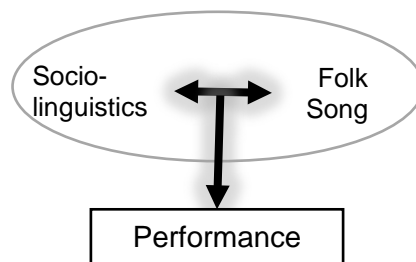


14: Whither sociolinguistics, whither folk song? Quotes, Texts, Links and Sources

Tying the ends together

Mindmap sociolinguistics and folk song



Issues of Performance

Russell ([1987] 1997: 182) 'Singing in the street seems to have been relatively common, at least by the Edwardian period, and could assume surprisingly high standards. "Even at the corner of the street, someone would start humming a popular tune, and soon everybody would be singing the song in real harmony", a Yorkshire miner recalled'.

Songs and their ritual and historical depth

Opening verses and chorus of ‘Oh My a Rattlin’ Bog’

(an accumulative song)

‘Oh my, a rattlin’ bog, a bog down in the valley-o,
a rare bog, a rattlin’ bog, a bog down in the valley-oh!’

Now by that bog there was a tree,
A rare tree, a rattlin’ tree,
And the tree by the bog,
And the bog down in the valley-o.
‘Oh my, a rattlin’ bog, a bog down in the valley-o,
a rare bog, a rattlin’ bog, a bog down in the valley-oh!’

Now on that tree there was a branch,
A rare branch, a rattlin’ branch,
And the branch on the tree,
And the tree by the bog,
And a bog down in the valley-o.
‘Oh my, a rattlin’ bog, a bog down in the valley-o,
a rare bog, a rattlin’ bog, a bog down in the valley-oh!’

....

Now from that seed there there came a tree
And seed from the man
And a man on the maid
And the maid on the bed
And the bed on the feather
And the feather on the bird
And the bird on the egg
And the egg on the nest
And the nest on the leaf
And the leaf on the twig
And the twig on the branch
And the branch on the tree
And the tree by the bog
And a bog down in the valley-o
‘Oh my, a rattlin’ bog, a bog down in the valley-o,
a rare bog, a rattlin’ bog, a bog down in the valley-oh!’

In the town where I was born
Lived a man who sailed to sea
And he told us of his life
In the land of submarines

And our friends are all on board
Many more of them live next door
And the band begins to play
(instrumental)

Spoken: Full speed ahead Mr. Boatswain,
 full speed ahead
 Full speed ahead it is, Sgt.
 Cut the cable, drop the cable
 Yeah, yeah, Sir, yeah, yeah
 Captain, captain
 As we live a life of ease
 Everyone of us has all we need
 (One of us, has all we need)
 Sky of blue and sea of green
 (Sky of blue, sea of green)
 In our yellow submarine
 (In our yellow, submarine, aha)

You've heard of the Gresford disaster,
Of the terrible price that was paid;
Two hundred and forty-two colliers were lost
And three men of the rescue brigade.

Now the gas in the Dennis deep section
Was packed there like snow in a drift;
And many a man had to leave the coal-face
Before he had worked out his shift.

And no one can say that he lied.

Down there in the dark they are lying.
They died for nine shillings a day.
They've worked out their shift, and now they
must lie
In the darkness until judgement day.

Farewell all our dear wives and children,
Farewell all our comrades as well.
Don't send your sons down the dark dreary
pit.
They'll be doomed like the sinners in hell.

(22 September 1934, Northeast Wales, actually 266 men died)

Popular Music and Folk

Excerpt from Maddy Prior's acceptance speech for the Gold Badge of the English Folk Dance and Song Society:

I think of traditional music as an ellipse around popular music in the middle, and the ellipse has been (.) a ride out there and come/ it comes back quite close to tradition/ to popular music for a while, and then it suddenly goes out, and it becomes the most unfashionable music in the world, and then it suddenly comes back again, and it's just/ it's on a real swing back again at the moment with all the young players so I've been on a <??> half curve, which is really fantastic. (February 2015; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2fs6ouyz3A>)

We Shall Overcome

(attributed to Pete Seeger)

We shall overcome
We shall overcome
We shall overcome, some day
 Oh, deep in my heart
 I do believe
 We shall overcome, some day

We'll walk hand in hand
We'll walk hand in hand
We'll walk hand in hand, some day
 Oh, deep in my heart ...

We shall live in peace
We shall live in peace
We shall live in peace, some day
 Oh, deep in my heart ...

We are not afraid
We are not afraid
We are not afraid, TODAY
 Oh, deep in my heart ...

The whole wide world around
The whole wide world around
The whole wide world around some day
 Oh, deep in my heart ...

References

Russell, D. 1997 [1987]. *Popular Music in England, 1840–1914: A Social History*, Manchester: Manchester University Press.