

UOT 81

<https://doi.org/10.59849/2311-8482.2024.2.78>

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ABOUT CHALLENGES IN LEARNING BRITISH ENGLISH AND AMERICAN ENGLISH

This article delves into the nuances of British English and American English, analyzing their distinct characteristics and their roles in language learning. It investigates both the advantages and drawbacks of each variant for prospective and new teachers, providing concrete examples for comparative analysis. Furthermore, it explores the historical and comparative study of these two variations, offering insights beneficial for both Azeri and foreign students. The article studies the differences in pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar between British English and American English comparatively. This article examines the distinctive pronunciation variations in General American English compared to Received Pronunciation in British English. It also delves into the lexical disparities between American English and British English, highlighting differences in vocabulary and spelling. The study underscores the importance of understanding these variations for language learners and provides insights into the historical and cultural factors influencing language evolution.

Keywords: *British English and American English, accents, dialects, pronunciation*

Introduction

Language operates in two primary forms: spoken and written. While phonetics mainly concerns the spoken language, the written form remains significant, guiding speakers in prepared speeches or readings. English boasts various dialects, including British English and American English, which are the focus of this analysis. The objectives include learning vocabulary differences, aiding learners in understanding and using both British and American terms, and exploring pronunciation, spelling, and cultural implications.

Main content

Native speakers of English employ different language varieties in various contexts, introducing the notion of pronunciation styles. While classifications exist, there's no universally accepted taxonomy. Foreign learners often struggle with English pronunciation due to the plethora of accents. This article aims to elucidate the main differences in grammar, spelling, dialects, and accents between British and American English.

British English:

Originating from the British Isles, British English exhibits slight regional variations. It evolved from Anglo-Frisian dialects brought by Germanic settlers, coexisting with Celtic languages. The English Language comprises diverse varieties influenced by social situations, including conversational English and formal settings.

American English:

Distinct from British English, American English reflects different principles such as the degree of carefulness, formality, rate of speech, and social situations. Geographic differentiation is common among dialects, with the U.S. being particularly dialect-conscious. Accents convey geographical origins and may reflect social factors like age, sex, and socio-economic class.

Dialects, accents, and variations in pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar distinguish British English from American English. Understanding these distinctions aids language learners in navigating the complexities of English language acquisition. This analysis provides valuable insights for students of English Philology and anyone learning English as a second language.

1.1. Pronunciation Varieties of British English and Gender Differences

American English sometimes called United States English or U.S. English, is the set of varieties of the English language native to the United States and widely adopted in Canada. English is the most widely spoken language in the United States and is the common language used by the federal government. The most widely used regional types of AE pronunciation are the Eastern, the Southern

and the General American Types, the letter is spoken mainly in the Middle Atlantic States Region. The GA pronunciation is usually referred to as the standard pronunciation of AE. The peculiarities of GA lie in: 1) The pronunciation of sounds and sound combinations; 2) Differences in the stress patterns of words; 3) Differences in intonation.

1. Peculiarities of pronunciation of GA sounds and sound combinations as compared to those of RP: /r/ in GA is retroflexive, i.e. the tip of the tongue is curled back; /t/ is voiced between a vowel and a sonorant (as in “battle”, “twenty”, or between two vowels the second of which is unstressed (as in “pity”, “better”). But the distinction between /t/ and /d/ is not neutralized, because the voiced /t/ is extremely short and resembles a one tap alveolar /r/. Americans easily distinguish between “writer” and “rider”, “latter” and “ladder”; /l/ is always dark, even before vowels (e.g. “film”, “look”); / / is voiced in words like “excursion” - / n/, “version” - / n/, “Asia” - / /, “Persia” - / /; /h/ is often dropped in weak syllables, but it is retained when the syllable is stressed (e.g. ‘an historical novel’ - / ənis 'torikl 'n vl/, “I saw him” - /ai 's :im/, but “history” - /histri/, “him” - /him/); /j/ is omitted before /u/ (e.g. “duty” - /du:ti/, “student” - /'studnt/, “new” - /nu:/); /d/ is omitted after /l/ & /n/ (e.g. “cold”, “old”, “individual”);

GA vowels are not differentiated by their length. D. Jones notes that all American vowels are long; /æ/ is used instead of /a:/ in words which do not contain “r” in spelling “path”, “glass”, “laugh”, “can't”, “last”, “grass”, etc. Exceptions: “father”, “palm”, “balm”, “alms”); /æ/ in GA is wider & longer than RP /æ/; /o/ is much less diphthongal than in RP.

