

Variations in French Phonetics, Phonology, Morphology, and Syntax on the Island of Jersey

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1 Introduction

French is a language spoken in many areas of the world and many parts of its grammar differ from region to region. Some very different dialects are spoken in close proximity to France itself, and the differences between Standard French and the regional dialects are too interesting and difficult to ignore. Phonetic, phonological, morphological, and syntactic variations are considered here as they occur in Jèrriais, the French dialect spoken on the British Channel Island of Jersey. This dialect has been heavily influenced by English, which can be seen in the dialect's grammar, creating in some cases a sort of mix between French vocabulary and Germanic structure. Not all of the variations in the dialect are direct results of English influences, however, and both kinds of variations and influences are explored here.

1.1 Jersey: geography and history

Jersey is the southernmost island in the archipelago formed by the Channel Islands in the English Channel. While these islands are dependent on the British Crown, they are much closer geographically to France than to England, lying just off the coast of Normandy, and the official language on Jersey is French, even though now English is the dominant language spoken on the island (Jones 2001: 156). The French found on Jersey, however, has experienced heavy influence from English, and varies from Standard French in a number of ways. The dialect is a result, in part, of the history the island has of being tossed back and forth between England and France.

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It is believed that Jersey became a part of France after France's successful battle of Hastings in 1066 (Jones 2001: 7). When it later fell back under English control in the middle of the thirteenth century, however, there was no consistent Anglicization on the island. No one on the island at that time spoke English, which never caused a problem because Latin was the language of all official documents and Norman French was the language used by "polite society, schools, courts, and the law in England" (Jones 2001: 8). This was not to last, however. After a short period of time, the use of Norman French died out in England and the use of English increased greatly. In turn, the "knowledge of English was on the increase among the upper echelons of Jersey society" by the fifteenth century (Jones 2001: 9). Over the next couple of centuries, increased numbers of English military, traders, and tourists came to the island, thus increasing the use of English there. In the nineteenth century, all children on Jersey were taught English and it seemed to be the language preferred by the young. During this time, many wealthy English families were settling in Jersey, thus threatening the local French dialect, Jèrriais.

The gain English made in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries progressively grew as the island moved into the twentieth century, as it brought an increased amount of British tourists to the island, which increased the need for English in everyday life (Jones 2001: 15). Because of these factors, Jèrriais "has suffered a marked decline in everyday use," but still persists in the mouths of some on the island. In fact, according to the 2001 census, there are only 2,674 speakers of the dialect left (Omniglot: 1).

Organizations have been developed with this decline in mind to try to preserve the dialect and save it from extinction. For instance, "in 1951, *L'Assemblée d'Jèrriais* was formed to hold meetings and publish items in Jèrriais" and several books have been published on the dialect since then (Omniglot: 1). Also, the *Section de la langue Jèrriaise* now works "to promote study of the language and its literature, and Jèrriais classes are commonplace in primary schools" (Omniglot: 1). Even though Jèrriais is becoming an obsolescent dialect after a thousand years of use, its mixture of French, English and other influences make it a very interesting dialect to look at in terms of grammar.

2 Phonetic differences in Jèrriais

Phonetic variation between Jèrriais and Standard French is apparent in comparing the phonetic inventories of the two dialects. There are quite a few more vowels in the inventory found on Jersey, along with some minor differences in the consonantal inventories.

2.1 Vowels

Standard French has sixteen vowel sounds, four of which are nasal phonemes (Walker 1984: 13). The phonetic inventory of Jèrriais, however, contains twenty-seven vowels. Most are the same as those found in Standard French, but have long counterparts as well, as “length is phonemic in Jèrriais” (Jones 2001: 28). Jèrriais, however, is lacking in the close-mid front rounded oral vowel [ø]; the open-mid back oral and nasal rounded vowels [ɔ] and [ɔ̃]; and the open low front nasal rounded vowel [œ̃], that are found in Standard French. Standard French on the other hand, lacks the nasal versions of the close-mid front rounded and unrounded vowels [ø] and [ɛ̃] and the close-mid back rounded vowel [o] found in Jèrriais.

Another area in which Standard French and Jèrriais differ in terms of vowels has to do with monophthongs and diphthongs. Vowels in Modern French are not diphthongized, nor have they been for quite some time (Walker 1984:14). Modern French has seen the progressive reduction of the diphthongs of Old French and Middle French into monophthongs. Jèrriais, however, contains one diphthong, [a:w] (Jones 2001: 28). It is not in very wide use, however. The diphthong is found only on the eastern coast of the island. So, while it exists in Jèrriais, it should be noted that it is not heard or used by a wide variety of the dialect’s speakers.

