

## LINGUISTICS, LITERATURE, PHILOLOGY

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### BRITISH AND AMERICAN VERSIONS OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE, HISTORY AND THEORETICAL VARIABILITY

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British English (BrE) is a form of English that is used in the UK. It also includes all regional dialects of the English language in the UK. American English (AmE) is a form of English used in the United States of America. It also includes all regional dialects of English in the United States.

American spelling outside school and humanitarian university education, that is, in everyday life, is not considered as erroneous. Written forms of British and American English, which are found in newspapers and textbooks, are almost identical in essential indicators. Minor differences can only sometimes be noticed when comparing the language of the written media of Great Britain and the United States of America (for example, when comparing the American and British newspapers). Such official form of written English is called standard English.

It should be noted that the colloquial varieties of British English have noticeable differences. They reflect the long history of the separate development of dialects in the territory of the British Isles. Differences between dialects, words and accents are observed not only between the countries of Great Britain – England, Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland, but also within them. Only two percent of the population speaks the well-known Received Pronunciation (RP). All official dictionaries and courses of teaching English as a foreign language are based on the RP pronunciation. Received Pronunciation is also known as "Oxford English", "Royal English" and "English BBC". It is worth noting that not every graduate of the University of Oxford speaks with an RP accent, and in the BBC television station the announcers are no longer obliged only to use it while broadcasting.

There is also an unofficial standard for spoken American English. It was developed under the influence of the media, as well as under the influence of a historical increase in the social and geographical mobility of the US population. In a broad sense, this emphasis is typical for TV presenters, since the profession requires them to adhere to common vocabulary and speech manner. However, some provincial television workers tend to use local forms on the air. Despite the presence of an unofficial norm, regional varieties of American English not only did not disappear, but, on the contrary, according to William Labov, took root and developed.

In the USA, local dialects mainly reflect the peculiarities of the native languages of the majority of immigrants who live in a particular area. The influence of foreign languages at the level of vocabulary and pronunciation is especially noticeable. Researchers identify at least four regional variations of American English: northern, southern, western, and midland. In the period after the end of the US Civil War, residents of the eastern territories began to actively populate the western part of the country, which resulted in dialect leveling and mixing of dialects. Thus, the greatest variety of forms of American English is preserved in the eastern states, populated much earlier. Individual dialects, for example, the dialect of New York and the dialect of Southern Appalachians, form their own spoken forms of American English, different from the rest and characteristic only for these places.

British and American English are recognized as world standards for spoken and written English taught in non-English speaking countries. In most countries of the former British Empire, in which English is not the language of the majority of the population, they follow the British language tradition. In such countries, American words and expressions that have long been spread throughout the English-speaking world [1,84] have been gaining increasing popularity. In turn, the American rules are used by countries (originally non-English speaking), which in the past were under the influence of the United States. In many countries, regardless of the preferred norm, along with it emerged their own dialects of the English language, such as in the Philippines and in India.

Among the other most important variants of the English language are Australian and Canadian English, which are the third and fourth in the number of speakers, respectively. Most of the vocabulary, syntax and phonology of the Canadian shares with the American version of the English language, despite the abundance of surviving British norms and original Canadian words. This fact allows some researchers to distinguish American and Canadian English into a separate group of dialects called the North American English dialects. Also in Australian English, along with their own Australianism, there are both American and British features. Moreover, in Australia, English is different from the options considered in this article more strongly than Canadian English. Irish English,

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New Zealand English and South African English differ from them in the number of speakers for whom this native language is even stronger.

**History of American English**

American English is a language variant of the English language that has developed in the United States. Speakers of American English are 80% of the population of America, despite the fact that the language of the Constitution of the country is not officially fixed. Under the influence of various factors in American English, various features have developed at all language levels.

The history of the formation of American English is connected with the history of the development of the United States. The history of the development of the English language in America dates back three and a half centuries. For the first time, English came to the American continent in the 17th century. Schweitzer, an eminent American linguist, considers two periods of language development: the early (XVII -XVIII) and late (XIX-XX) [2, 32]. In 1607, the first English settlement was founded in North America, it was named Jamestown (Jamestown), in honor of the King of England James I. The area in which this city was located was named Virginia in honor of Elizabeth I. Further settlements began to appear gradually along the coast, as well as on the nearby islands (Bermuda) [7]. In 1620, persecuted by religious differences, the pilgrims went to America on the Mayflower, on a new continent they dreamed of finding a new home. The new settlement was named after the city of Plymouth, from which in September 1620 the pilgrims went to the New World. The settlers of the Plymouth colony were people deeply religious and distinguished by puritan customs and commitment to tradition. Many of their traditions formed the basis of American culture. One of these traditions is the celebration of Thanksgiving Day (for the first time this holiday was held in New Plymouth in 1621) [6, 48].

Residents of Jamestown and Plymouth kept to different linguistic traditions. The settlers who settled in the south came mainly from the western part of England, the counties of Gloucestershire and Somerset. Thereby they brought with them various characteristic features of pronunciation, for example: the voicing of sound [s]), the rolling [r] after vowels. In the US, this type of pronunciation is called —coastal. According to some scholars, it sounds closest to the language of the Shakespeare era, as it did not change so quickly due to the relative isolation of native speakers.

As for the settlers who lived in Plymouth, they mostly came from the eastern counties of England (London, Lincolnshire, Essex, Nottinghamshire, Kent), some of them came from central or more distant counties. The lack of sound [r] after the vowels was one of the peculiarities of the pronunciation of the inhabitants of this colony. It is this style of speech that became dominant in the United States.

Sound differences, which were based on the dialects of the early settlers, during subsequent migrations of the population continued to persist. However, the dialect distribution scheme has never been clear due to the constant migration of the population, as well as movement of large numbers of immigrants from various countries of the world.