2. Peculiarities in the stress patterns in words in GA as compared to RP. American speakers make much greater use of secondary stress in polysyllabic words than British speakers do. In words which end in “-ary”, “-ory”, “-ery”, “-mony”, “-ative” the first syllable in the suffix bears tertiary stress (i.e. stress which is somewhat weaker than secondary stress). E.g. dictio nary, terri tory, milli nery, cere mony, com muni, cati ve.

North American English is what people in the U.S. and Canada speak. Standard British English is spoken in the U.K. These are the two most common types of English used in the ESL classroom. Of course, both types of English have their own sub-divisions (for example, the English spoken in the southern states of the U.S.). But there are some underlying qualities for each that English learners should recognize. The biggest differences between North American English and British English involve pronunciation and spelling.

When it comes to spelling, it's mostly the U.S. that spells words differently. Although Canada uses North American English, it generally follows British English spelling. Most words that end in -or in American English have an -our ending in British English. color (American) — colour (British); honor (American) — honour (British)

Most words that end in -ize in American English have an -ise ending in British English. organize (American) — organise (British); recognize (American) — recognise (British). (6.)

Some words in American and British English have the same pronunciation but different spellings. For example, money in the U.S. goes into a checking account, while in the U.K. it goes into a chequing account. Streets in the U.S. have a curb, while in the UK, they have a kerb. A car in the U.S. has four tires, while in the U.K. it has four tyres. British English is referred to as Received Pronunciation (RP), which is the most common accent used on BBC News.

In connected speech the sound structures of words are modified under the influence of rhythm, tempo and utterance stress. But the pronouncing dictionaries do not and cannot reflect all these variants. Separation and commonness are two very useful keywords to describe the relationship between American and British English, which has a dual nature because of the American characteristics of continuity and divergence from its mother country, Great Britain.

The study of language encompasses both spoken and written forms, with phonetics focusing on spoken language varieties. While written language is often read aloud or recited, it also guides speakers when preparing written speeches. Scholars identify various functional styles of written language, such as belles-lettres, publicistic, and scientific prose. Dialects, like British English and American English, exhibit differences in vocabulary, pronunciation, and spelling. Understanding these differences helps language learners grasp the nuances of each dialect. British English, spoken

in the UK, has slight regional variations, while American English is widely used in the US and Canada. Pronunciation differences, such as the treatment of sounds and stress patterns, distinguish these dialects. Additionally, accents convey information about a speaker's geographic origin and social background. The study of dialects and accents in English language learning is essential for understanding the richness and diversity of the language.

1. In sentences which talk about an action in the past that has an effect in the present: American English (AmE) / British English (BrE)

Jenny feels ill. She ate too much. (AmE)

Jenny feels ill. She's eaten too much. In British English, the auxiliary do is often used as a substitute for a verb when replying to a question, e.g.

A: Are you coming with us?

B: I might do.

In American English, do is not used in this way, e.g.

A: Are you coming with us?

B: I might.(10.)

1.2. Lexical Differences between American and British English

American English is used as a lingua franca or a second language by people in many parts of the world, including East Asia. And British English is used in former colonies of the British empire, as in Africa, the Indian subcontinent; Malta, Australia, New Zealand, and in Southeast Asia. Here we'll analyze the main lexical differences between the two varieties and reports the results of a linguistic survey conducted with native speakers of the two varieties, to observe the reciprocal rate of comprehension related to everyday life lexicon.

