The devil is in the detail: Using corpora to investigate spoken language varieties

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Limerick

This is the oddest place of which nobody in any other part of Ireland seems to know anything. Nobody could answer a single question we asked about it... *(Charles Dickens, 1858)*

I hate going out in Limerick, total weirdos and all out there... *(LCIE, 2002)*
Studies of Irish English using Limerick Corpus of Irish English (LCIE): Sample

- Farr and O’Keeffe (2002) *would*

- O’Keeffe and Amador-Moreno (2009) *after + V-ing*

- Vaughan and Moriarty (2012 and 2013) representations of IE: performing linguistic identities

- Clancy and Vaughan (2012) *now*
Now and Irish English

• Instead, somehow, it can convey disagreement, sarcasm, or even outright contradiction of a previous statement. It may be my imagination, but Irish women seem to deploy the sentence-ending “now” with more chilling effect than men. A husband may suggest, for example, that he’s “going to the pub with friends later”. But if his wife replies “Oh are you, now?”

(McNally, 2014)
The process for now

intuition → frequency → functional categories → test → IE now
Are you right there Father Ted?

(Phone rings)

Father Ted: Father Crilly speaking.

Bishop Brennan: Crilly, it's Bishop Brennan.

Father Ted: Oh, feck! What?(French accent) Who is this? There is no Crilly 'ere.

(Hangs up) God, I just said "feck" to Bishop Brennan.

Dougal: He won't like that.

Father Ted: It's ok I put on an accent so he'll think he had the wrong number.

(Phone rings again)

Bishop Brennan: Crilly.

Father Ted: Hello Bishop Brennan. I think you got the wrong number there.

Bishop Brennan: Shut up Crilly. Shut up...
There and Irish English

• Attested examples...

• *Just read your e-mail* there.
• *There’s someone looking for you* there.
• *I was talking to Máiréad* there...
there *adv.*, used as a filler in HE dialogue, without necessarily indicating location.

‘Her brother-in-law came up here there last week’ (Longford)
Corpora used

- LCIE = 1m words; face-to-face; intimate, socialising, professional, pedagogic, transactional...

- (Open) ANC = 3.2m words; face-to-face and telephone switchboard...
Frequency data

Frequencies per million words

<table>
<thead>
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<td>ICE-Ireland</td>
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There – categories in the literature

Existential *there*  *There’s an awful lot of tourists.* [LCIE]

Referential *there*  *Just press that button there.* [LCIE]

It’s really neat and she says that everybody up *there* wears buttons on their socks. [ANC]

Fixed phrases  *We had a little bit of snow here and there.* [ANC]

Presentative *there*  A: *Can I have the remote control?*
   B: *There we go.* [LCIE]

Conversational *there*  *Hello there and a very good afternoon to you.* [LCIE]
Test

- Randomised 500 concordance lines from LCIE and the ANC
- Loose test of the categories
- Close reading and categorisation
- Regenerated unclassifiable concordance lines
- Added new categories
- Quantified categories
ANC and LCIE categories compared

- **Exist**: ANC 191,93, LCIE 301
- **Ref**: ANC 258, LCIE 37
- **IE**: ANC 1, LCIE 6,5
- **Fixed**: ANC 1, LCIE 1,1
- **Present**: ANC 0, LCIE 0,3
- **Conv**: ANC 0, LCIE 0,3
- **Quot**: ANC 0, LCIE 0,3
Spatial  \( \otimes \) Temporal

<\$3\$> What's up with you?
<\$1\$> What's up with you?
<\$3\$> What's up with you?
<\$1\$> I asked you first.
<\$E\$> pause <\\$E\$>

<\$1\$> Hey Lisa did you record anything there over the weekend that we can stick on?
<\$2\$> No. I should have recorded Jagged Edge last night and you could watch it.
Look at the house lads it's paint is it?
Where?
It's pink.
She started roarin did she Shelly?
Nah I picked her up she was grand I gave her back to Daddy and I went out again she was roarin.
Roarin again she knows ya see I was meant to be down with David there today I'd I'd say he's like a bull with a sore hole that's all I was told right left.
Down in the house.
Aideen my friend.
Where is she? Sorry.
Did she see you?
I don't know.
You know.
And I just nearly killed us there.
That's not good Tess.

