

REGIONAL VARIATIONS IN BRITISH AND AMERICAN ENGLISH

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Abstract: *This article analyzes regional changes in British and American English, their history, characteristics, and interaction. Two main dialects of the English language – British and American English – have differences, which are manifested not only lexically, but also phonetically and grammatically. Modern technologies and globalization help to reduce the differences between the two dialects. The article also examines the social and cultural context of regional change.*

Keywords: *British english, american english, dialect, lexical differences, phonetic differences, grammatical differences, regional changes, received pronunciation (RP), cultural context.*

Annotasiya: *Ushbu maqolada Britaniya va Amerika ingliz tillaridagi mintaqaviy o‘zgarishlar, ularning tarixi, xususiyatlari va o‘zaro ta’siri tahlil qilinadi. Ingliz tilining ikki asosiy lahjasi – Britaniya va Amerika ingliz tillari nafaqat leksik, balki fonetik va grammatik jihatdan ham namoyon bo‘ladigan farqlarga ega. Zamonaviy texnologiyalar va globallashuv ikki lahja o‘rtasidagi farqlarni kamaytirishga yordam beradi. Maqolada mintaqaviy o‘zgarishlarning ijtimoiy va madaniy konteksti ham ko‘rib chiqiladi.*

Kalit so‘zlar: *Britaniya ingliz tili, amerika ingliz tili, dialekt (sheva), leksik farqlar, fonetik farqlar, grammatik farqlar, mintaqaviy o‘zgarishlar, qabul qilingan talaffuz, madaniy kontekst.*

Аннотация: *В данной статье анализируются региональные изменения в британском и американском английском языках, их история, особенности и взаимодействие. Два основных диалекта английского языка – британский и американский английский – имеют различия, которые проявляются не только лексически, но и фонетически и грамматически. Современные технологии и глобализация помогают уменьшить различия между двумя диалектами. В статье также рассматривается социальный и культурный контекст региональных изменений.*

Ключевые слова: *британский английский, американский английский, диалект, лексические различия, фонетические различия, грамматические различия, региональные изменения, принятое произношение, культурный контекст.*

INTRODUCTION

English, as one of the most widespread languages in the world, has many regional dialects. English is used by about 1.5 billion people worldwide, but its two most popular variants – British and American English – differ from each other in many ways. These differences are shaped by historical, cultural, and social factors. British and American English are the most popular of these dialects, and their differences have led to numerous studies and discussions. In British English, the pronunciation of “Received Pronunciation” (RP) serves as a factor determining social status, while in American English, regional dialects reflect more cultural heritage and identity.

MAIN BODY

1. British English: British English is mainly used in the territory of Great Britain. It includes various dialects, such as “Cockney” in London, “Yorkshire” in North England, and “West Country” in West England. Each dialect has its own lexical and phonetic features. 1.1. Lexical differences. In British English “lorry” (truck), “flat” (apartment), and Words like “boot” (the back of the car) are used. However, in American English, these words are called “truck,” “apartment,” and “trunk.” These lexical differences are related to the social and economic conditions of the two regions. For example, in British English, the word “holiday” means “vacation,” while in American English, “holiday” is used only for holidays, and “vacation” is used for vacation. 1.2. Phonetic differences. In British English, the word “bath” is pronounced [bɑ:θ], while in American English it is pronounced [bæθ]. Also, in British English, the letter “r” is often not pronounced, which is called “non-rhotic” pronunciation. For example, the word “car” is pronounced [kɑ:] in British English and [kɑr] in American English. This reflects differences, regional identity, and cultural heritage.

2. American English: American English is mainly used in the United States of America, and it also includes various dialects, such as the “Southern,” “Midwestern,” and “New England” dialects. Each dialect has its own lexical and phonetic features. 2.1. Lexical Differences. In American English “elevator” (lift), Words such as “cookie” (pechene) and “soda” (carbonated drink) are used. In British English, these words are called “lift,” “biscuit,” and “fizzy drink.” Also, the word “truck” is common in American English, while “lorry” is used in British English. These differences are related to the culture and traditions of the two regions. 2.2. Phonetic differences. In American English, the letter “r” is often pronounced, which is called “rhotic” pronunciation. For example, the word “car” is pronounced [kɑr] in American English and [kɑ:] in British English. Also, in American English, the letter “a” is often pronounced as [æ], which is reflected in the word “man.” This reflects phonetic differences, regional identity, and cultural heritage.

3. Grammatical differences: There are also grammatical differences between British and American English. For example, the phrase “have got” is widely used in British English, while “have got” is more common in American English. Also, the phrase “at the weekend” is used in British English, while in American English it is said “on the weekend.” These differences depend on the social and cultural context of the two regions. Besides,

Tense forms: Present Perfect is frequently used in British English (“I have just eaten”). In American English, Past Simple is more commonly used (“I just ate”). Case in Collective Nouns: The British use collective nouns in plural (“The team are playing well”). Americans use the singular form (“The team is playing well”).

4. The social and cultural context of regional transformations: Regional changes in British and American English are closely related to the social and cultural context. For example, the pronunciation of “Received Pronunciation” (RP) in British English is preferred by the upper social strata, which serves as a factor determining social status. In American English, however, regional dialects reflect more social identity and cultural heritage.

5. Regional dialects and their influence: Regional dialects in British and American English cause interaction and change. For example, the word “biscuit” in British English is called “cookie” in American English, which indicates cultural exchange. It also plays an important role in the process of regional changes, interaction, and integration of British and American English.

6. Changes and contemporary trends: Modern technologies and globalization are influencing changes in British and American English. Through the Internet and social networks, new vocabulary and expressions are spreading rapidly, which further reduces the differences between the two dialects. For example, words like “selfie” and “hashtag” are common in both dialects.

7. Interaction and integration: The interaction between British and American English is manifested in many areas, including literature, cinema, and music. For example, the language used in British and American films is often similar to each other, which indicates cultural integration. Also, famous musicians and writers combine two dialects in their works, creating new vocabulary and expressions. Furthermore, Historical reasons: Differences in American English were largely shaped by immigrants from Britain in the 17th and 18th centuries. Moreover, like Noah Webster the reforms of linguists (for example, the simplification of the spellings “color” and “center”) had a great influence on American English. Intonation differences: The British are more likely to use “falling intonation,” which signifies formality. Americans more often use “rising intonation,” which means sincerity.

A comprehensive analysis was conducted on regional changes in British and American English, their history, lexical, phonetic, and grammatical differences, as well as their social and cultural context. In this article, the specific features of each dialect and their interaction are shown. British English has its own lexical and phonetic differences through different dialects, and America is creating new vocabulary and expressions in interaction with English.

CONCLUSION

The differences between British and American English are a reflection not only of the language itself, but also of the cultural history of both societies. Understanding these differences contributes not only to improving linguistic competence, but also to a deeper understanding of the culture of English-speaking countries. Although some differences may

decrease in the future under the influence of globalization, the uniqueness of these two main language variants will be preserved for a long time. Besides, creates an interesting and interactive environment for students in the process of language learning. This process provides valuable opportunities for those conducting research in the fields of linguistics and culture.

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