

butcher until one's cheeks burned with the silent imputation of parsimony that such close dealing implied. Three times Della counted it. One dollar and eighty-seven cents. And the next day would be Christmas» [8, p. 1].

Characters' speech complements the little man image. It's simple, it can be heard on the street every day. Speech is represented by slang (cop, 'em, nothing, ain't, yer, etc), words and expressions which can be understood by uneducated people (laughed at me like a hyena, dago, nit, dandy, etc). Character's speech shows people belonging to a certain social class.

O. Henry is still one of the most famous writers in the world. His short stories about a real life of low and middle class people are readable by people of all ages. O. Henry draws parallels between his characters and other Americans, underlines their similarity in the short stories. O. Henry's little man is an ordinary XIX-XX c. American. The life of a little man is difficult, but he never gives up, finds ways to overcome difficulties. Readers get to know that characters work for several dollars in a week, live in small rooms, have little money, they are faced with difficulties through O. Henry's descriptions. Character's speech is understandable by people of low and middle class. The writer's love to an American little man, his sympathy for them are noticeable in the short stories.

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UDC 81'28(410)

SOME PHONETIC PECULARITIES OF MAJOR ENGLISH DIALECTS

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Given paper is dedicated to some phonetic peculiarities of major English dialects. We have touched upon dialects spoken on the several big parts of the island. We have chosen the most interesting cases of so-called “deviations” from the accepted norms of Received Pronunciation.

Being abroad or even being in your native country, you have probably faced people who speak the language differently. You both seem to use one and the same language but sound differently. Even unverst language user is always able to feel the difference. But not all speakers know why it happens. This what the question is.

For better understanding, we should distinguish between three notions we are going to operate with: Standard English, Received Pronunciation (RP), an accent and a dialect.

Standard English is a national norm in any English-speaking country. [1] It is generally the official and generally accepted version of the language. Notion of Standard English includes vocabulary, grammar and phonetics. As we are going to deal with phonetic concepts, we should define Received Pronunciation. Received Pronunciation is the accent of Standard English in the United Kingdom. So, from the definition follows that any kind of “deviance” is not a norm already. So now, we proceed to the definitions of so-called deviances.

According to the Oxford Dictionary, accent is a distinctive way of pronouncing a language. Put simply this is the way each of us pronounce a language.

Dialect is a particular form of a language, which is peculiar to a specific region, or social group, which differs in pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar from each other and from Standard English.

The main difference between dialect and accent is that accent unlike dialect refers only to pronunciation. Thus, any educated English speaker can use the vocabulary and grammar of Standard English. However, most of the speakers use their own local words for everyday life. The usage of Received Pronunciation depends on the class rather than on the region.

Linguistics, Literature, Philology

As you can see, the notion “dialect” includes vocabulary, grammar and phonetics. We are going to touch upon vocabulary and grammar aspects.

This topic is important because a dialect is the reflection of historical development and the state of people in this particular period. Dialect is the way to penetrate deeply in the language structure. Analyzing so-called “deviations” from the standard variant, we have the opportunity for better understanding connections and principles of the language we learn.

Now we will try to have a closer look at some phonological peculiarities of the dialects from the point of view of Practical Phonetics and to mention some historical aspects giving examples of dialect words.

The number the dialects all over the island is huge, that is why we have taken several parts of the island and picked up the main peculiarities of pronunciation and vocabulary of the particular region.

Northern England English

The first dialect I want to tell about is Northern England English (usually called Northern English in the United Kingdom). Actually, this is a group of dialects of the English language found in Northern England. It includes the North East England dialects, Cumbrian (with a Westmorland sub-set in South Lakeland and a limited sub-set around the Barrow-in-Furness area), the various Yorkshire dialects and Lancashire (increasingly but incorrectly referred to as 'Lanky'). [2]

Accent features are common for most of the accents of Northern England. There are the most interesting to my mind.

- Northern England accents usually do not have /a:/ sound in words like *bath*, *ask*, etc. *Cast* is pronounced [kast] rather than the [ka:st]. This pronunciation is found in the words that were affected by the trap – bath split (a phenomenon when the phoneme /æ/ is pronounced in some words as /a:/).

- The vowel in *dress*, *test*, *pet*, etc. is slightly more open, transcribed better as /ɛ/ rather than /e/. So they sound like [dres], [tɛst], [pɛt].

- The "short /a/ vowel of *cat*, *trap* is pronounced [ʌ] rather than the [æ]. So they pronounce [ca:t], [tra:p].

