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METHODOLOGICAL JOURNAL****MENTAL ENLIGHTENMENT SCIENTIFIC –
METHODOLOGICAL JOURNAL**<http://mentaljournal-jspu.uz/index.php/mesmj/index>**MODERN VARIANTS OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND THEIR
FEATURES****Madina Yakubova**

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Abstract: This article is dedicated to the most widespread variants of the English language. Being an international language of communication, many words of former British colonies have been assimilated in English. Therefore, many variants have appeared with special features. Due to the international status of English and its usage in many areas, it is necessary to analyze the lexical, phonetic, morphological, syntactical and stylistic differences of these variants. The research on features of English variants will help to trace the process of formation of these variants, as they are not just as a means of communication, but also they contain lexical, grammatical and cultural feature of the other language.

INTRODUCTION

Today English is the official language not in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and the USA, but it also has a status of the official language in many countries as Canada, Australia, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Africa, Jamaica, etc. It is spoken by locals across the North Atlantic and the Indian Ocean. It is the first language of half a billion people and the second language of a billion and a half [2]. A few centuries ago, there was only one variant of English, which was used in Britain. But after conquest of new territories by British Empire, the English language was changed as during the conquest it evolved and merged with the local dialects in the British colonies. It caused the appearance of different variants of modern English and today there are the following major variants: British, American, Canadian, Australian, Irish, Indian, New Zealand, Chinese, African.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

English seems to be the same for all English-speaking countries only at first sight, but on closer examination each of its variants has its characteristic features. Consider the most common and widely known variants of the English language: British, American, Australian, New Zealand, Indian, Chinese, Canadian and Irish.

Nowadays, Modern English can be divided into three - conservative (the language of royalty, aristocracy and parliament), standard (the language of media and educated speakers) and advanced (the language of youth, who tend to simplify especially in vocabulary) [7]. However, two main variants of English are mostly spoken of- American and British.

The British variant of English is the official language of Great Britain. In Wales, a part of the population speaks Welsh, in Scotland Scottish, and in the North Highlands an ancient Scottish language is spoken, Gaelic. There are also several dialects, namely Northern, Central, Southwestern, South-Eastern, Scottish, Welsh and Irish [4].

It should be noted that there are a number of differences between literary language and dialect. Literary language is characterized by a complex interaction of written and spoken speech, while the dialect gravitates towards oral speech and is used in everyday communication [10]. In the Scottish variant of English there is a strong, rolling [r], instead of yes they pronounce aye, and the Scots replace you with ye, etc. In Welsh and Irish speech there is a melodious and rhythmic intonation and there are also characteristic differences in vocabulary.

American English emerged in the XVII-XVIII centuries when the British began to colonize the North American continent. At the initial stage it wasn't much different from the British variant of English, but with time emigrants arriving in America introduced their own changes in vocabulary, grammar and phonetics, and all this continued up to the XX-XXI centuries [5]. In the XIX century there was a discussion on the purity of English. As and not all settlers spoke standard English, because not only the British and the Irish came to America, but also the French, the Spanish, the Italians, the Germans, the Scandinavians, and the Slavs. For this reason, the American version was formed on the basis of spoken English and partial borrowings from these languages.

The term of Americanism was first appeared in 1781 in a speech by one of the first presidents of Princeton University, John Witherspoon [3] and represents the lexical, grammatical and phonetic features of English in the United States with comparatively slight deviations from the British literary norm. It can also include words characteristic of US political and state structure, names of animals, plants, and things related to everyday life and culture of inhabitants of the North American continent. So what are the important regional and social dialects in existing American English? [5]. There are 3 dialects in the American variant: Northern, Central and Southern. Of these the most common is the

Southern dialect, especially the Californian one, in which there is a noticeable fusion of the speech of the early British settlers and the black slaves.

Talking about pronunciation, it is interesting to note that Americans pronounce the [r] sound - lord, butter - while in British English this sound is not pronounced. The [t] sound is often voiced between vowels (latter is pronounced as ladder and tune as [tu:n] instead of [tju:n]). Moreover, spelling is also different, it is common to use “clolor” instead of “colour”, tire instead of tyre, , the suffix -ise is spelled -ize (realize, analyze), as is the past verb -t instead of -ed (learnt, dreamt). As for grammar, Americans use get-got-gotten instead of get-got-got. With yet and already they use not only the perfect tense but also the simple past tense – “Didn't you meet him yet?”, both of which are correct.

