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П.И. Рубцов, аспирант УГЛТУ

Р.С. Чекотин, аспирант УГЛТУ

Д.А. Васильева, ст. преподаватель УГЛТУ

**ОТЛИЧИЕ АМЕРИКАНСКОГО И БРИТАНСКОГО
ВАРИАНТОВ АНГЛИЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКА: ПОНИМАНИЕ
И ИСПОЛЬЗОВАНИЕ В ПРОФЕССИОНАЛЬНОЙ СРЕДЕ**

Данная статья посвящена проблемам изучения и перевода, рассматриваются различия между британским и американским английским. Различия проявляются в лексике, произношении и грамматике. Американский английский и британский английский являются всего лишь вариантами одного и того же языка. В них больше сходства чем различий, особенно для носителей языка, но есть несколько моментов (в британской и американской вариациях), которые можно было бы обсудить.

This article is devoted to the problems for studying and translation dealt with the differences between British English and American English. The differences are evident in vocabulary, pronunciation, and grammar. American English and British English are just variants of the same English language. There are more similarities than differences between them especially for native speakers, but there are several points in British and American varieties which could be discussed.

Ключевые слова: британский английский, американский английский, словарный запас, произношение, грамматика, идиомы, правописание.

Key words: *british English, american English, vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar, idioms, spelling.*

England and America are two countries separated by a common language.

George Bernard Shaw

This quotation by the outstanding playwright still sounds true today and differences between British and American English remain [1]. Native speakers of both variants do not have a lot of problems communicating with each another. But learners of English as a foreign language have several problems in studying and translation.

Vocabulary

The most evident differences between British and American English are in vocabulary.

First, misunderstandings take place when the same word has different meanings in the two varieties, for example: “pants” (Brit.) = underwear, “pants” (Amer.) = trousers. So if an American doctor told a British patient to “remove his pants”, the doctor might be a little surprised by the result! (mad British: = crazy; mad American: = angry). In other cases, the languages have different terms for the same thing. Here are some common examples (Brit vs. Amer):

British English

shop
bill
bin
biscuit
boot
car park
lift
full stop
pram, pushchair
engaged

American English

store
check
trash can
cookie
trunk (of a car)
parking lot
elevator
period
baby carriage
busy

Secondly, very often, different words are used for the same idea (British: lorry = American: truck). Here are some more examples below [2, 3]:

British English

American English

aeroplane	airplane
flat,	apartment
tin, can	can
sweets	candy
biscuit	cookie, cracker
pedestrian/zebra crossing	crosswalk
stupid	dumb
lift	elevator
rubber,	eraser
autumn	fall
ground floor, first floor, etc.	first floor, second floor, etc.
torch	flashlight
chips	french fries
rubbish	garbage, trash
petrol	gas
crossroads	intersection
nasty	mean
film	movie, film
single (ticket)	one-way (ticket)
car park	parking lot
railway	railroad
timetable	schedule,
pavement	sidewalk
trainers (= sports shoes)	sneakers
mean (opposite of 'generous)	stingy
underground	subway
van, lorry	truck
fortnight, two weeks	two weeks
holiday(s)	vacation
windscreen (on a car)	windshield
zed (the name of the letter 'z')	zee
zip	zipper

Idioms

There are also differences between idioms in the two varieties.

British English

American English

a storm in a teacup

a tempest in a teapot

sweep under the carpet	sweep under the rug
touch wood	knock on wood
see the wood for the trees	see the forest for the trees
put a spanner in the works	throw a (monkey) wrench
skeleton in the cupboard	skeleton in the closet
blow one's own trumpet	blow (or toot) one's own horn
a drop in the ocean	a drop in the bucket, a spit in the ocean
flogging a dead horse	beating a dead horse

British and American English can use certain prepositions differently as in the examples below:

British English

American English

check something	check something (out)
different from/to	different than
live in X street	live on X street
Monday to Friday	Monday through Friday
in a team	on a team
at the weekend	on the weekend
ten past four	ten after/past four (time)
ten to four	ten to/of/before/till four
talk to John	talk with John

Another area of visible contrast is spelling. In American English the tendency is to simplify spelling [4]. In 1828, Noah Webster published *an American dictionary of the English language*, in which the spelling of many words was introduced in simplified forms. It was realized with the aim of making American English more logical in its reading and pronunciation. British English contains a vast number of words of French origin, the spellings of which contain additional letters that are not pronounced but they are written. American English simplifies words of this kind, where British English leaves them unchanged.

Here are some common examples of spelling differences.

A number of words ending *-our* in British English have or in American English (E. g. colour/color, behaviour/behavior, favourite/favorite, labour/labor, neighbour/neighbor).

Some words ending *-re* in British English have *-er* in American English (E. g. centre/center, theatre/theater, litre/liter, metre/meter, fibre/fiber).

