Contents

List of figures							
Preface							
Acknowledgements							
1	Modern English and modern times						
	1.1	Introduction: Defining 'modern times'	1 1				
	1.2	Politics					
	1.3	Science	2 3				
	1.4		4				
	1.5	Urbanization	6				
	1.6	Transport and communications	7				
	1.7	•	9				
	1.8	Britain and the British Empire	10				
	1.9	Modern times and Modern English	11				
2	The vocabulary of Later Modern English						
	2.1 Introduction						
	2.2		14 16				
	2.3		21				
	2.4		29				
3	Recording and regulating the lexicon: dictionaries from						
	Dr Johnson to the Oxford English Dictionary						
	3.1	Dictionaries before Johnson	35 35				
	3.2	Johnson's Dictionary of the English Language (1755):					
		the first 'modern' dictionary?	40				
	3.3	After Johnson: English dictionaries in the nineteenth	, •				
		century	45				

	3.4	The New English Dictionary on Historical Principles/				
		Oxford English Dictionary	5			
4	Synt	actic change in Later Modern English	6			
7	4.1					
	4.2	Regulation of variants resulting from changes in	60			
	•••	Early Modern English	6			
		4.2.1 Regulation of second-person pronouns	6.			
		4.2.2 Regulation of the uses of do	72			
		4.2.3 Regulation of relativizers	7:			
	4.3	Innovations of the later modern period	7			
		4.3.1 The be + -ing construction	78			
		4.3.2 Group-verbs	83			
		4.3.3 Decline of the subjunctive	8.			
		4.3.4 Other changes	86			
5	Grammars and grammarians					
	5.1		89			
		5.1.1 Introduction	89			
		5.1.2 Standardization and codification	90			
		5.1.3 Social mobility and linguistic insecurity	9.			
		5.1.4 'No enemy so formidable as the pen': language				
		and politics	94			
		5.1.5 Grammars and the teaching of English	101			
	5.2	Models and theories of grammar	10.			
		5.2.1 Prescriptive or descriptive grammars	103			
		5.2.2 The influence of Latin	107			
		5.2.3 The application of logic to grammar	112			
		5.2.4 'Prejudice' and ipse dixit statements	113			
	5.3					
	5.4					
	5.5	Conclusion	122			
6	Phonological change in Later Modern English					
	6.1	Introduction 1				
	6.2	Evidence for Later Modern English pronunciation	126			
		6.2.1 Overview: types of evidence	126			
		6.2.2 The reliability of direct evidence for Later Modern				
		English pronunciation	127			
	6.3	Phonological change	133			
		631 Overview	133			

			Contents	VII		
		6.3.2	The FACE and GOAT sets	136		
		6.3.3	The BATH and CLOTH sets	138		
		6.3.4	The FOOT and STRUT sets	142		
		6.3.5	Yod-dropping	145		
		6.3.6	Unstressed vowels	149		
		6.3.7	Weakening and loss of /r/	153		
		6.3.8	H-dropping	157		
		6.3.9	The velar nasal	160		
		6.3.10	Changes in the pronunciation of individual words	161		
		6.3.11	Changes in twentieth-century English	165		
	6.4	Concl	usion	166		
7	Defining the standard of pronunciation: pronouncing					
	di	ictionar	ries and the rise of RP	168		
	7.1		luction	168		
	7.2		ing 'a proper pronunciation'	169		
			Early definitions	169		
		7.2.2	Proper and polite speech: eighteenth-century			
			standards	170		
		7.2.3	Standards and shibboleths	178		
	7.3	Receiv	ved pronunciation	183		
8	-,					
	modern period					
	8.1		luction	190		
	8.2		nal dialects of British English	192		
			'Marks of disgrace': evidence from normative works	192		
			Dialect literature and literary dialect	199		
			Dialect studies	205		
	8.3	•	d the British Isles	209		
			An apology	209		
		8.3.2	'Divided by a common language': American			
			English and British English	210		
		8.3.3	English transported: the development of Australian			
			English	215		
		8.3.4	Other varieties of English	218		
References						
Index				239		