

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

Elaine Vaughan, University of Limerick  
Brian Clancy, Mary Immaculate College,  
~University of Limerick~

# 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

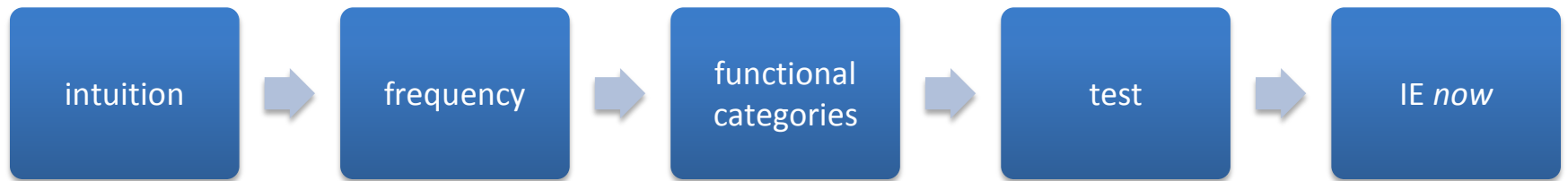
- Farr and O’Keeffe (2002) *would*
- O’Keeffe and Amador-Moreno (2009) *after + V-ing*
- Vaughan and Moriarty (2012 and 2013) representations of IE: performing linguistic identities
- Clancy and Vaughan (2012) *now*

# *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*



# ***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**...*

# T.P. Dolan

**there** *adv.*, used as a filler in HE dialogue, without necessarily indicating location.

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

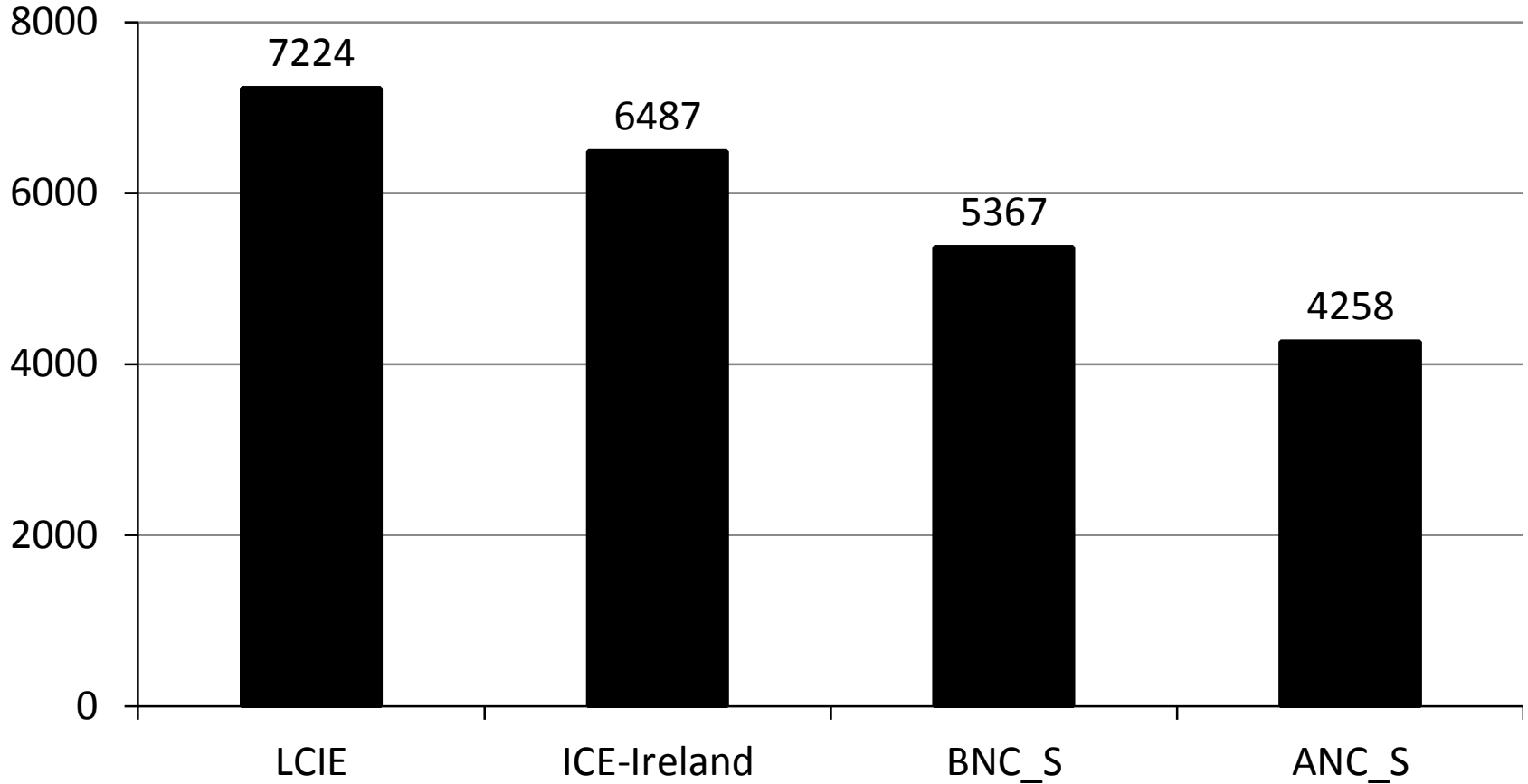
(Dolan, 2012: 251)