Many verbs which ending *-ise* in British English can be spelt in American English with *-ize* (E. g. realise/ realize, analyse/analyze, apologise/apologize, colonise/colonize).

Words ending *-ogue* in British English have *-og* in American English (E. g. dialogue/dialog, catalogue/catalog, monologue/monolog).

Suffix *-ence* in British English is spelt *-ense* in American English (E. g. defence/defense, pretence/pretense).

Some other words' endings in British English have been regularized in American English, such as *-mme* (programme) and *-m* (program).

Some of the commonest words with different forms are the following:

British English

American English

aluminium

aluminum

enrol

enroll

jewellery

jewelry

cheque

cheque

tyre

tire

There are a few differences of grammar and spelling, and rather more differences of vocabulary and idioms. Modern British English is heavily influenced by American English, so some contrasts are disappearing. Pronunciation is sometimes very different, but most American and British speakers can understand each other easily [5].

Grammar

In terms of grammar, British and American English are almost identical with just minor differences.

Present Perfect and Past Simple

American English has a tendency to replace complex tenses with simple ones where possible, for example, present perfect with past simple as in: "Have you phoned her yet?" (Brit.) vs. "Did you phone her yet?" (Amer.). Adverbs such as yet/ever/already/just are commonly used in the past simple in American English and not the present perfect. Take a look at some further examples (Brit. vs Amer.):

British English

American English

He's eaten too much.

He ate too much (now he's feeling sick).

Have you ever been to France?

Did you ever go to France?

I haven't read this book yet.

I didn't read this book yet.

Shall

The British use will for the future, but they can also use shall in the first person.

E. g.

I will/I shall be here tomorrow.

The British use shall to make an offer.

E. g.

Shall I make the coffee?

The British can use Shall we...? for a suggestion.

E. g.

Shall we go for a walk?

Will

Americans do not normally use shall for the future.

E. g.

I will be here tomorrow.

Americans normally use should.

E. g.

Should I make the coffee?

Americans do not normally use shall in suggestions.

E. g.

How about a walk?

Regular verbs

In the past tense, some verbs can have either an irregular *-t* ending or the regular *-ed* ending. These verbs are *burn, learn, smell, spell, spill* and *spoil*.

The British prefer the *-t* ending, although *-ed* is also possible.

E. g.

They burnt/burned the old sofa.

You've spelt/spelled this word wrong.

Americans normally use the *-ed* ending.

E. g.

They burned the old sofa.

You've spelled this word wrong.

However, we say E. g. a slice of burnt toast in both British and American English. In Britain the verbs *dream, lean* and *leap* can be regular, or they can have a *-t* ending.

E. g.

I dreamt/dreamed about you.

E. g.

I dreamed about you.

These three forms ending in *-t* have the vowel sound /e/. For example, *dreamt* is pronounced /dremt/, and *dreamed* is pronounced /drimd/.

The verb *dive* is regular in Britain but can be irregular in the US.

E. g.

Craig dived into the water.

E. g.

Craig dived/dove into the water.

Can't and must not

We use *must* when we realize that something is certainly true. We use *can't* when we realize that something is impossible. But in British and American English have some differences.

The British use can't to say that something is impossible. Americans can also use must not to say that something is impossible.

E. g.

I rang, but there's no reply.

They can't be at home.

E. g.

I called, but there's no reply.

They can't be at home /

They must not be home.

Here are examples of the most important differences [6, 7].

Seem, look, etc.

In British English there can be a noun (E. g. pilot) after appear, feel, look, seem and sound.

E. g.

She seemed (to be) a good pilot.

Americans do not say

She seemed a good pilot.

They use to be or like after these verbs.

E. g.

She seemed to be a good pilot.

The British use the Present Perfect for recent actions, and especially with just, already and yet.

E. g.

Bob has washed the dishes, look.

Americans can use either the Present Perfect or the Past Simple in these sentences.

E. g.

Bob has washed the dishes, look.

The British normally use the Present Perfect with ever and never, not the Past Simple.

E. g.

Have you ever played cricket?

Americans normally use the Past Simple with ever and never, but the Present Perfect is possible.

E. g.

Did you ever play baseball?

Got and gotten

Both have and have got are used in Britain and in the US.

He has a lot of money / He's got a lot of money (= he is rich).

The British do not use gotten.

In the US, have gotten expresses an action.

E. g.

He's made a lot of money from his business activities.

E. g.

He's gotten/made a lot of money from his business activities.

Americans also use gotten meaning 'become'.

E. g.

Your driving has got better.

E. g.

Your driving has gotten better.

Negatives and questions with have

In Britain there are two different structures. Americans normally use the auxiliary do.

E. g.

I have no (got) enough time.

E. g.

I don't have enough time.

In the past tense, did is usual in both countries. We didn't have tickets.

Emphatic do

The British can use do with an imperative for emphasis. Do with an imperative is less common in the US.

E. g.

Do have a piece of cake.

E. g.

Have a piece of cake.

