

LEXICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN AMERICAN AND BRITISH ENGLISH IN TERMS OF NOUNS

O'zbekov Umidjon Narzullo o'g'li

Termiz davlat pedagogika instituti

Xorijiy til va adabiyoti fakulteti

Xorijiy til va adabiyoti (ingliz tili) yo'nalishi 3-kurs talabasi

Annotation: *This article describes the history of the development of American English and British English. Also, the difference between American and British English are covered extensively and vividly.*

Аннотация: *В данной статье описана история развития американского английского и британского английского. Кроме того, широко и ярко освещена разница между американским и британским английским языком.*

Key words: *American and British English version , difference, Western Hemisphere, lexicographer.*

Ключевые слова: *американский и британский вариант английского языка, разница, Западное полушарие, лексикограф.*

INTRODUCTION

English is the language of international communication and the most widespread language in the world. This had its own historical reasons. In the 18 th century Britain has acquired the status of an Empire, establishing its authority over the one fourth of the Earth's land surface, creating colonies in many parts of the world. "The Empire on which the sun never sets" — such a statement was used about British Empire, referring to its limitless territories. These historical conditions launched the process of the appearance of the dialects of the English languages and regional varieties, including American English. This topic is especially relevant nowadays due to rapid globalization and the dissemination of the American culture: literature, music and cinematography — and the American variant of English, while British remains an academic standard throughout the world. That is why it is of utmost importance to understand how these lexical peculiarities are forming specific features of both variants of English.

MAIN INFORMATION

The British actually introduced the language to the Americas when they reached these lands by sea between the 16th and 17th centuries. At that time, spelling had not yet been standardised. It took the writing of the first dictionaries to set in stone how these words appeared. In the UK, the dictionary was compiled by London-based scholars. Meanwhile, in the United States, the lexicographer was a man named Noah Webster. Allegedly, he changed how the words were spelled to make the American version different from the British as a way of showing cultural independence from its mother country.

In terms of speech, the differences between American and British English actually took place after the first settlers arrived in America. These groups of people spoke using what was called rhotic speech, where the 'r' sounds of words are pronounced. Meanwhile, the higher classes in the UK wanted to distinguish the way they spoke from the common masses by softening their pronunciation of the 'r' sounds. Since the elite even back then were considered the standard for being fashionable, other people began to copy their speech, until it eventually became the common way of speaking in the south of England.

VOCABULARY DIFFERENCES

The Americans and the British also have some words that differ from each other. The table below lists some of the everyday objects that have different names, depending on what form of English you are using.

British English	American English
trousers	Pants
flat	Apartment
bonnet (the front of the car)	Hood
boot (the back of the car)	Trunk
lorry	Truck
university	College
holiday	Vacation
jumper	Sweater
crisps	Chips
chips	French fries
trainers	sneakers
fizzy drink	Soda
postbox	Mailbox
biscuit	Cookie
chemist	drugstore
shop	Store
football	Soccer

American English is as rich in borrowings as British English. It happened because the settlers historically interacted with many ethnic groups and thus specifically American borrowings appeared [1, P. 262]. English The American variant of the English language began its history when the first settlers from the British Isles moved to the unknown

continent. However, at the same time, there were many migrants from other European countries: German, Dutch, French, Spanish and Russian native speakers inhabited the New World [2, P. 138]. As the colonies were being established under the rule of the British Empire, people used the English language as a mean of communication between each other. That is why American culture is often referred to as a unique “melting pot” [3, P. 624], where plethora of different national cultures mixed with one another. While the new political institutions were formed and the American War of Independence took place, a new national identity appeared in the Western Hemisphere with its specific version of the English language. Later the destiny of the English language in America became a subject of academic dispute, for the Americans wished to create their own unique national culture after gaining independence. They could do that by protecting the autonomy of their language, which was of great importance in the terms of political unification and eventual liberation from the power of the British Empire. Thus, a theory of independent and separate American language appeared in the works of the American lexicographer Noah Webster who claimed that Americans needed not only their own administrative system, but also their own system of language [4, P. 255]. In 1828, his work, American Dictionary of the English Language, was published. It highlighted the American standards and norms of using the words. Another significant proponent of the independent American language was H. L. Mencken, putting forward the idea that Americanized English possessed more advantages and was the language of a universal American civilization.

CONCLUSION

Spoken American and British English are generally Vocabulary differences mutually intelligible, there are occasional differences which may cause embarrassment—for example, in American English a rubber is usually interpreted as a condom rather than an eraser. [5]

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