2.2 Consonants

Other phonetic variation between Jèrriais and Standard French can be seen in looking at the consonants available in Jèrriais. Jèrriais has many of the same consonantal phonemes as Standard French, with some minor differences. First, Jèrriais contains an interdental fricative in addition to the Standard French [s] and [z] (Jones 2001: 29). Jèrriais uses [ð], and in rare instances its voiceless counterpart [θ], which are often difficult for other French speakers to produce. These uncommon sounds, which do not exist in Standard French, historically derive from the intervocalic [r], “which has undergone a variety of treatments in the dialect” (Spence 1960: 27). We can see this change in the following words:

- (1) a. militaire → [militer] SF
 militaithe → [militeð] J
 ‘military’ (Le Maistre 1966: 590)
- b. affaire → [əfer] SF
 affaithe → [əfəð] J
 ‘affair’ (Spence 1960: 41).

It is important to note that in examples such as the two above, the orthography changes as the sound changes. In addition to using the interdental fricative to replace [r], some speakers in the northwestern parts of Jersey replace [z] with the sound. This is shown in the following example:

- (2) maison → [mezð] SF
 maison → [meðð] J
 ‘house’ (Spence 1960: 27).

It should also be noted that not everyone’s version of the dialect contains [ð]. In the speech of some residents, the sound is replaced with an alveolar rolled [r] (Spence 1960:27). The sound is worth noting, however, as it doesn’t exist at all in Standard French. Also, while the voiced interdental fricative can occur in intervocalic position in other Romance languages, namely Spanish, it is important to note that many dialects of Spanish have this sound allophonically to begin with, where as dialects of French do not.

The sound system of Jèrriais also differs from that of Standard French in that it contains two affricates, [tʃ] and [dʒ]; a trilled dental [r]; and a glottal fricative [h] (Jones 2001: 29). The two affricates do exist in Standard French, but only in borrowings such as *match*, *gin*, and *bridge* (2001:29). More information on their role in Jèrriais is examined in the phonology section of this paper.

The trilled dental [r] once existed in Standard French, but is now a uvular fricative. Jones notes, however, that the “trilled pronunciation was common in standard French as late as the seventeenth century, but had been supplanted by the uvular fricative of Parisian pronunciation by the eighteenth century” (Jones 2001: 30). While earlier in Standard French’s history this sound existed as a trill, it is no longer present in the standard, and therefore becomes a phoneme in Jèrriais that the standard inventory lacks.

Finally, concerning the glottal fricative, Jones notes that “the Jèrriais phoneme is a borrowing from Germanic dating from the domination of Gaul by Frankish tribes in the sixth century...[that] disappeared from Standard French in about the sixteenth century” (2001: 29). The following words show an example of the glottal fricative in use in Jèrriais:

- (3) chercher → [ʃerʃe] SF
 hougarder → [hugarde] J
 ‘to look for’ (Le Maistre 1966: 296)

Perhaps the almost constant influence of English, which also contains the glottal fricative, on Jersey’s dialect for the last five centuries is one reason the [h] did not

disappear so easily in Jèrriais. This contact with a Germanic language could have kept that borrowed sound in frequent use, never really giving it a chance to disappear as it did in Standard French.

3 Phonological variation between Jèrriais and Standard French

As would be expected, there are also some instances of phonological variation from the standard in Jèrriais. The variations explored here have to do with vowel length, a missing phoneme that is found in Standard French, and a secondary palatalization of velar stops before a front vowel.

3.1 Vowels

Phonological variation can be seen in the use of long and short vowels in Jèrriais versus their use in Standard French. As mentioned earlier, the inventory of vowels in Jèrriais is notably larger than that of Standard French, because while all of the vowels found in Standard French are present in Jèrriais, vowels in the Jersey dialect have long counterparts as well because length is phonemic in Jèrriais. These phonemes tend to contrast “word-finally, where, unlike in Standard French, the short vowel is used for the singular and the long vowel for the plural” (Jones 2001: 28). In addition, length is also phonemic in the nasal vowels appearing word-finally in Jèrriais (Jones 2001: 28).

