



Johnson Language



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Links Friday reading list

Mar 23rd 2012, 16:31 by R.L.G. | NEW YORK

NOT much time to post today, so a few links:

1) The *Telegraph* has some [recordings](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/books/booknews/9143302/How-should-Shakespeare-really-sound.html) (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/books/booknews/9143302/How-should-Shakespeare-really-sound.html>) of reconstructed Shakespearean English. One pundit says that it's closer in sound to modern American than modern British English. This American doesn't agree; my impression is that it's closest to certain Irish accents, but an Irish colleague doesn't think so. Judge for yourself (and let us know in the comments).

2) The *Chronicle of Higher Education* has a roundup of the sound and fury over Daniel Everett, and his linguistic theorising based on his time among Brazil's Pirahã. We know you've already read [our review](http://www.economist.com/node/21550238) (<http://www.economist.com/node/21550238>) of Mr Everett, of course. But for much more of the high-stakes, and often very personal, feud between Noam Chomsky's camp and the anti-Chomskyans, [check the *Chronicle* out](http://chronicle.com/article/Researchers-Findings-in-) (<http://chronicle.com/article/Researchers-Findings-in->

[the/131260/](#) .

3) *Scientific Reports* has an interesting-looking paper (<http://www.nature.com/srep/2012/120315/srep00313/full/srep00313.html>) on "word birth and word death" in English, Hebrew and Spanish over the last two centuries. The authors observe that "the death rate of words has recently increased" and a good bit more, based on their statistical analysis.

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