

THE DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICAN ENGLISH: A RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS

Anna Maksymova

PhD, Senior Lecturer, Dnipropetrovsk State University of Ukraine, Ukraine

e-mail: maximova250@gmail.com, orcid.org/0000-0002-8332-4988

Summary

The aim of this paper is to identify the influence of the British population and other nations on the formation of the American English language.

Dissatisfaction with the church, living conditions in England led to the search for another, more ideal place to live. Coming to the territories of America, the British did not have the perfect British pronunciation, as a result of which dialects prevailed in this territory.

In America, preserving the canonical Old English language, American English under the influence of life circumstances, the growing number of emigrants from different countries, and climatic conditions began to gradually change. After the declaration of independence in the USA, the new words were very different from British English. Regionalization influenced the formation of idioms (fixed expressions) that received a regional tone. Phrases that from the point of view of British English are unacceptable and are a complete violation of English grammar are easily used in the USA and are considered acceptable.

The declaration of independence of the United States, obtaining political freedom by citizens gave the opportunity to freely use sounds, words, and expressions. However, in general, the American continent is making its own changes in the development of the English language, which are not perceived by the British. The close economic connection between the countries has prevented radical changes in the American English language and promotes intercultural exchange between the countries.

Key words: American pronunciation, international language, tendency, sounds, Britain English, writing.

DOI <https://doi.org/10.23856/6209>

1. Introduction

The Old English language was brought by emigrants to the American continent and spread throughout the territory. However, on the American continent, Old English received a new life and began to develop according to American traditions, as a result of which the British English language received a new direction of development. The purpose of the work is to identify the influence of the British population and other nations on the formation of the American English language. Language in today's world is a dynamic system that develops according to internal and external canons, which is influenced by global development (views, values of other states). The purpose of this work is to determine the rules and place of American English in the world. During the study of phraseological units of the American English language, the inductive (when describing the American English language) and the comparative method (when we analyzed words, sounds in American English and British English) were used. The modeling method helped predict the directions of development of American English phraseology.

American English was formed in the 20th century, which was reflected in word formation and spelling. A similar situation actualizes the need to study American English. Yu. A. Zatsny, I. K. Bilodid, A. V. Botsman, L. A. Bulakhovskyi, A. Bengt, B. Harald, A. P. Cowie, M. Eve-raert, Erik-Jan van der Linden, A. Schenk, R. Schrader, R. Glaser, S. Bally contributed to the development of American English language. For the best understanding of formation American English we should know the process of its developing.

2. Appearing old English in American territories

Despite the increasing amount of research within phraseology in the past fifty years, and the consequent improvement regarding the delimitation of the units that constitute its object of study, there seems to be still a great diversity of criteria. This hinders the consolidation of a systematic and scientific study of this topic (*Toffol, 2011:5*).

The American linguist Max Weinreich once jokingly said that "a language is a dialect, the characteristic feature of which is the presence of an army and a navy", arguing that the perception of a particular speech as a separate language or dialect is influenced by the political factor.

The United States has been an independent country for over two centuries, and its army and navy are considered the most powerful in the world. Despite the country's leadership in many areas, American English has not become a separate language. To understand these processes, a retrospective analysis is required. Analysis of the processes of the formation of American English will provide an understanding of the current linguistic phenomena occurring in the language.

In the middle of the 17th century, Britons who had a thirst for travel went to populate the American land, or everything was not right in Great Britain, or ordinary Britons sailed to America without knowing proper English. That is, these are people who, in their development, are admirers of their culture and admire the culture of other countries. Settlers from Britain were not fans of the Anglican Church. So, dissatisfaction with the church, living conditions in England led to the search for another, more ideal place to live. Coming to the territories of America, the British did not have the perfect British pronunciation, as a result of which dialects prevailed in this territory.

Having large American territories, the cultivation of tobacco began, the large harvests of which began to attract even more workers, people with money and needed a huge number of slaves. Consequently, the formation of American English was influenced by the opportunities that opened up to the newcomers.

From that point on, British English and American English began to develop in their own way. In American territory, the British spoke a mixture of dialects using correct and incorrect English. At that time, the literary language in the 17th century in America was a mixture of English languages.

3. The process of transformation English in the USA

During the development of the American territories, British English developed and changed dynamically, while American English underwent the least change. During the Revolutionary War between England and America, the British pronounced the entire "r" sound in a word, regardless of the place in the word. King George III and George Washington pronounced

the words *after*, *ask*, *dance*, *glass* and *path* the same way, that is, the letter *a* sounded like *e*, as in the words *bat* and *rat*.