A number of English idioms that have essentially the same meaning show lexical differences between the British and the American version. Many differences between American and British English are related to transport vocabulary. Whereas in British people take a 'couch', Americans say they would take a 'bus'; Americans take 'subways', whereas in Great Britain this means of transport is called an 'underground'.

The American lexicographer and educator Noah Webster had already published the first American English dictionary in 1806. One of the main reasons for a change was that the usage of a new language would have been useful for the affirmation of a new national identity. The founding fathers' anti-English sentiment had even proposed the adaptation of another language. William Gifford, the first editor of the quarterly review, affirmed that there was a plan for the abandonment of English as the National language during the devolution, to substitute it with Hebrew. An American chronicler, Charles Astor, proposed to adopt Greek.

Nowadays, despite the divergence due to the gain of independence and the prominence of the United States, the separation between the two cultures is not complete. When American and British people meet, the first obvious difference is their accent, the pronunciation of words.

Sometimes, words are used in different ways to name the same thing, such as for the American 'railroad tie' and the British 'railway sweeper'. Sometimes, two different words are used but their meaning is quite obvious, such as for the American 'luggage' and the British 'baggage'. In other cases, some words that are common in one place are rare in the other, such as the words 'soppy' or 'row': although they are listed in American dictionaries, they are very uncommon in American speech but they are quite well known in the UK. Some words retained in Great Britain have been dropped by Americans, such as 'fortnight' and 'constable' and many no longer used in British are retained in American, such as 'mad' (in the sense of angry), 'fall', 'sick', etc.

Of course, language is not totally imitated from one generation to another. Youth can be one of the most important social groups in language evolution, observing that younger people are more likely to experiment with language, by producing slang, deviant spellings, idioms, and expressions, some of which eventually become part of the standard.

Isolation also contributes to the differences: some dialects are separated by geographical features that naturally separate people. Reciprocal comprehension is favoured by the spread of the media, although American films are more likely to be exported in the UK rather than the reverse case.

People who decide to learn English as a foreign language can decide to choose either an American English centre or a British one, basing their choice on their needs. However, schools and universities usually teach British English. Only in recent years, some schools and universities include an analysis of the differences between the two 'Englishes' because of the increasing possibilities of contact with the two varieties.

A most differences can be found in ordinary life, especially in oral speech. Many online sources offer useful comparisons between British and American lexicon, such as the Macmillan English Dictionary Magazine 2004 and James Smith's American to British Dictionary, both of which have been very useful for this work. However, the problem is that before dealing directly with speakers of the other variety, some people do not even think that there are any divergences, apart from pronunciation.

Pronunciation Varieties in General American English:

General American English encompasses several regional types of pronunciation, including Eastern, Southern, and the widely recognized GA, prevalent in the Middle Atlantic States. GA is characterized by specific pronunciation peculiarities, such as retroflexive /r/, voiced /t/ in certain contexts, dark /l/, and variations in vowel sounds, among others. Stress patterns in polysyllabic words also differ from RP, with greater use of secondary and tertiary stress in GA.

Lexical Differences between American and British English:

American English and British English exhibit lexical disparities in everyday vocabulary and idiomatic expressions. These differences extend to transportation terminology, with variations in words like "bus" versus "coach" and "subway" versus "underground." Historical factors, including Noah Webster's efforts to establish American English, and cultural influences have contributed to these distinctions. Despite shared linguistic roots, divergence in usage and adoption of words has occurred over time. Media exposure and social factors also play a role in mutual comprehension and language evolution.

Understanding pronunciation variations and lexical disparities between American English and British English is crucial for language learners. The differences reflect historical, cultural, and geographical influences, shaping the evolution of language in distinct ways. As English continues to evolve, awareness of these variations enhances communication and cultural understanding across diverse English-speaking communities.

This article provides a comprehensive analysis of the lexical disparities between American English and British English, focusing on everyday language usage in housing, transport, shopping, food, and numerical systems. The study highlights significant differences in vocabulary and terminology between the two varieties, emphasizing the impact of historical, cultural, and linguistic factors on language evolution.