As far as vocabulary is concerned, neither the American nor the British variants of English have their own vocabulary, which nevertheless prevents us from concluding that these variants should be regarded as separate languages [7]. However, in the vocabulary of American English one can observe significant differences from its British counterpart - elevator instead of lift, patrol instead of gas, autumn instead of fall, truck instead of lorry. Americans often use conversions of nouns to verbs, e.g. water- to water, interview to interview. The legal system uses the same terms from both the British and American versions - court, justice, witness, verdict, but the British version has the word magistrate, as opposed to the American “Public”. In idioms, too, differences can be seen: in the British version – “skeleton in the cupboard” and in American English “skeleton in the wardrobe” [8]. Now an increasing number of words, formerly pure Americanisms, can also be heard in spoken and written English, this process leads to the disappearance of differences between the American and British variants.

The Canadian version of English emerged in the late 19th century thanks to Archibald Geikie, a professor at Edinburgh University. It represents a mixture of British, American, French (in 1969 French became the second official language in Canada), an Indian language and consists of 2000 lexical units called << canadisms. There are three variants of canadisms: full, partial and borrowed (mainly from French). Full canadisms are characteristic only of the inhabitants of Canada: sault-waterfall. Partial Canadisms have different meanings, e.g. <<band>> in the British version translates as a group of people and in the Canadian version as a group of Indians.

The Canadian version uses vocabulary that is not used at all in the U.S., e.g. one dollar in Canadian sounds like “loony” because it has a picture of a loon bird. It has also different pronunciation. For example, the diphthong [au] is often replaced by [u:] so the word “about” is pronounced as [abu:t]. Written Canadian retains the British spelling of the suffix “-our”- colour. “Neighbor/General Canadian” is the most widely spoken language in Canada, although there are some dialects. For example, Newfoundland has a “gnarlyaccent, Quebec has a “Frenchaccent, and Ottawa has a “Celticaccent. The Canadian dialect was used in the late 18th century by emigrants from

France and Britain and is the subject of jokes by both English and Americans, who call it ridiculous and “dirty”[9].

The Australian version of English began to form after the colonisation of the Australian continent by the British, and more specifically from 1788. As the name implies, the people of South-East England made a significant contribution to the development of Australian English, although the Aboriginal language of Australia was also quite influential in shaping the Australian version of English. A lack of suitable equivalents in the vocabulary has resulted in special “lacunae” in the Australian variant. The linguist Z.I. Popova understands by “lacuna” the absence of a name of a concept in one of the languages [9]. To fill in the gaps, the settlers sometimes had to refer to Australian Aboriginal language without a suitable word for a particular phenomenon, object or animal. (boomerang, kangaroo). Sometimes such differences lead to a situation where the British and Australian may not understand each other. For example, the British use the word milk to describe cow's milk and the Australian uses the word cow juice, (cow is cow and juice is juice) which is a rather unusual combination, not only for the British, but also for learners of English. Another example: British and Australians use the word umbrella for an umbrella, but Australians may also use the word storm-stick (storm means storm, and stick means a stick).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Lexical differences are not the only ones in British and Australian English, there is also a significant difference in pronunciation: day sounds like die, buy sounds like boy.

Despite the differences between British English and Australian English, we're also impressed with how international some Australian words have become, e.g. kangaroo, boomerang, dingo, kookaburra, the hypnotic laughing kingfisher.

There are 3 types of Australian - Cultivated Australian, closer to British and spoken by only 10% of Australians; General Australian, which is spoken by the vast majority of the population; and Broad Australian, spoken by about 30% of Australians.

Another feature of Australian English is the way Australians shorten words by adding -ie to them, for instance: breakfast is brekkie; sunglasses is “sunnies”; and chocolate is “chokkie”. Interestingly, a woman is called “Sheila” in the Australian version (possibly derived from the female English name Sheila) and a man is called “blocke”, Americans are called “seppo” and the British are called “pommy”.

The New Zealand variant of English began to form with the arrival of British colonists in New Zealand in the 19th century. The New Zealand variant was heavily influenced by Southern English, Scottish English and of course the local Maori language. New Zealand has two official languages: English and Maori. It's worth noting that unlike the Australian version of English, the New Zealand

version is cleaner. Like the Australian version of English, the New Zealand version also has three varieties: Cultivated, General, and Broad New Zealand.

