



The corner of Earl and Sackville Streets, Dublin Ireland, circa 1900

ACCENTS

May 27, 2015

José Cruz: Professor Shane Doyle.

Shane Doyle: Yes.

José: Thank you very much for uh, giving us the time today. (No problem) You're Irish.

Shane: I am, yes. That's right.

José: OK to be honest with you, when I first started talking to you, I couldn't quite tell.

Shane: Why was that **now**?

José: I know you'll probably be offended, but I have a hard time at first discerning Irish accents from Scottish accents. (Oh no) See I told you! I told you!

Shane: Well, they're- They are totally different. Uh but maybe not to the North American ear.

José: That's exactly what I was about to say. I'm sure that especially because the Irish and the Welsh, and the English and and the Scottish and everybody else have such a long, what? thousands of years of history between them and animosity between them that there's a lot of difference But I think for a lot of people even North Americans, to us it's all Britain. (Yes yes) And and that's- I'm sure that's offensive to you, isn't it?

Shane: Well it's not offensive really. You know, uh when you're younger you take offence perhaps you know, but when you get a bit

older you mellow out a little bit and you can understand why perhaps people think like that you know.

José: But it- does it does it- **I wanna say**- maybe "offence" is too strong a word but it does kind of bother you, "Why can't you understand? I'm not Scottish. I'm not English."

Shane: Mm. you have to- you have to give people some leeway also you know. The other side of the coin is that when I listen to an American and a Canadian speak, sometimes I have difficulty uh determining like, which is which you know.

José: Oh that's OK, Americans can't tell Canadians are Canadians until we tell them we're Canadians.

Shane: That's right yeah. Mm, but again The Canadians seem take great offence at being called Americans.

José: Oh we hate that. (Yes) But we do understand why they can't tell our accents. (Mm) Uh because if you ever talk to somebody from say, Minnesota or for say, Minnesota or say upstate New York up towards like where there aren't- there are more Canadians than there are Americans (Right) those Americans talk an awful lot like Canadians (Like Canadians, yeah) Right.

Shane: Yeah. But it's only once you've met Canadians and Americans for quite a bit

which you tend to do here in in Japan, right?
Is when when you're able to determine like
who's Canadian and who's not Canadian;
like who's American and who's not American

José: Were you able to determine that about me
when you first saw me? (No) Really? (Yeah)
So you you you- So for the longest time you
thought I was American?

Shane: Well I assumed you were either, **sorry** I
assumed you were either Canadian or
American, you know (OK OK) I didn't really
make any distinction as such then-

José: Do you- do you know what I am then? (Well,
you're Canadian) OK good. OK good. Good.
(You just told me) Just checking. Just
checking. I'm just checking (You just told me
today) I can't- Until I told you, which way
were you leaning, until I told you?

Shane: I would- I would have leaned towards
American. Because you seem to have a
softer, you seem to have a softer uh accent,
you know (Ahh) when you compare it to
Canadians who are perhaps just off the boat,
you know. Uh they- They're more like "**eh**"
isn't it? Isn't it, "eh" and that kind of

José: I don't know if it's because Canada is more
multi-cultural country and we have it at the
forefront of our minds to be multicultural, and

I don't know if it has anything to do with my
background being Pilipino, being born
Pilipino and Pilipinos are naturally multi-
linguistic but I find, and I think even Alex
Bodnar another Canadian and Andrew
Zitzman another Canadian, when we talk
among Canadians our accents come back,
and when we talk among non-Canadians we
talk in a completely neutral way and we don't
say "eh" (Hmm) But especially when me,
Mike Berg and Alex Bodnar are sitting
around watching hockey, we start swearing
like Canadians and we all start saying "eh!
eh!"

Shane: But you do find that, like I mean if I go to
Ireland for a couple of weeks, my accent
would become much stronger (Really) you
know. And then if I came back to Japan like
people will say "Ah I know you've been back
to Ireland because your accent is- has be-
has become stronger". And it does do that
because you go home and you're
surrounded by people who- who you
understand easily and you fall back into the
idea (Sure) of speaking like everyone else,
you know.

Word count	Time	Words/Min.
610	4:09	146.99

Pointers:

Now: "Now" placed at the end of any statement or question add emphasis. (0:12)

I wanna say: José says this very quickly and almost inaudibly. (1:06)

Sorry: Shane apologises to indicate he is starting over what he is saying. (2:22)

Eh: Canadians are famous for their tendency to often place, "eh" at the ends of their statements or questions. (2:55)

Discussion:

Do you know many people with accents?

Do you have a favourite accent? or accents you don't like?

What accents are difficult for you to understand or tell apart?

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