

Anya Luscombe

Forty Years of BBC Radio News

From the Swinging Sixties
to the Turbulent Noughties

Contents

Chapter 1 Tuning In	11
1.1 Context	13
1.2 The function and form of Radio News	16
1.3 Research questions	19
1.4 Presentation of data	20
Chapter 2 Historical Background	23
2.1 The development of the BBC.....	23
2.2 The social context 1966-2008	32
Chapter 3 Thoughts on Theory.....	37
3.1 Communication, journalists and the news	37
3.2 Radio News production.....	47
3.3 The language of (Radio) News.....	51
3.3.1 Radio 'language': spoken, written, a combination, or something quite different?.....	54
3.3.2 BBC Language and format	60
3.4 Considering the audience	62
Chapter 4 Methodology.....	71
4.1 Research strategy	72
4.2 Research questions	74
4.3 Data and sampling methods.....	76
4.4 Phases of data gathering	84
4.5 Analysis and verification of results	86
Chapter 5 Perceptions and Experiences	89
5.1 Old men in cardigans	89

5.2 The production of BBC Radio News.....	99
5.3 Radio News writing	107
5.3.1 Keeping it simple.....	108
5.3.2 Language as it is spoken	110
5.3.3 Interesting stories ("painting pictures").....	113
5.4 Concerns about changes	116
5.4.1 Accuracy	116
5.4.2 Entertainment versus Information.....	121
Chapter 6 BBC Radio Journalists, their Audiences and the Future	
6.1 Know thy audience!	127
6.2 Future	136
Chapter 7 Radio Output – Digging in the Archives.....	
7.1 BBC Radios 1, 2, and 4 on 21 July 2008.....	145
7.2 The same story, but different.....	156
7.3 News 1966-2006.....	158
7.3.1 Length and type	158
7.3.2 Changing style	166
7.4 Hobby-horses and pet hates	170
7.4.1 "Try and" vs. "try to"	173
7.4.2 "Concede defeat" vs. "concede victory"	176
7.4.3 Go(ne) Missing.....	179
7.4.4 Americanisms	182
7.5 Does it matter?	185
Chapter 8 Close Down	
8.1 Picture of the audience?	192

8.2 Achieving goals in communicating the news and the methods and strategies used	194
8.3 Perceptions of BBC Radio News characteristics, goals and audiences.....	196
8.4 Changes in radio news output 1966-2008	197
8.4.1 Content	197
8.4.2 Language and style.....	198
8.5 Reflection	199
 Epilogue	203
 Glossary	207
 Bibliography	209
 Appendices	219-223