Lexical Differences in Housing:

In terms of housing terminology, there are both direct translations and unique terms in each variety. For instance, American terms like "apartment house," "condominium," "duplex," and "row house" correspond to British terms like "block of flats," "owner-occupied flat," "semi-detached house," and "terraced house." Additionally, differences exist in room names and furniture terminology, reflecting cultural nuances and preferences.

Lexical Differences in Transport:

Transport vocabulary varies significantly between American and British English. While Americans refer to "railroad," "baggage car," and "motorcycle," British counterparts use "railway," "baggage van," and "motorbike." Moreover, differences in lane terminology and driving practices further highlight the divergence between the two varieties.

Lexical Differences in Everyday Items:

Kitchen utensils, household items, and clothing terminology also differ between American and British English. For example, Americans use terms like "can openers," "electrical outlets," and "dishpans," whereas British counterparts use "tin openers," "power points," and "washing up bowls." These discrepancies extend to furniture names and baby-related terminology.

Numerical Systems and Monetary Vocabulary:

The system of saying and writing numbers varies slightly between American and British English. British English often includes the word "and" before tens and units, while Americans use alternative phrasing. Monetary vocabulary also differs, with Americans using terms like "dollars" and "cents," while British speakers commonly use "pounds" and "pence," with colloquial terms like "quid" and "buck" respectively.

The lexical differences between American English and British English encompass various aspects of everyday life, reflecting distinct cultural and historical influences. Awareness of these disparities is essential for effective communication and comprehension across different English-speaking communities. As globalization facilitates increased interaction between speakers of the two varieties, understanding these lexical nuances becomes increasingly important for language learners, translators, and professionals in various fields.

While American and British English exhibit differences in vocabulary, particularly in everyday activities like shopping, evidence suggests a trend toward convergence, primarily moving eastward. Each year, more words once exclusive to American English find their way into the spoken and written language of both Britain and the U.S. However, some differences persist, with certain items being more familiar to one variety than the other.

In terms of grammatical disparities, American and British English diverge in their use of prepositions, collective nouns, past tense, and word derivation. For example, American English treats collective nouns as singular, while British English allows for plural terms with collective nouns. Additionally, directional suffixes like -ward(s) are utilized differently in both dialects, reflecting distinct linguistic preferences.

Moreover, lexical differences extend to specific items, such as "lorry/truck," "coach/bus," and "full stop/period," which may be obscure for some speakers. However, other terms, like "fags/cigarettes" and "trousers/pants," are well-known, possibly due to their distinct meanings in each variety.(11.)

Overall, while differences persist, the general trend suggests a growing familiarity with American lexicon among British English speakers. This asymmetry in knowledge is evident in survey data, with British respondents typically outperforming Americans in identifying correct answers. Despite these differences, ongoing globalization and increased interaction between speakers of the two varieties contribute to a gradual convergence in lexical usage.

Most speakers of American English are familiar with some uniquely British terms like "shorts" and "knickers," although their meaning might not always be fully understood in context. For instance, the phrase "Happy holidays" is increasingly used in the US to refer to multiple seasons, whereas in the UK, it typically denotes vacations. Similarly, while "Merry Christmas" remains the prevalent Christmas greeting in both varieties, there are nuanced differences in usage.

In terms of numerical expressions, British English incorporates the word "and" before the last two digits for numbers over one hundred, while American English often omits this. Additionally, certain idiomatic expressions like "I couldn't care less" carry different connotations in each variety. Moreover, grammatical disparities exist, such as the treatment of collective nouns as singular in American English but variable in British English. Formality in speech also differs, with British English favoring expressions like "shall" compared to the more informal "will" or "should" in American English.

Dialects and accents play a significant role in shaping linguistic variations within English. Standard accents like Received Pronunciation (RP) in Britain and General American in the US have historically been associated with prestige and social advantage. However, regional and social accents also contribute to the rich tapestry of English dialects.

