

Re: accents

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galaxym812000@yahoo-dot-com.no-spam.invalid (brennus): in sci.lang:

>*There is some evidence that accents in human languages can still
>change without external influences.*

Whyever would they not?

>*For example, Icelandic, as
>conservative as it is, has changed a little bit in accent and
>pronunciation from that of Old Norse.*

Not just a little bit, but considerably.

>*Yet, Icelandic society was
>almost completely isolated from the rest of northern Europe after the
>middle of the 12th century.*

So?

>*Linguists have also noticed changes in the accents of Black American
>speakers. Just a century ago, Black American accents were nearly
>identical to those of White American Southerners. Recordings of them
>were made as late as the 1940's. By comparing the speech of 21st
>century American Blacks with these, we know that their accents have
>undergone some changes.*

They moved from the south to New York, Chicago etc.? Which Black
accent are we talking about, from which parts of the US?

>*However, I can't think of any external
>influences that would really cause their accents to change.*

Why should external influences have anything to do with accents?

>*The
>majority of them still live in the South or have until the last 15 to
>25 years.*

sci.lang: Re: accents

Is that so? Aren't black people now all over the country?

>*Even, outside the South, they have little interaction with
>Northern Whites or Hispanics.*

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