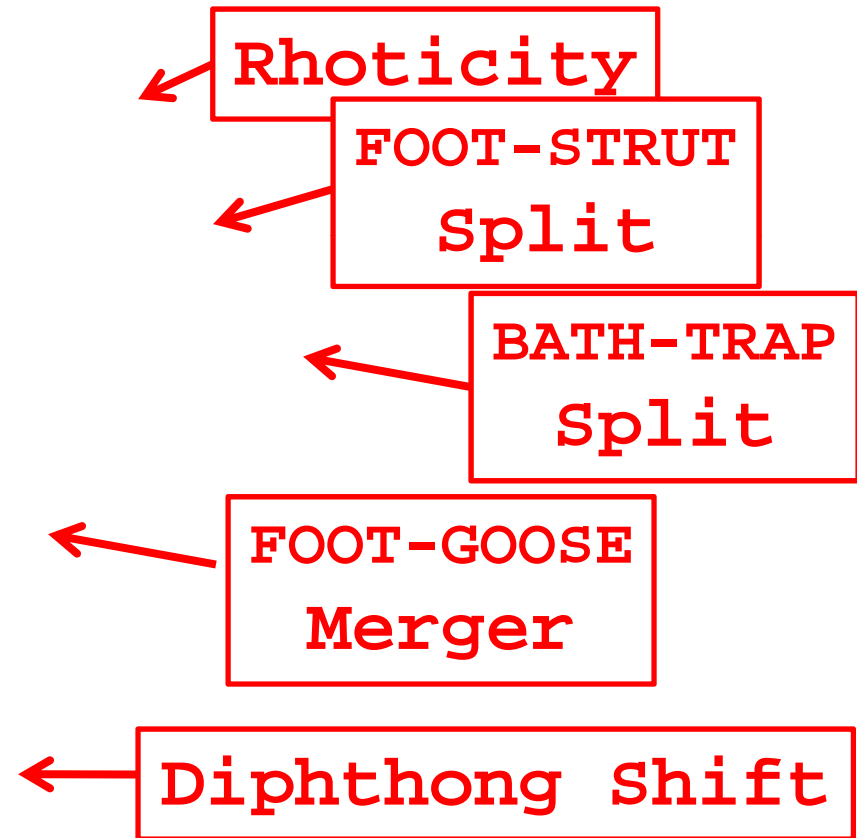
- Lexical - vocabulary
- Grammatical
- **Phonological**
 - **pronunciation**



LINGUISTIC VARIABLES

Phonological variables

- ...
- Æwud – –
- gæsm
- –
- ú úts ön
-
-





————— STRUT/FOOT

----- BATH/TRAP

fʊt blʌd gʊd kʌt
hæt dæns kræf fæst

fʊt blʌd gʊd kʌt
hæt dæ:ns kræf fæ:st



Phonological variables

To begin our survey of the British Isles we shall look at 9 variables :

1. The vowel /ʌ/ - the FOOT-STRUT Split
2. /æ/ and /ɑː/ – the BATH Split
3. /ɪ/ and /iː/ – Happy Tensing
4. /r/ – Rhoticity
5. /uː/ and /ɔː/ – FOOT-GOOSE Merger and THOUGHT-LOT Merger
6. /h/ - H- Dropping
7. /ʔ/ - Glottalization and Glottaling
8. /ŋ/ - NG Coalescence
9. /j/ dropping – Yod Dropping
10. Diphthong Shift

These 9 variables form the backbone of
To begin our survey of the British Isles we
our study of accents in the British Isles.
shall look at 9 variables

The following slides give a quick
overview of the content of these variables.
Refer to the [variables page](#) for further
details; and to the series of slides on
Processes (5th week onwards)

1. The vowel /ʌ/ - the FOOT-STRUT Split

Words which have the same vowel in the North of England, but different vowels everywhere else (incl Scotland, N. America, and Australasia)

foot, good, butcher, look, could, should, bush

mud, blood, crutch, fudge, country, brush, sun,
son, ton, some, other, mother, brother, come

2. /æ/ and /ɑː/ – the BATH Split

Words which have different vowels in the South of England, but the same vowel in most other places

bath path dance half last pass past craft mast
grass laugh grant (NOT palm, father, start)

maths, gas, pant, have, lass, mass, trap,
ass, pan, standard, passage, smash

3. /ɪ/ and /i:/ – Happy Tensing

The unstressed ending spelt *-y*, *-ie*, *-ey* etc., and the unstressed KIT vowel when another vowel follows

city, party lady, series, parley, Charlie, Disney;

create, react, reality, re-open, abbreviate

4. /r/ – Rhoticity

Whether r is pronounced in words such as
farmer, sure, beggar, partake, burn, stir,
form, star, argue
(NOT: carry, story, parallel, run, cry, etc.)

5. /ʌ:/ and /ɔ:/: – FOOT-GOOSE Merger and THOUGHT-LOT Merger

Words which usually have different vowels,
but have the same vowel in Scotland and Northern
Ireland:

foot bush wood - food goose mood

naught caught brought talk - not cot rotten rock

6. /h/ - H- Dropping

Stressed (content) words beginning with /h/ in RP, Scottish, North American and Australasian English, but lose the /h/ in most places in England:

happy hurry hunt Hampshire Herbert Hannah

7. /ʔ/ - Glottalization and Glottaling

Glottalization: adding a glottal stop in words like
that, map, mattress, factual

Glottaling; using the glottal stop instead of t:
that, not, Peter, bottle

8. /ŋ/ - NG Coalescence

Words spelt with ng, pronounced ŋ g
in the W. Midlands of England, but ŋ
everywhere else:

stro ng, sing, running, singing, singer

(NOT: anger, finger, hungry)

9. /j̄/ dropping – Yod Dropping

Words which may or may not have /j/ before the vowel:

few new crude union

10. Diphthong Shift

This is a complicated variable which we will discuss more closely later, but you will hear it immediately in the S. of England and in Aus-NZ-SAfr. We'll simplify it here:

FACE→PRICE→CHOICE→

MOUTH→GOAT→

paint pint point

house home