Do for an action

The British can use do to refer to an action already mentioned. Americans do not use do in this way.

E. g.

I don't practise as often as I should (do).

E. g.

I don't practice as often as I should.

Question tags

Both the British and the Americans can use question tags when talking about facts. But in general Americans use tags much less often than the British. They do not use tags to persuade or to argue. A sentence like "You aren't listening to me, are you?" is British but not American. But Americans often use right and OK as tags.

E. g.:

In Britain: I'll bring the luggage in, shall I?

In the US: I'll bring the baggage in, OK?

Numbers

The British use *and* between hundred and the rest of the number. Americans can leave out *and*.

E. g.

Six hundred and twenty

E. g.

Six hundred twenty

OR six hundred and twenty

Adjectives and adverbs

In informal speech, we can sometimes use an adjective form instead of an adverb. Americans do this more than the British.

E. g.:

British English

We had some really nice weather.

It certainly doesn't make things any easier.

American English

We had some really nice/some real nice weather.

It certainly/sure doesn't make things any easier.

Prepositions

There are some differences in prepositions.

British English

round/around the village
towards/toward the west
outside the town
in Bond Street
at the weekend, at weekends
stay at home
a player in the team
ten minutes past four
twenty to seven
write to me
talk to someone
meet someone

American English

around the village
toward the west
outside the town/outside of the town
on Fifth Avenue
on the weekend, on weekends
stay home
a player on the team
ten minutes after four
twenty to/of seven
write me/write to me
talk to/with someone
meet with someone

The subjunctive

We can use expressions like I suggest that ... and It's important that ... to talk about what we want to happen. Look at these examples.

The British normally use the Present Simple or should. (They use the subjunctive only in formal English.)

E. g.

Tim's parents have suggested that he gets a job/that he should get a job.

Americans normally use a form called the 'subjunctive'.

E. g.

Tim's parents have suggested that he get a job.

Dates

There is a number of different ways of writing and saying dates, but these are the most common.

E. g.

In Britain: 23 June, 'the twenty-third of June', 'June the twenty-third'.

In the US: June 23 'June twenty-third'.

The British write 23.6.98, and Americans write 6.23.98.

Pronunciation

As American English is just a variant of English it mainly retains a sound grounding in the English language, while having some features [8].

The diphthong [əʊ] is pronounced with greater lip rounding than in British English.

The sound [e] is pronounced more openly and is reminiscent of the sound [ε]. In British English the word is pronounced again [ə'gen], as in the American version [ə'gen] [ə'geɪn].

The sound [ju:] after consonants usually has a weakly pronounced [j], which in the speech of many Americans almost disappears and the words student, new, duty sound like [stu:dent], [nu:], [`du:ti].

The vowel [ɒ] sounds like [a] in the diphthongs [ai], [au] as the core have a very forward sound [ʌ], which almost coincides with [æ]. In SBE we telling Laboratory [lə'brɔ ə tri], and in Americans ['læbrətɔ ri].

Instead the vowel [a:] in words like class, plant, answer to pronounce the sound [æ].

American English pronunciation is characterized by nasal vowels.

The sound [r] is pronounced in the middle of a word, and in the end, why the speech of Americans sounds more abruptly, than the speech of the British. For example, in SBE leisure ['leɜə], but in Americans version ['leɜər] (see table).

An example of some differences

Word	Americans pronunciation	British Pronunciation
Laboratory	['læbrətɔri]	[lə'brɔə tri]
Secretary	['sek rə teri]	['sek rə tri]
Leisure	['leɜər]	['leɜə]
Schedule	['skedju:l]	['jed ju:l]
Dynasty	['daɪnə sti]	['dɪnəsti]
Dance	[dæns]	[da:ns]
Clerk	[klɜ:rk]	[kla:rk]
Ate	[eɪt]	[et]
Ballet	[bæ'lei]	['bæ lei]

Conclusion

These two varieties of English are very similar. However, the differences are there, and they need to remember communicating with native speakers. For example, the same word has different meanings (British:

mad = crazy; American: mad = angry). Also, there are a few differences of grammar and spelling, and rather more differences of vocabulary and idioms. Knowledge of these differences will help understand any English variant correctly.

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Н.Н. Кириллович, ст. преподаватель УГЛТУ

Е.Н. Глушкова, ст. преподаватель УГЛТУ

ВОЗМОЖНОСТИ ИСПОЛЬЗОВАНИЯ ВИДЕО ПРИ ОБУЧЕНИИ ИНОСТРАННЫМ ЯЗЫКАМ В ТЕХНИЧЕСКОМ ВУЗЕ

В данной статье говорится о том, как использовать видео при обучении иностранным языкам. Авторы обращают внимание на многообразие видеоматериалов, на различные возможности применения видеороликов и на эффективность их использования.

The article says how to use video for foreign language teaching. The authors pay attention to the variety of video materials, different possibilities of video clips using and effectiveness of their uses.