In these words, the modern British pronunciation of the letter *a* sounds like *e*, but previously such a pronunciation was considered the lowest class pronunciation.

At the same time as pronunciation, the use of words and expressions in Great Britain and North America began to change.

Bill Bryson in *Made in America: An Informal History of English in the United States* listed words that the English stopped using and Americans continued to use.

Worthy of attention are British Eng. *hut* (Amer. Eng. *cabin*), Brit. Eng. *mistake* (Amer. Eng. *bug*), Brit. Eng. *pack of cards* (Amer. Eng. *deck of cards*), Brit. Eng. *ax* (Amer. Eng. *hatcher*), Brit. Eng. *litter* (American Eng. *trash*).

American English has preserved the past participle form to this day. In particular, in American English, the past tense form of the verb *got* from the British verb *get* is quite common *gotten*, *fall* in Amer. English and *autumn* and in the UK English.

In Amer. English the word *mad* is used in the sense of angry, although in Brit. English it's crazy. By the way, the word *sick* is in Amer. English. The word *sick* in American English has a more general meaning in contrast to Eng. *ill*.

Preserving the canonical Old English language in America, American English gradually began to change under the influence of life circumstances, the growing number of emigrants from different countries, and climatic conditions.

In the initial stages of the formation of the American English language, from the Spanish language in the American language as *canyon*, *plateau*, *coyote*, *coyote*, *tornado*, *tornado*, *mesa*.

From French, words like *prairie*, *bureau*, and *levee* came into American English.

Bluff, *boss* and *waffle* came from Dutch, and German gave *pretzel*, *sauerkraut*.

African slave languages also contributed, including *goober*, *jambalaya*, and *gumbo*.

Later groups of immigrants brought even more words. And many words were borrowed from indigenous cultures, for example, *moose*, *raccoon*, *opossum*, *skunk*, *squash*, *toboggan*.

With the emergence of American state bodies and authorities, new words appeared – *congress*, *senate*, and *assembly*.

And some words were formed from already existing bases by combination – *rattlesnake* (rattle+snake), *bluegrass* (blue+grass), *bobcat* (bob+cat), and later – *sidewalk* (side+walk) (British English *pavement*), *skyscraper* (British English *tower block*) and *drugstore* (British English *chemist's*).

Summarizing the above, after the declaration of independence in the USA, the new words were very different from British English. English cars have a *boot* and a *bonnet*, while American cars have a *trunk* and a *hood*, respectively.

At the early stage of colonists' residence in America, the language was not much different from Old English in Great Britain. Residents from different parts of Great Britain came to the American continent, speaking different dialects, which generally influenced the formation of the American English language. On the one hand, the prevalence of the Old English language, although with different dialects, united people, and on the other hand, it gave the language a different color and shades. The USA is quite a large country, and where emigrants settled, the language became local.

Given the vast territory of the USA, dialects began to appear in the regions, in particular, similar processes are characteristic of the present-day USA. By analogy, in the USA and Great Britain, person easily turns into *parson*, *frightfully* into *fraffly*.

Regionalization influenced the formation of idioms (fixed expressions) that received a regional tone. Phrases that are unacceptable in terms of British English and are a complete violation of English grammar are easily used in the US and are considered acceptable "I might do that", "Anymore, we do it this way" and "So don't I".

The declaration of independence of the USA and the obtaining of political freedom by citizens gave the opportunity to freely use sounds, words, and expressions. Since the Americans achieved political freedom, they felt that they had the right, even the obligation, to freely use their language.

4. Creation first American dictionaries

American linguist and lexicographer Noah Webster wrote in his "Treatise on the English Language" in 1791: "As an independent nation, honor requires us to have our own system both in government and language." However, not all Americans supported the idea of developing their own language. In 1800, Caleb Alexander published the "Columbia English Dictionary", one reviewer wrote that it was a disgrace to the language and a collection of disgusting words invented by rascals from every part of the United States.

During the 19th century, there was a great battle of American English dictionaries – between the pro-American Webster (published in 1818) and the British approach of Nathaniel Worcester (the first dictionary was published in 1830).

Webster's and Worcester's dictionaries were equally popular with the people. However, famous people of the time tended to use Nathaniel Worcester's dictionary, notably writers Longfellow and Hawthorne, and in particular Noah Webster's distant relative, Nathaniel Webster, also used a pro-British dictionary.