In the XVII century, the number of immigrants continued to grow. A wide variety of languages and dialects was brought to the USA. Thus, people who spoke different dialects began to live very close. Starting from the XVI century, the London dialect becomes a kind of benchmark to which all educated Englishmen certainly strive. Gradually, regardless of the place of residence, the speech of educated people is approaching a single literary model. It is quite obvious that the speech of the first immigrants from England was striving for the same standard as in their homeland. Thus, the English language in America corresponded to the same standards adopted in England at the beginning of the seventeenth century.

However, from the point of view of the British literary language, English in the United States has retained a number of archaic features. A number of words that had become archaic in England were still used by immigrants. For example, the verb loan (to lend) was practically out of use in England, but remained in use in America. Sometimes, from the point of view of the literary language of Britain, it did not become the whole word, but only one of its meanings. For example, the word guess in the meaning of to think was first viewed in England as archaism, but now it is already considered Americanism [4, 17].

Life on the new continent greatly enriched English, brought a large number of neologisms. The migrants had to invent new names for the one they had not encountered before. Among them are A.D. Schweitzer highlights the following:

1. neologisms associated with flora and fauna (moose – American moose, backwoods – wilderness, hickory – North American hazel, gap – mountain pass, deep gorge);
2. household neologisms (corn – corn, a lot – a piece of land);
3. Neologisms associated with the life of the Indians (medicine man – the shaman of an Indian tribe, war-path – the path of war). The vocabulary of the English language in America endured constant modifications, as mentioned earlier, due to the formation of new words and borrowing from other languages [6,71]. It is important

to note the fact that the American version of the English language absorbed a huge amount of borrowing. In the West and South-West of the United States of America, the first language was Spanish, in the northern areas and in some central areas French was spoken, and the inhabitants of New York (formerly New Amsterdam) spoke Dutch [5, 41].

The vocabulary of American English, in turn, was enriched by borrowing from the languages of Indian tribes, for example: squash (English pumpkin), skunk (English skunk), wigwam (English wigwam), raccoon (English raccoon). Borrowings from the French language consisted of food names (chowder – stew. The household vocabulary was borrowed from the Dutch language: cruller – sweet cake, boss – boss [6,75].

Because of the assimilation process that most immigrants began to speak English for one or two generations. The sphere of using English as a native language began to expand gradually. Some scholars believe that it was English that became the very link that united such diversity of peoples and cultures [5,39].

Thus, by the XVIII century, English in America began to differentiate from the British literary norms. The strongest features were observed in phonetics and in the vocabulary [6,72].

#### **Language variability and the norm in the language system**

When learning a language, variation and constancy are considered to be fundamental concepts. Variability is evidence that the language is a system and it is in a state of constant change. Various changes directly lead to increased diversity in the system. At the same time, the concept of constancy is opposite to variability, it reflects the orderliness of the system, its constancy and the absence in it of increasing diversity [4,81].

In the context of the above terms, it is necessary to immediately clarify the difference between such concepts as variability and variance. Variability – changes in language units within a single system, with variation, the system is considered more widely. The term variation implies different variants of the language system. This allows us to understand that when analyzing the realization of phonemes in speech, we are dealing with the problem of variability, and when comparing territorial and national variants of a literary language, the study raises the question of the variance of the language system.

The norm is the most common in the literary language. It is necessary to note the distinctive feature of the literary norm, including the pronunciation norm; it is systematization, that is, a reflection of the established rules for the use of linguistic units in various grammatical reference books and dictionaries.

The concept of variation is first encountered in the works of the Swiss linguist F. de Saussure. He characterizes the sign and the desire for variability as one of its properties. Later, this linguistic phenomenon was studied in all other areas of linguistics at different levels of the language system. Variability, as the main property of the language system, has become one of the leading themes in the works of both domestic and foreign linguists [3,105].

In order to study the status of the pronunciation norms of national variants of the English language, it is necessary to determine the meaning of the concept of the pronunciation norms, as well as answer general linguistic questions about the relationship between the norms and norms of the literary language, the type of the pronunciation norms and the status of the pronunciation norms within one national English.

The concept of a norm at the level of the sound system of a language is defined as the pronunciation norm of a single literary language that obeys the laws and rules, and that's why, it is established in a specific language group. It is also important to note the fact that the orthopedic norm sets the limits of variation, and also determines acceptable and unacceptable variants of pronunciation.

The norm, as is known, is implemented at all levels of the language system: phonetic, lexical and grammatical. The language norm is also a realization of consciously accepted patterns of verbal communication.

"Accepted images of verbal communication" include a number of phonetic, grammatical and lexical rules that are characteristic of written and oral speech.

In this context, it is important to clarify that in the Anglo-American special literature the term 'standard' is used. Word-Standard means in this case inter-ethnic and intra-national communication in English. That is, according to native English speakers, Standard English, is an internationally accepted standard. This is a kind of – dialect that English speakers consider ideal to teach their mother tongue, and, among other things, this is a model that foreign students are taught [2,67]. Let's consider the signs of Standard English:

- The most characteristic feature is its non-affiliation to any of the territories. In other words, such a language is used wherever they speak and write in English.
- Another distinctive feature is the fact that native speakers of this language can speak with a 'regionally-standard accent', which is considered the norm for a particular territory.

From the above considerations it follows that the term Standard English actually implies a literary written and spoken standard. From this conclusion, a question arises about the relation between the norm of a literary language and its pronunciation standard at the level of interethnic and intra-national communication.

The multiplicity of standards of the English language in Great Britain, particularly in England and Wales, the standard of the English language is often understood as Received Pronunciation (RP). In the US, the standard is the American version of English – General American.

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