Come on Roscommon. That's it.
Go go. Get it up.
Go on Roscommon. Ahh dear God.
He took the wrong option there.
Come on Roscommon. Don't let him score.
Come on Roscommon now.
It was a point.
Quotative *there*

<$5>$ Oh he went mad, so we were sayin we were just laughin and out there. And I was fuckin gettin free cocktails and everything, and emm next thing Gavin came over and took it personally from some fellow, and he says “No you'll have to do the proper thing, the real proper thing now”. He got down on the one knee and he was there “Would you marry me?” I was there oh my God, he was there would you marry me, I said I'd marry you. And Gavin turned around and said one for the price of two, we have an open invitation now.

<$6>$ Ahh.

<$5>$ And he kept on sayin would you, would you and this really bugged me. Would you would you definitely and here's the happy couple to be.

<$6>$ Ahh.

<$2>$ When are yiz gettin engaged?

<$5>$ I’m not gettin engaged.
Initial findings

• The first two categories are the most significant for both datasets
• Drilling down, there’s more functional variation in the LCIE sample
• TP Dolan’s description of *there* as a ‘filler’ doesn’t quite cut it
• The LCIE sample also featured both a conversational *there* and a quotative *there*
We’ll leave it there now!
## Quotative ‘there’

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| 1 | I saying oh yeah are we goin | going out are we goin | going out and he was there who is it and I said Sinead Sinead in in Upmarket $2 laughing and I says to him can I get a taxi home from Burgermac and he was there from where and I was like Burgermac and he was going on+ He are we goin | going out $2 laughs what about next Tuesday night and he was there who's that. He sounds gay though doesn't he he's a really anyway. Oh is he. Yeah ach I don't have time like I was telling him he was there but I won't see you all weekend and I won't see you then and I twenty five euro. He had a flashing pen a pen on his face and all. He was there like this and he goes "I won it I won all four of them" Hey just going to have to do something with the luggage now there Padraig and he was there you hav= do you have to do that and she goes ah yeah you'd and he was there "would you marry me?" I was there Oh my God, he was there would you marry me, I said I'd marry you. And Gavin turned thing, the real proper thing now". He got down on the one knee and he was there "would you marry me?" I was there Oh my God, he was there six years I've been with has done the dirt on me and all this craic and I was there oh right so naturally enough I'm a prime candidate cause I'm in was there but I won't see you all weekend and I won't see you then and I was there right we'll go for dinner door closing $4 joins conversation. Is it whole thing was going on and then a couple of days before the wedding I was there oh I'd love to wear that cause I'd never worn it cause I was know you don't want to get with other people down there and all this and I was there+ I don't have time. +Exactly I really don't like I wouldn't have oh is that Siobhan that I used to bring up and down to work laughing and I was there on the phone oh sorry I must have the wrong person oh I nearly a really woman voice and he's a father + Yeah he said who's that and I was there + and everything though. Is he? He's two children and he's and I clearing throat sounds was trying to clear my throat laughter and I was there heh laughter and I let this unmerciful+ burp sound. + laughter and goin out and whatever. Even just meeting up and being with him, I was there this isn't even what I want like. I just want to be able to go out me like. Well she shocked me and I was down the middle but then I was there ah be jesus. I couldn't know what she was on about. "Don't be . He got down on the one knee and he was there "would you marry me?" I was there Oh my God, he was there would you marry me, I said I'd marry it was a case of "Jesus he's fierce thoughtful" like you know laughs and I was there sure "he only puts it on like". Laughs. And she goes you know we were kind of. Yeah and every time you were pulling in dad and I was there I'm coming to a corner I don't want there somebody parked in had an ice pop packet of crisps and about three bottles of miller like and I was there this does not work now Bus laughter. Nah it all cancels itself And he sounds real dope + on the phone though. Hello. Ah stop cause I was there to him on the phone sayin | saying oh yeah are we goin | going +And she started to put on well put on "oh you were in Marketing" she was there "oh and Liam is going to the lap dancing club did you hear cos sheltering is" em kinda | kind of define shelter then and then she was there like "So is there anything so we could put in" "That'll all now be and there was a little brat in the class she was a real snot and she was there its not Thomas it is Thammas miss Thomas is spelt with th and
References

### Keyword list

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LCIE list with ANC as reference corpus