3.2 Consonants

Phonological difference in Jèrriais concerns both a phoneme Jèrriais lacks as well as sounds lacking in Standard French other than in English loanwords. First, Jones notes that Jèrriais is missing a phoneme present in the standard. Standard French contains a velar nasal, [ŋ], that does not exist as a phoneme in Jèrriais. This phoneme first appeared in English borrowings coming into the language and occurs only word-finally in Standard French, but is now considered to be a phoneme of Standard French (Jones 2001: 30). Jones and Spence claim that while Jèrriais does employ the velar nasal in its own English borrowings, and also uses this phoneme word-medially, not just word-finally, the velar nasal is not considered to be a phoneme of the dialect (2001: 30).

Unlike Jones, at first I found this to be a disagreeable idea. It was hard to believe that the velar nasal is not considered a phoneme of Jèrriais when that fact seems to contrast with the ideas stated about the glottal fricative. Both sounds found their way into Jèrriais in English borrowings, but only the glottal fricative eventually found a spot in the Jersey dialect’s phonemic inventory. Considering

the quite common use of the velar nasal in English, and taking into account the enormous influence English and English loanwords have had on Jèrriais, it is curious that this sound did not become a phoneme of the dialect.

Upon further reflection, however, I came to agree with Jones and Spence in thinking that the velar nasal is not a phoneme of the Jèrriais dialect. The velar nasal is only found in English borrowings where an alveolar nasal appears before a velar stop. It is plausible to think, then, that the alveolar nasal assimilates to the velar stop, thus forming a velar nasal. As I could not find any words in Jèrriais where meaning changed if a velar nasal were replaced with an alveolar nasal, I cannot assume that the velar nasal is a phoneme in its own right in the dialect. I must conclude that the velar nasal and alveolar nasal are simply allophones, with the velar nasal occurring when the alveolar nasal is immediately followed by a velar stop.

The reason examining this sound gave me so much trouble, however, is its presence as a separate phoneme in Standard French. Why, if the sound occurs in Standard French just as it does in Jèrriais, only in English loanwords when a velar stop immediately follows an alveolar nasal, is the velar nasal not considered an allophone in the standard as it is in Jèrriais? As of yet, I have found nothing that answers this question.

Another example of phonological variation deals with the two affricates found in Jèrriais, but found only in English borrowings in Standard French: [tʃ] and [dʒ]. Jones makes the point that these sounds also appear in Jèrriais “as the result of the secondary palatalization of [k] and [g] before a front vowel (2001:29). This can be seen in words such as

- (4) a. cœur → [kœʁ] SF
 tchoeu → [tʃœ] J
 ‘heart’ (Le Maistre 1966: 567)
- b. guerre → [gœʁ] SF
 dgèrre → [dʒɛ:r] J
 ‘war’ (1966: 582).

Again, this change causes an alteration in the orthography. This change was not unique to Jersey, however, as it actually occurred over a large area of France. It was strongly opposed by grammarians, though, and did not become permanent in other parts of the country, but did take hold in Jersey, as “these secondary palatalizations have occurred with a consistency and uniformity unknown to the dialects of the Norman mainland” (Spence 1960: 13).

4 Morphological variation between Jèrriais and Standard French

The effects of English influence on Jèrriais have had an impact not only on that dialect, in that by affecting Jèrriais, English has had a far-reaching influence on other dialects as well. In experiencing the effect of English, Jèrriais has influenced language varieties in its own right. One of these is ‘Regional French,’ a term that “has been given to the intermediary variety that exists ‘between’ Jèrriais on the one hand and Standard French on the other” (Jones 2001: 157).

There are a number of morphological differences from Standard French found in Jèrriais and Regional French of Jersey. The two that are explored here concern pronouns and gender distinctions and the oral use of the past historic tense. Both are interesting patterns and rather unique to Jersey.

4.1 Pronouns and gender distinctions

In addition to sound and syntax, Jèrriais and Regional French of Jersey also display variation in morphology. One morphological variation that is easy to see concerns pronouns and gender. Jèrriais influenced Regional French of Jersey in that “the third person pronoun of Jèrriais is invariable to gender with *i’/il’/i’s* being used to refer to both the masculine and the feminine” (Jones 2001:157). Because of this lack of distinction, Regional French of Jersey always finds itself employing the masculine third person plural pronoun, even where Standard French would use the feminine. For example, in Jèrriais and Regional French of Jersey *ils* may be used in sentences like the following:

- (5) a. **Il-s** [le-s île-s] n’ ét-aient pas
3.M-PL [the-PL islands-PL] NEG be-PAST NEG
défendu-e-s
defend-PAST-F-PL
‘They [m.] (the Islands [f.]) were not defended.’ (Jones 2001: 158)

Standard French, however, would use the feminine plural pronoun *elles*, as the pronoun is referring to a plural feminine noun. This difference is interesting because Standard French makes very clear gender distinctions, and for those distinctions to be removed in Regional French of Jersey in terms of pronoun use is a departure from the standard.