# 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

# *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]

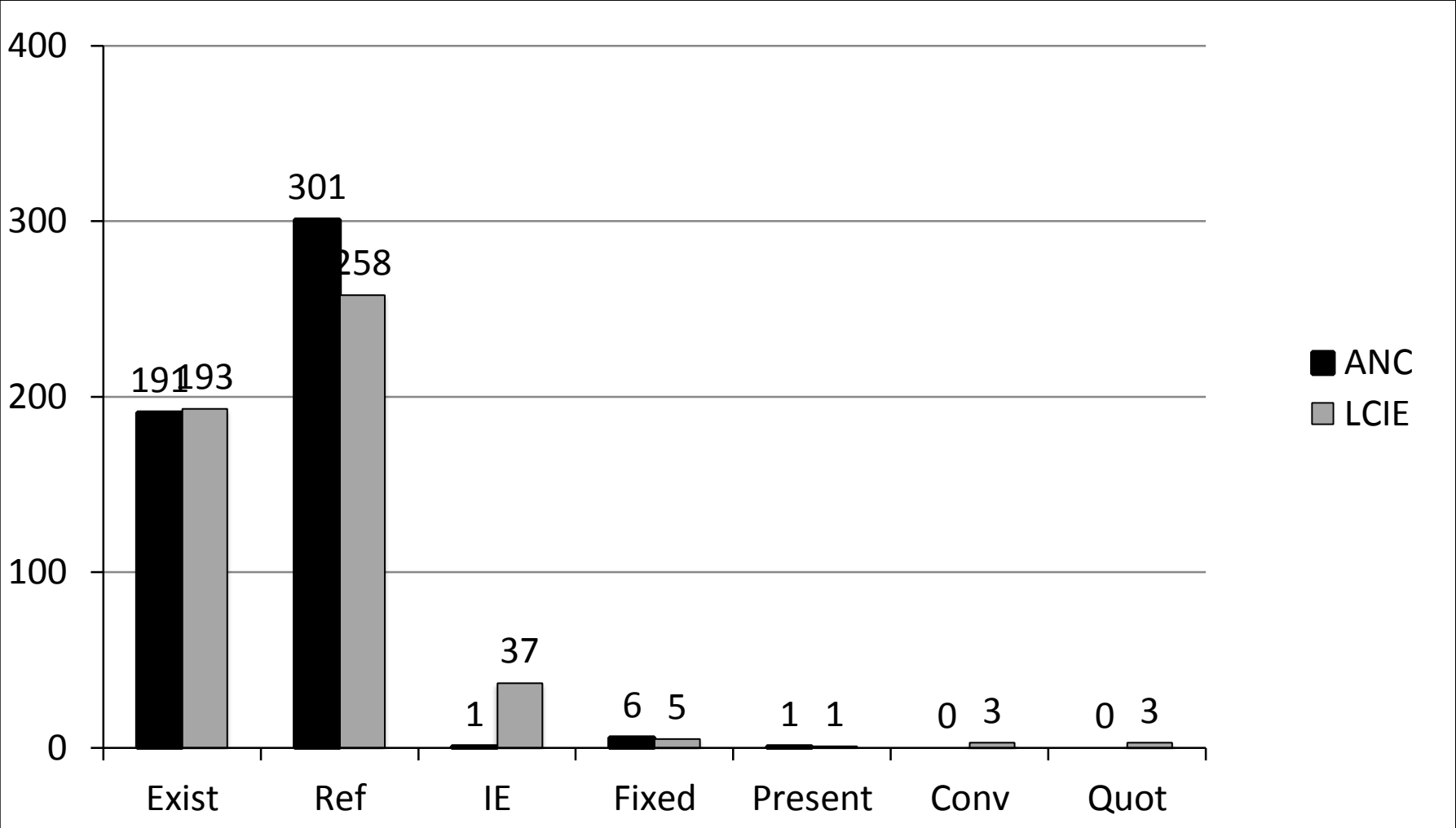
## **Conversational *there***

*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



# Spatial 9Temporal

<\$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.

# *There + time*

<\$3> <\$01> Look at the <\\$01> house lads it's paint is it?

<\$2> Where?

<\$3> It's pink.

<\$2> She started roarin did she Shelly?

<\$1> Nah I picked her up she was grand I gave her back to Daddy and I went out again she was roarin.

<\$2> 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 <\$02> right left <\\$02>.

<\$1> <\$02> Down in the house <\\$02>.

# Time stamp references in conversation

<\$1> Aideen my friend.  
<\$2> Where is she? Sorry.  
<\$1> Did she see you?  
<\$2> I don't know.  
<\$1> You know.  
<\$2> **And I just nearly killed us there.**  
<\$1> That's not good Tess.

<\$2> Come on Roscommon.  
That's it.  
<\$1> Go go. Get it up.  
<\$2> Go on Roscommon. Ahh dear God.  
<\$1> **He took the wrong option there.**  
<\$2> Come on Roscommon.  
Don't let him score.  
<\$1> Come on Roscommon now.  
<\$2> 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'

N	Concordance
1	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
2	and I says to him can I get a taxi home to from Burgermac and he was there from where and I was like Burgermac and he was going on+ He
3	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
4	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
5	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
6	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
7	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
8	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
9	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
10	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
11	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
12	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
13	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
14	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
15	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
16	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
17	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
18	. 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
19	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
20	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
21	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
22	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
23	+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
24	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
25	and there was a little brat in the class she was a real snot and she was there its not Thomas it is Thamas miss Thomas is spelt with th and

# References

- Dolan, T.P., 2012. *A Dictionary of Hiberno-English: The Irish Use of English (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition)*. Dublin: Gill & Macmillan.

# Keyword list

<b>N</b>	<b>Keyword</b>
1	<i>ah</i>
2	<i>am</i>
3	<i>ya</i>
4	<i>em</i>
5	<i>no</i>
6	<i>he</i>
7	<i>shure</i>
8	<i>laughing</i>
9	<i>cos</i>
10	<i>aam</i>
11	<i>she</i>
12	<i>eh</i>
13	<i>umhum</i>
14	<i>laughs</i>
15	<i>ye</i>
16	<i>now</i>
17	<i>laughter</i>
18	<i>s</i>
19	<i>d'you</i>
20	<i>will</i>
21	<i>mm</i>
22	<i>Jesus</i>
23	<i>muffled</i>
24	<i>t</i>
25	<i>there</i>

LCIE list with ANC as  
reference corpus