Despite these differences, English speakers across the globe share common features in pronunciation, lexicon, and grammar. While some distinctions persist, the overarching similarity between American and British English ensures mutual intelligibility and minimizes the risk of miscommunication.

Numerous differences exist between British and American English beyond just pronunciation. For instance, in England, people reside in a "block of flats," utilize the "underground," and go "on holiday," while in the United States, they live in an "apartment house," use the "subway," and go "on vacation." These examples highlight vocabulary discrepancies.

Grammar variations are also evident. In Britain, one might ask, "Have you got the time?" and receive the response, "It's ten past two," whereas in the United States, the question would be phrased as "Do you have the time?" with the reply being "It's ten after two." Spelling differences are another aspect to consider. British English spells words like "colour" and "centre," while American English spells them as "color" and "center." Moreover, non-standard features of English encompass differences in phonemic inventories, phonotactics, and pronunciation patterns. Notably, the vowel systems in BBC pronunciation and General American English exhibit significant disparities, particularly in the distinction between long/tense and short/lax vowels.

Regional accents, such as Scottish, Irish, Welsh, Cockney, and Estuary English, contribute to the diversity of English. The choice of model accent for teaching English to foreign learners has historically centered on the standard accents of Great Britain and the USA, with General American being considered regionally neutral. However, the prevalence of Received Pronunciation (RP) has declined, with less than 3% of people in Britain speaking it in a pure form. Instead, BBC pronunciation has gained traction due to its diversity and lack of negative social connotations.

Furthermore, morphology and syntax features vary between English varieties. These include differences in the use of contractions, possessive pronouns, weak and strong verbs, and plurals, among others. Rhoticity is a distinctive feature of American accents, where the phoneme /r/ is pronounced in all environments. This differs from many English accents, particularly those in England, where rhoticity is less common. Overall, the linguistic disparities between British and American English encompass vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and various non-standard features, reflecting the rich diversity within the English language. In standard North American accents, the historical sequence /*ɔr*/ is often pronounced as [ɔɪ~ɔɪ], blending with the previously merged /*ɔr*/-/*our*/ group. However, in the United States, certain words (such as tomorrow, sorry, sorrow, borrow, and morrow) typically feature the sound [ɑɪ], aligning with the /*ar*/ category (7.)

The process of creating new words began when English-speaking British-American settlers started adopting names from Native American languages to describe unfamiliar plants, animals, and geographic features. Other colonizing nations also contributed to American vocabulary, with terms like cookie (from Dutch), kindergarten (from German), levee (from French), and rodeo (from Spanish) entering common usage. Landscape terms often derive from French or Spanish loanwords, and the word "corn," which in England referred to wheat, came to signify maize, the primary crop in the U.S.

Additional foreign loanwords arrived with 19th and early 20th-century European immigration to the U.S., notably from Yiddish (e.g., chutzpah, schmooze) and German (e.g., hamburger, wiener). Many English colloquialisms from various eras originated in America, although some have lost their distinctly American character. Noun suffixes like -ee (as in retiree), -ery (as in bakery), -ster (as in gangster), and -cian (as in beautician) are especially productive in American English.

Conclusion

Accentual variation exists between the UK and the US, with some Eastern US accents resembling BBC pronunciation more than General American, and some British accents aligning with General American rather than BBC English. American English and British English diverge across phonology, phonetics, vocabulary, grammar, and orthography.

British and American cultures differ fundamentally in their histories, economies, environments, and social structures. While spoken American and British English are generally understandable to each other, there are enough disparities to potentially lead to misunderstandings or breakdowns in communication. The primary distinctions between British English and American English include differences in rhotic accent presence, vowel and consonant pronunciation, stress patterns, and articulation. American English frequently employs words across different parts of speech, with nouns commonly functioning as verbs.