5 Syntactic differences between Jèrriais and Standard French

The Regional French of Jersey has many features that are the result of Jèrriais influence. One of the pieces of grammar that has changed in Jèrriais and other dialects because of English is syntax. Two areas of syntactic variation between Jèrriais and other varieties concern adjective placement and preposition choices.

5.1 Adjective position

One of the most obvious differences between Regional French of Jersey and Standard French concerns the positions of adjectives in a sentence. In Standard French, adjectives are usually post-posed except in cases of beauty, age, number, greatness, and size. Waugh (1977: 124) notes that “it has been claimed that adjectives denoting color...shape...religions...nationality... or social position... are generally not used before the noun.” She goes on to say that this is so because the understanding of the noun is not usually dependent on the lexical meaning of the adjective. In cases where the noun would be understood better by the lexical meaning of the adjective (e.g. *la blanche neige* ‘the white snow’), color adjectives and others that are normally post-posed may be pre-posed (Waugh 1977: 124). In general, however, these adjectives follow the nouns they modify. In Regional French of Jersey, however, as a result of Jèrriais influence, adjectives are more frequently pre-posed, as in English, especially in cases concerning color adjectives, a practice which, as we have just seen, is the opposite of Standard French. This is illustrated in (7) with a Jèrriais/Regional French of Jersey example in (7a) and its Standard French equivalent in (7b).

- (7) a. On n’ en voul-ait pas de **blanc-s** **cheval-s**
One NEG ones want-PAST NEG of **white.M-PL** **horse.M-PL**
‘We didn’t want any white horses.’ (Jones 2001: 157)
- b. On ne voul-ait pas de **cheval-s** **blanc-s**
One NEG want-PAST NEG of **horse.M-PL** **white.M-PL**

The adjective-noun word order in Jèrriais is the same as that in English, which seems to show the influence of English on the dialect.

In addition to color adjectives, other adjectives can be seen taking different positions in Jèrriais than they would in Standard French. For example, (8a) is grammatical in Jèrriais, while Standard French requires (8b).

- (8) a. dans le-s **dernier-s** **trois** an-s
 in the-PL **last.M-PL** **three** year.M-PL
 ‘during the last three years’ (Jones 2001: 157)
- b. dans le-s **trois** **dernier-s** an-s
 in the-PL **three** **last.M-PL** year.M-PL

While in this Standard sentence the adjective does not come after the noun, it does follow the numeral quantifier. As in the first example, the Jèrriais words are placed in exactly the same order as their English counterparts would be, rather than the order Standard French prefers.

It is hard to know exactly where this tendency came from. One might want to think that because of the influence of English on Jèrriais, perhaps this adjective placement has been transferred from English to Regional French of Jersey via Jèrriais. Jones notes, however, that this may not be true, as “mainland Norman displays this tendency with regard to color adjectives and also ‘short’ adjectives” (2001: 157). Because of this, she says that the pre-posing of adjectives is more likely to result from a transference from Norman, but may very well have arisen as a result of both English and Norman influence.

5.2 Compound prepositions

The second syntactic difference from Standard French that is addressed here concerns the formation of compound prepositions not found in Standard French and the choices made among existing Standard French prepositions. Two prepositions found in Regional French of Jersey not found in Standard French are *en devant de* ‘in front of’ and *à cause que* ‘since/because.’ Both of these prepositions are in widespread use in Jèrriais (Jones 2001: 164). In Jèrriais, these words or phrases are used much like they would be in English. This can be seen in the following examples, with the Regional French of Jersey versions in (9a) and (10a), and Standard French in (9b) and (10b).

- (9) a. Il ét-ait ass-is **en devant de** moi dans l-a théâtre
 He be-PAST sit-PAST **in front of** me in the-F theater.F
 ‘He was sitting in front of me in the theater.’ (Jones 2001: 163)
- b. Il ét-ait ass-is **devant** moi dans l-a théâtre
 He be-PAST sit-PAST **in.front.of** me in the-F theater.F
 (Jones 2001: 164).

