

## DIALECT TRAVELS

The above map shows the distribution of words for a 'food-trough in a cow-house' as recorded to the south of London by *The Survey of English Dialects* (p. 318). It is likely that the older form is *trough*, and *manger* (a more standard term in agricultural writing) has spread into the area from the north. Is there anything to explain the pattern of change?

The righthand map shows the main routes of

communication connecting London to population centres along the coast. Each of the three southward movements of *manger* coincides with major road and rail routes – to Dover, Brighton, and Portsmouth. The suggestion is that the spread of a form is accelerated in areas with good communication links, and held back in more isolated areas (p. 54). This pattern may well be being repeated on a nationwide scale, in the case of estuary English.

(After P. Trudgill, 1990, pp. 122–3.)