- The Received Pronunciation phonemes /eɪ/ (as in *face*) and /əʊ/ (as in *goat*) are often pronounced as monophthongs (such as [eɪ] and [oʊ]), or as /ɪə/ and /ʊə/. [3]

East Anglian English

As an example of language spoken in the central part of the island we have decided to have a closer look at East Anglian variant of pronunciation. The matter is, the language of the central part is very close to the Received Pronunciation, but in East Anglia it has some special features. This area of England is believed to be the home for the first forms of nowadays English. East Anglian English has had a strong influence on the establishing of Standard English, and influenced the development of American English. [4]

There are the most interesting phonetic features of this area.

- The accent is generally non-rhotic, as is RP/BBC, so /r/ is only pronounced when a vowel follows it.

- Yod-dropping is common between consonants and /u:, ʊ, u, ʊə/ resulting in pronunciations such as /mu:zɪk/ for 'music' and /ku:/ for 'cue'.

- The accent is generally non-rhotic, as is RP, so /r/ is only pronounced when a vowel follows it.

- The distinction between the NEAR and SQUARE vowels /ɪə/ and /eə/ does not exist in East Anglian.

Thus 'beer' and 'bear' sound the same, the vowel quality being [ɛ:]. This may be considered to be a related case to that of smoothing. This is a manifestation of the near-square merger.

- Where RP has a sequence of two or three vowels in succession, East Anglian smoothing results in a pronunciation with a single long vowel; for example, 'player' is [plæ:] rather than /pleɪə/. [5] [6] [7]

English in Southern England

Specific features are the following:

- Increased amount of TH-fronting (the process when /θ/ becomes /f/ and /ð/ becomes /v/)

- GOAT fronting to [əʏ] ('GOAT-fronting' refers to a process whereby the northern English back monophthong /ɔ:/ or /o/ is articulated further forward in the vowel space, resulting in a fronted or centralized vowel quality in the region of /ɔ:/ or /ə/.) [8]

Scottish English

Speaking about Scottish English we should pay attention on the fact that linguists still haven't reached common ground about whether this is an independent language, variant of English or one of the ancient Germanic languages. [9]

Some phonological characteristics of Scottish dialect.

– For example, voiceless stops /p/ /t/ /k/ are realised with preaspiration, that is as [hp], [ht] and [hk] or [xk], whereas voiced consonants tend to be de-voiced. Examples; that "whatever" becomes pronounced as "whateffer" and the English "j" as in "just" sound is often turned into a "tch" sound e.g. "chust".

– Many older speakers employ a very distinctive affirmative or backchannel item taken from Scottish Gaelic which involves *an ingress of breath* with clearly audible friction and whose function to indicate agreement with what a speaker has just said or is saying or to indicate continuing agreement or comprehension. This phenomenon has been termed as "*the Gaelic Gasp*". This linguistic feature is not found in the other.

– Scottish English is a rhotic accent, meaning /r/ is pronounced in the syllable coda. The phoneme /r/ is usually pronounced as an alveolar tap [ɾ] or the alveolar trill [r] (hereafter, [r] will be used to denote any rhotic consonant).

– Similarly, the svarabhakti (the introduction of a vowel sound in Sanskrit especially between /r/ or /l/ and a following consonant. It was used in some consonant combinations in Gaelic) is used so that "film" may pronounced "fillum".

– /r/ before /l/ is strong. An epenthetic vowel may occur between /r/ and /l/ so that *girl* and *world* are two-syllable words for some speakers. The same may occur between /r/ and /m/, between /r/ and /n/, and between /l/ and /m/. [9]

Welsh English

English Welsh English, Anglo-Welsh, or Wenglish refers to the dialects of English spoken by people leaving in Welsh. But some linguists refer Welsh English to Celtic languages. This is the one of the most spoken Celtic Languages. But there is a point of view, that Welsh is not a dialect, but it is a language having its distinct pedigree. [10]

Phonological characteristics of Welsh English

– The vowel of "bus" /ʌ/ is pronounced [ɜ] and is encountered as a hypercorrection in northern areas for foot. It is sometimes manifested in border areas of north and mid Wales as an open front unrounded vowel /a/ or as a near-close near-back vowel /ʊ/ in northeast Wales, under influence of Cheshire and Merseyside accents.

– The schwa of *better* may be different from that of *above* in some accents; the former may be pronounced as [ɜ], the same vowel as that of *bus*

– In northern varieties, /əʊ/ as in *coat* and /ɔ:/ as in *caught/court* may be merged into /ɔ:/ (phonetically [o:]) [11]

The variety of language reflections, which depends on the region people live in, impresses any language learner. Knowledge of some additional, even deviation, variants of the language we learn can influence greatly our sense of language, improve pronunciation and listening skills and let us penetrate more deep in the system which is considered to be admitted by all linguists, that is why – true.

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