- (10) a. ...**à cause qu'** on a de-s ouvrier-s français
in reason that one has some-PL worker.M-PL French.M
 'since we've got French workers' (Jones 2001: 164)
- b. ...**parce qu'** on a de-s ouvrier-s français
because one has some-PL worker.M-PL French.M
 'since (because) we've got French workers'

In the second example, a compound preposition conveys the meaning of 'because,' in contrast to the Standard French item *parce que*. This compound resembles the English *on account of*, and seems to be constructed much like the compound preposition in (9a). It is possible to look at the compound prepositions as kinds of calques, as they resemble the structure of the English complex preposition, which takes a preposition-noun phrase-preposition form.

5.3 Preposition choice

In addition to creating prepositions that resemble their English equivalents in form, Regional French of Jersey has taken to using existing prepositions in much the same way. Standard French has many different prepositions that can often be translated into a single English word. Unlike English, Standard French tends to differentiate between different senses of the preposition and the prepositions in Standard French take on a more literal meaning than do those in English. They are more specific and more literal than their English counterparts. Where English can employ 'in' or 'on' to mean a number of things, Standard French has a different preposition to convey each meaning. Jèrriais, however, does not. It seems to use one preposition to convey different meanings, as English does. For example, the French preposition *dans*, translated as 'in', takes a very English role in Regional French of Jersey. This can be seen in the sentence:

- (11) Tou-s l-es service-s ét-aient en français **dans** l-e
 All-PL the-PL service.M-PL be-PAST in French **in** the-M
 temps de-s m-es grand-s-parent-s.
 time.M of-PL my-PL grand-PL-parent-PL
 'When my grandparents were alive, all the services were in French.'

Standard French restricts the usage of *dans* to times when a spatial relation conveying 'in' is needed. The standard would require the use of *au* 'at the' in this context instead of *dans* 'in' since the sentence is talking about 'at the time,' not 'in' it (Jones 2001: 162).

Dans can also occur in Regional French of Jersey where Standard French would have *par* ‘by,’ as in (12).

- (12) Elle est intéressé-é-e **dans** tout ça
 She is interest-PAST-F **in** all that
 ‘She is interested by all that.’

Standard French would require the use of *par* in this case, since the subject of the sentence is interested *by* something, not literally *in* it (Jones 2001: 162).

Another preposition that, in Jèrriais, often replaces others employed by Standard French is *par*. Jones notes that “it is often used in Regional French of Jersey to convey a meaning akin to English ‘by’” (2001: 162). For example, in (13) *par le bateau* is used instead of the Standard French *en bateau*.

- (13) On a été **par** l-e bateau
 One has be-PAST **by** the-M boat(M)
 ‘We went by boat.’

Par also replaces other prepositions traditionally used in Standard French. *Par* can be used to express the idea of ‘before,’ as in (14).

- (14) à St. Martin, **par** deux heure-s, on va savoir
 at St. Martin, **by** two hour-PL one go.3SG know.INF
 ‘We’ll know by two o’clock at St. Martin’s.’ (Jones 2001: 162).

In Standard French *avant* ‘before’ would be used rather than *par*, since this sentence is really expressing the idea that ‘We will know *before* two o’clock,’ but instead, Regional French of Jersey employs the more English *par* ‘by’ (2001: 162). It is a contrast and a break from using the many numerous, more literal prepositional choices that Standard French prefers.

One final preposition worth mentioning is *pour* ‘for.’ It is often used “where it would not traditionally be found in Standard French and where its meaning appeared to be similar to the English preposition ‘for’” (Jones 2001: 162). This can be seen in (15).

- (15) Pouvez-vous changer un chèque **pour** dix
 Able-PR-FL-you-FL change.INF a.M check.M **for** ten
 livre-s?
 pound.M-PL
 ‘Can you cash a check of ten pounds?’

Standard French would not use *pour* here, but *de* ‘of’ (Jones 2001: 162). *Pour* can also be seen replacing *pendant* (‘during’) in Regional French of Jersey in the following phrase:

- (16) **pour** trois cent an-s
for three hundred year.M-PL
‘during three hundred years’ (Jones 2001: 163).

Jones does note, however, that *pour* is a little different than the previously mentioned prepositions. She writes “since *pour* is a preposition that has little meaning of its own, it could be used extensively in several historically inappropriate contexts, where its ‘fuzziness’ made the resultant phrase acceptable to the listener” (2001: 163). It is still worth looking at, however, in its more “English” use in Regional French of Jersey.