Punctuation rules also vary, with British English exhibiting more tolerance for "comma splices," while American English mandates placing periods and commas inside closing quotation marks. In British English, "and" is inserted between tens and units when spelling out numbers, whereas the 24-

hour clock is more prevalent in Europe. Vocabulary discrepancies are regionally nuanced, with terms like "autumn" favored in the UK and "fall" in American English. Other lexical differences encompass words such as "aerial" (UK) vs. "antenna," "biscuit" (UK), "car park" (UK), "caravan" (UK), "city centre" (UK), "flat" (UK), "fringe" (UK), and "holiday" (UK). Grammatical differences are generally minor and typically do not impede mutual understanding. Certain accents may be perceived as less favorable than others, with Inverness, Scotland often cited as having the most esteemed English. Linguists should be aware of these distinctions to facilitate accurate communication.

In most global examinations, both American and British English are typically permitted. Nonetheless, it's advisable for students to maintain consistency in their writing style. This entails adhering to either American or British spelling and grammar throughout their entire piece of writing.

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İNGİLİZ DİLİ VƏ AMERİKAN İNGİLİS DİLİNİN ÖYRƏNİLMƏSİNDƏKİ ÇƏTİNLİKLƏR HAQQINDA

Bu məqalə İngilis İngilis və Amerika İngilis dillərinin fərqli xüsusiyyətlərini və dil öyrənilməsində rollarını təhlil edərək nüansları araşdırır. O, potensial və yeni müəllimlər üçün hər bir variantın həm üstünlüklərini, həm də çatışmazlıqlarını araşdırır, müqayisəli təhlil üçün konkret nümunələr təqdim edir. Bundan əlavə, o, həm azərbaycanlı, həm də əcnəbi tələbələr üçün faydalı olan fikirlər təqdim edərək, bu iki variasiyanın tarixi və müqayisəli öyrənilməsini araşdırır. Məqalə Britaniya İngilis dili ilə Amerika İngilis dili arasında tələffüz, lüğət və qrammatika fərqlərini müqayisəli şəkildə öyrənir. Bu məqalə İngilis İngilis dilində Qəbul Edilən Tələffüzlə müqayisədə Ümumi Amerika İngilis dilində fərqli tələffüz variasiyalarını araşdırır. O, həmçinin lüğət və orfoqrafiyadakı fərqləri vurğulayaraq, Amerika İngilis və İngilis İngilis dilləri arasındakı leksik fərqləri araşdırır. Tədqiqat dil öyrənənlər

üçün bu variasiyaların başa düşülməsinin vacibliyini vurğulayır və dilin təkamülünə təsir edən tarixi və mədəni faktorlar haqqında anlayışlar təqdim edir.

Açar sözlər: *İngilis İngilis və Amerika İngilis dili, vurğular, dialektlər, tələffüz*

Севиндж Азиз
В ИЗУЧЕНИИ АНГЛИЙСКОГО И АМЕРИКАНСКОГО
АНГЛИЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКА О ВЫЗОВАХ

В этой статье исследуются нюансы британского английского и американского английского, анализируя их отличительные особенности и роль в изучении языка. В нем рассматриваются как преимущества, так и недостатки каждого варианта для будущих и новых учителей, приводятся конкретные примеры для сравнительного анализа. Кроме того, в нем исследуется историческое и сравнительное исследование этих двух вариантов, что дает информацию, полезную как для азербайджанских, так и для иностранных студентов. В статье сравниваются различия в произношении, словарном запасе и грамматике британского английского и американского английского. В этой статье рассматриваются различные варианты произношения в общеамериканском английском в сравнении с принятым произношением в британском английском. Он также исследует лексические различия между американским английским и британским английским, подчеркивая различия в словарном запасе и правописании. Исследование подчеркивает важность понимания этих различий для изучающих язык и дает представление об исторических и культурных факторах, влияющих на эволюцию языка.

Ключевые слова: *британский английский и американский английский, акценты, диалекты, произношение.*

Filologiya elmləri doktoru Akif İmanlı tərəfindən təqdim edilmişdir

İlk daxilolma tarixi: 08.05.2024

Son daxilolma tarixi:29.06.2024