Webster's Dictionary won because no one had heard of Worcester's Dictionary. The desire to have one's American identity, originality won. Indeed, the British did not like it and began to develop the language in the opposite direction than the Americans.

Noah Webster, in his radical dictionary, tried to reform the spelling of words. The author of the dictionary proposed to write bred instead of bread, giv instead of give, meen instead of mean, speke instead of speak, karacter instead of character, ake instead of ache, tung instead of tongue. tongue". In general, Noah Webster suggested writing words as they are spoken, avoiding unpronounceable letters. The above changes in vocabulary have been reversed in the American orthography.

Webster generalized the usage in American and British English by using instead of color and color or naturalise and naturalize. After the Americans actively used the second option, the British began to use the first option.

Noah Webster's other grammatical suggestions in writing words deserve attention, by the way suggested *center* instead of *centre*, *defense* – *defence*, *connection* – *connexion*, and *checker* and *masque* – *check* and *mask*. The changes initiated by the author of the dictionary came into use among Americans. Proposed changes to drop the *k* in words like *magick*, *musick* and *logick* were adopted by the Americans and adopted by the British.

Summarizing the above, the British despise the language changes proposed on the American continent. Although the Americans and British have accepted to drop the letter *k* in the words *magick*, *musick* and *logick*. However, in general, the American continent is making its own changes in the development of the English language, which are not perceived by the British. Today's American English is based on British English, while many words have been added

to the development of American English, including *belittle*, *caucus*, *prairie*, *cloudburst*, *blizzard*, *cafeteria*, *cocktail*, *talented*, *reliable*, and *influential*.

Trade between Great Britain and the USA is constant and there is a systematic exchange of culture and cultural values. The close economic ties between the countries prevented radical changes in American English and facilitated the exchange of words. At the same time, for Americans, Great Britain is the center of English culture, where Americans consider it obligatory to come and visit outstanding places.

Regions of the United States where the language is significantly different from English do not have such significant political power, and their language is not accepted in the national American culture. New York and other leading US cities, as well as universities, follow a version of English that is almost indistinguishable from Standard British English. American English is the language of business, commerce, and advertising.

Over the past decade, the issues of advertising, advertising messages, texts, and advertising discourse, in general, have been the subject of numerous studies. It is hard to imagine a modern society without advertising. Representing a certain type of social interaction, advertising covers almost all spheres of life in modern society, related to various types of human activity. Advertising text and advertising discourse are studied from the standpoint of sociolinguistics, linguoculturology, psycholinguistics, and media linguistics. In addition to informing the audience about objects and events, advertising serves as a tool for attracting and retaining the audience's attention, exerting a certain influence (using various strategies and tactics), namely, language influence and inducing any actions (*Kapral, Usova, Maksymova, Yefymenko, Boyko, 2023*).

5. Conclusions

American English is a variant of English, but based on the common English language, American English began to develop according to its own canons. Emigrants from the Old World brought the Old English language to the American territories. In the early stages of the formation of the USA, the Old English language did not change, but on the British continent there were changes in the language. After the declaration of independence of the USA, the Old English language received a new life under the influence of other emigrants, the local population, and the climate. In general, the British did not accept the changes brought to the language on the American continent, realizing that the arriving emigrants, the British, were not sufficiently educated in Great Britain. Mostly people who were poor or had problems in England went to the American continent. For this reason, Noah Webster's dictionary published in the USA was criticized for being too radical in terms of pronunciation and spelling, but it was still used by ordinary Americans.

The phraseological stock of American English will be constantly filled with new phraseological expressions. Previously, at the beginning of the 20th century, the USA was the only leading country, which determined the only influence on the development of the phraseological stock of American English. China's growing role has influenced the phraseology of American English through the creation of new global technical solutions, gadgets, food, toys, and leisure. Prospects for further scientific research are the study of modern American English in the 21st century.

References

1. Kapral I., Usova I., Maksymova A., Yefymenko T. Boyko S. (2023) *Peculiarities of Advertising Information Representation in the English-Language Mass Media Discourse*. *World Journal of English Language*. *Mol.* 13(4)Sciedu Press, pages 1–37 [Scopus]
2. Toffol M. (2011) *An English-Spanish contrastive analysis of culturally loaded phraseological units containing kingship terms*: Master Dissertation: Faculty of English Philology. Madrid.