It is curious that so many prepositions have taken on such broad roles within Regional French of Jersey. Standard French has prepositions to mean many different things, and overlapping use to convey more than one meaning does not often occur in the standard. English, however, does not have such a complex system. Prepositions such as *for*, *in*, and *by* can be used in many contexts and can convey different meanings. Perhaps, then, the influence of English on Jèrriais and that dialect’s subsequent influence on Regional French of Jersey could have caused these broadened meanings of Standard French prepositions. It is worth hypothesizing that these uses are really indirect borrowings from English by way of Jèrriais.

5.4 Conclusions on syntactic differences in Jèrriais

In the syntactic variations mentioned here, the influence of English on Jèrriais seems obvious. The adjective position is often similar to that of English, but it should also be noted that pre-posing adjectives is also a feature of Mainland Norman speakers as well, especially in cases where color terms are used (Jones 2001: 102). Thus, the influence should not be thought of as merely an Anglicization. Jones notes that the pre-posing of these adjectives “is likely to represent transference from Norman rather than an Anglicism, although it is possible that the tendency has arisen due to a combination of both of these factors” (2001: 157).

English influence can also be seen in the compound prepositions, which are very similar in structure to complex prepositions employed by English. Also, the ability to use one preposition to carry many meanings is very English-like, and very unlike Standard French. This last variation may again also be due in part to

the desire people have to simplify language. If there are influences on a dialect or language by others, people will tend to use the simplest forms possible. Therefore, this may have been a result not only of the influence of English, but also the effort to simplify language using more English-like forms.

6 Conclusion

Jèrriais differs from Standard French in many ways. The phonetic inventories are different in terms of both vowels and consonants; phonological differences are apparent; the morphology demonstrates variation such as in cases concerning pronouns and gender distinctions and the use of the past historic tense in oral discourse; and finally, the syntax of Jèrriais differs significantly at times from the standard, as we saw in terms of adjective position, compound preposition formation, and preposition choice. While it would be easy to say that many of these variations can be seen as a result of the influence of English on the dialect, we shouldn't be too quick to jump to such a conclusion. There are other influences that may account for some of the differences and should be mentioned here.

The first of these is Standard French. Jones notes that while it is not a variety native to the people of Jersey, it has of course “exerted some influence on Jèrriais, [but] this influence has been relatively limited and is of a primarily lexical nature” (Jones 2001: 179). The vocabulary used in Jèrriais is similar to that of Standard French, but the structure and sounds seem to be, in part, results of other influences, namely Norman French and English.

Mainland Norman French, the dialect spoken by the people of Normandy, which is closer to the Channel Islands than any other part of France, has also had a significant impact on the dialect spoken on Jersey. In fact, “the varieties spoken in the Channel Islands all contained [features] considered to be the defining features of Norman” (Jones 2001: 19). One of the features frequently pointed out as being a part of the Norman dialect and the dialects of the Channel Islands is the “frequent anteposition of adjectives of color,” an example illustrated in section 4.1 (Jones 2001: 20). Jones also notes that N. C. W. Spence has in fact pointed out “that Jèrriais still contains a number of phonetic features which were mentioned by the sixteenth- and seventeenth-century writers and grammarians as being characteristic of the Norman dialect” (2001: 19). Even with these similar features, however, not many people are quick to adopt the idea that the Norman and Channel Island dialects should be considered a homogenous *français régional* (Jones 2001: 20). Other dialects of the area that are also similar to Norman French still differ enough from one another and Standard French that it would be difficult to assign a single label to all of them.

Finally, Jones notes that “the dialects of the Channel Islands are...in contact with a similarly powerful presence [as Norman and Standard French] in the shape of English, which is the dominant language on all the Islands” (Jones 2001: 22). Features unique to Jèrriais not found in Norman French, such as the use of the palatal affricates, illustrate this contact. There is much evidence of the English influence in Jèrriais, many examples of which were explored in this paper. In addition, the lexicon of the dialect contains many anglicisms, especially in the area of technical terms (Jones 2001: 178).

Jèrriais is a fascinating language variety that incorporates all of the dialects that influence it and, as a result, has become a mix of English, Norman French, and Standard French. It is worth looking at and preserving, as it has been a way of communicating for a thousand years. Certainly in the dialect lies part of Jersey’s culture, as language everywhere expresses the culture of those who speak it. If the people of Jersey lose their indigenous dialect, a piece of their culture will disappear as well. The dialect is interesting enough grammatically to explore and examine, and hopefully with the modern preservation programs, it will be revived and live on the island for quite some time.

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