As an island nation in the Southwest Pacific Ocean, New Zealand has significant differences between the North and South Island languages. For example, the RP (received pronunciation) is still regarded as prestigious, especially by residents of the agrarian and conservative South Island, in contrast to the more urbanised and industrialised North Island. Nevertheless, New Zealanders consider their country the second Britain, due to the relative purity of the New Zealand variant and its certain similarity to the classical British version of English. But the country's distance from Britain and close contact with the indigenous Maori people influenced the New Zealand English language. There is a lulling intonation in the New Zealanders' speech that was influenced by the Maori language. There is even a joke about it: «If you can't sleep, talk to a New Zealander!

It should be noted that borrowing from the Maori language into English was mainly at the early stage of colonisation, and the words borrowed were mainly those referring to flora and fauna. For example: kiwi, moa (type of bird); hapuka, moki (type of fish); rata, matai (type of tree). From the end of the 19th century to the 1970s the number of loan words from Maori language decreased. The best-known borrowings from Maori language are: totara (mahogany), kumara (sweet potato), kai (food), pakeha (foreigner), and also kiwi - the name of a local bird that has become the symbol of New Zealand and New Zealanders.

The characteristic feature of the New Zealand version is the New Zealand phrase in English - sweet as, which means great, cool, but not sweet in its original sense. This film is sweet as - This film is cool. Another peculiarity is the change in the pronunciation of the vowel sounds [Ie] (as in tear) and [ea] (as in square), they increasingly merge, for example in the words here and there, which are pronounced the same or bear and beer, rarely and really. The accent is especially strong with Maori, who use a lot of slang. For instance they pronounce: lady as laidi, water as wader, or instead of the short i they pronounce e - six as sex, which quite often causes confusion and consequently misunderstanding when communicating.

English spread to India around 1600, when Queen Elizabeth I of England signed an edict for London merchants to trade with India after founding the East India Company. Three periods can be distinguished: 1) the Christian-Missionary period (1614), because it was believed then that knowledge of English could open up access to knowledge of Western culture; 2) the period when Raja Rammahan Roy and Reginath Hari Nawalkar convinced their officials to speak to their workers in English; 3) the period when in 1765 English became spoken by the overwhelming majority of India. Currently, English is the official language in 4 states and 8 territories of India.

Hinglish is a mixture of English and South Asian languages and is used by people from India who have emigrated to the UK and USA and by Asians. It is characterised by the use of archaisms -

words that cannot be found in modern English. For example, “What is the time by your time piece? (What time is it?)” or the frequently used Hindi words “mixygrinder-food blender”. The process of linguistic contact is not one-sided and Indian loanwords such as banana, jungle, toddy and others have come into English.

Hinglish is full of Shakespeare's archaisms, bazaar shouts, Indian litigious jargon and it is not pure English, but it is somewhat similar to the English spoken by Shakespeare, Joyce and Kipling. [11] Furthermore, Hinglish is characterised by peculiar pronunciation and lots of slang words with a lack of adequate grammar, so in the Indian version the sentence “Has she done what I told?” looks like “Woman she finished what I said?” [10].

During the apartheid regime (1948-1994) South Africa had 2 official languages - English and Afrikaans (a variant with admixtures of French, German, Portuguese and Malay). However, the black population of South Africa preferred to speak English, which became the language of progress and prestige for them, considering Afrikaans the language of the oppressor.

Now in South Africa, English is widely used in the media, business, finance, science and education, although some people continue to use dialects. There are the following variations of this variant: 1) White South African English, which retains the British pronunciation 2) Black South African English, the language of the local population 3) Indian variant of African English, which is spoken by descendants of Indian emigrants (Basilect, mesolect, acrolect and others all with similarities to the colonial version). Here are some more examples of the African version of English: “bakkie” (pick-up), “takkies” (trainers), “ya” (yes). Also, the letter “g” is pronounced as “x”.

CONCLUSIONS.

The current has only provided a brief overview of the main phonetic, lexical and grammatical features of the world's best-known English variants. As the international and most studied language in the world, English is the basic, standard language from which numerous variants have been formed and spread. With the expansion of foreign economic, educational, scientific, diplomatic and industrial relations, as well as with the development of tourism and international relations, it has become necessary to become more familiar with the variants of the English language discussed in this article. Thanks to the numerous variants of the English language we have a unique opportunity to study the diversity of cultures not only of the former English colonies, but also of Great Britain itself; this will allow us to perceive English not just as a tool or means of communication, but will significantly expand our borders of perception as a language with its own distinctive characteristic features.

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