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The English character

The English people for many centuries had a very distinct character from the rest of the world do to the location of their country. They formed an easily recognizable personality. They are highly regarded for their unique sense of humor. There are different descriptions of a character of an average Englishman, but their self-satisfaction and serene sense of superiority appears in almost all descriptions, an average Englishman is prideful individual. Most foreign authors agree that English people display public order and tolerance even in a crisis There is also a contrast in democracy and a importance of individual, and economic inequalities that are a part of English life. Reputation of English people is also in question as they are known as the nation of shopkeepers and practical people. They are also known for their coldness and reserve.

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In conclusion, I would say even if British people are really different from the rest of the world getting to know them better will reveal traits common to all people. I believe that most English speaking nations have some common traits.

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Chronemic Features of the English-speaking and Spanish-speaking Linguacultures

In the current period of active international cooperation development, it has become more than ever essential to study different aspects of cross-cultural communication. One of them is chronemics, whose features can be seen while comparing various linguacultures.

For Anglophones, “time is money”, which is said to emphasize that it’s better to do things as quickly as possible and not to waste time, because the latter is a valuable resource and could be used to earn money [3, 4]. Hispanophones say “el tiempo es oro” (time is gold) inviting you to be diligent and reminding you of the shortness of life and the necessity of making the most of the time you are given [2]. Thus, in both of the linguacultures, time is perceived as a precious thing, but English-speaking people regard it as a business resource, while Spanish-speaking ones consider it among the values in life.

The fact that the latest time by which something should be finished is called a deadline by Anglophones and a closing date (*una fecha tope, una fecha límite*) by Hispanophones suggests that English-speakers are more inclined to adhere to their schedule. While doing deals, Spanish-speakers, in their turn, frequently use the word ‘*mañana*’ (having a wide range of interpretations: from ‘tomorrow’ to ‘never’ [1]) which indicates their propensity for procrastination. As a result, there are diverse attitudes towards punctuality in the two linguacultures: Anglophones believe it to be “the soul of business”, whereas Hispanophones prefer being late, but not sleepy (“*tarde, pero sin sueño*”).

After analyzing some lexical units, we can say that chronemic features of different linguacultures can be found in verbal means of communication. It is quite necessary and important to continue studying the subject to reduce difficulties in cross-cultural communication.

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Higher Education in Russia and America

The role of education in the modern world cannot be underestimated because it is necessary for the individual and for the development of the country. Today to get higher education or have a certificate which allows you to work in this or that sphere is not enough – you should be able to apply your knowledge in practice that is important for social and economic development.

In various rankings published in the West, Russian universities, as a rule, are not included in the TOP 100 leading universities in the world. However, it is well known that the graduates of Russian universities such as Moscow State University or Moscow Engineering Physics Institute are always welcome to work abroad. The list of such universities is not larger, however, it confirms that these rankings are quite arbitrary. But we have to admit that the top 50 universities in the global rankings are, as a rule, American leading research universities. They are Harvard, Caltech, Stanford, Princeton, Berkeley and Penn.

The education systems of Russia and the United States are quite different.

US university students have to make their schedule. They choose convenient time for classes and professors whose lectures they want to attend. As senior students make their schedule first, freshmen often have to get eight-hour morning lectures. In Russian, students cannot change their schedule whether it is convenient or not. But they get through all the pleasures and hardships of student life together, whereas in American universities you take classes with different students every time.

Many students in the United States prefer to get higher education away from home. However, about ninety percent of students live in the dorms. In the campus, they go in for sports, creativity and social activities. That similarity of interest unites American students. Russian students also often choose the university away from home. But in our country, a lot of students prefer renting a flat or room to living in dormitories.

The Russian system of education focuses on systematic development of students' knowledge whereas the aim of American educational system is to form an independent, self-determined personality.

According to statistics, American students study three or four subjects during a semester. Russian students are considered to be overloaded with study because the number of subjects they study is four times more than that in America.

In Russian students have 15 – 16 classes a week which is twice less than in American universities. It means that American students spend much more time for out-of-class work which plays an important part in education.

In America, higher education is very expensive – much more expensive than in Russian universities. One of the most important criteria taken into consideration is the cost of education. American students often get a job during their holidays or make money washing dishes in fast-food restaurants or doing some other work.

As for the assessment system, in the US students may get A, B, C, D or F marks where A means a constantly high level of knowledge and D – the minimum one. B and C are somewhere in between. To continue education after graduation from school, you must get A or B marks. In Russia, university students may get excellent, good, satisfactory or poor mark or just 'passed' or 'failed'.

Nowadays, it is difficult to do without higher education because any field of human activity requires certain skills and abilities. Students life is the best years for Russian and American students; it's time when our life greatly changes. That's what unites our countries.

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The category of time in Russian and American cultures

This work is devoted to research into the key features of the perception of time in American and Russian cultures. If you are going to communicate with a representative of another country, you must consider the cultural context of the perception of time.

Communication and understanding of people largely depends on their attitude to time and on which lexical means they use. They depend on the culture in which a speaker was brought up and they usually become the cause of serious misunderstandings, which can happen with English and Russian speakers.

People from different countries are in disagreement on the meaning of such a simple expression as «just a minute». A minute is a unit of time, consisting of 60 seconds, but Russians attach a different meaning to the analogous Russian expression «одну минутку». There is an idea of a fixed concept of time in America and a fluid concept of time in Russia. Time is an extendable concept in Russia. For Russians, time is measured more in days, weeks or months than in minutes or hours.

Edward Hall, an American anthropologist and cross-cultural researcher, categorized cultures by their members' attitude to the concept of time. According to his theory, there can be monochronous and polychronous cultures. People from monochronous cultures usually do one thing at a time. One of these countries is the USA. In polychronous cultures human interaction is valued over time and material things. Russia is one such culture.

«Time is money» is a phrase coined by Benjamin Franklin. Yes, time is money for some nationalities, along with punctuality and virtue. Americans prefer to negotiate an agreement speedily, schedule an early start on the vertue, begin on time, meet production deadlines, complete the work as promptly as possible, and show early results or profit. On the other hand, Russians are notoriously late. They need more time to get organized and there can be a lot of delays and postponements. They are less concerned with immediate results but, of course, the job will be completed .

This fatalistic fear to plan for the future and insecurity came from the Soviet Union. It reinforced the native Russian disrespect for time because there was no incentive to do things on time. In Russia time is not a vital commodity and people do not fear about accepting delays. They are accustomed to contemplating. And Americans do not understand that way of living because they believe that they manage events and can foresee and plan out the future. If there are cooperative efforts, there will be some difficulties because of such divergent views of time. The result will be obtained only after considerable prodding from the American side.

But it must be admitted that Russian businessmen began to adopt the American punctuality in regard to business appointments. If a business associate is late because he has got into terrible traffic, his explanations are met with extreme disapproval. It is assumed that people have to take road accidents and other obstacles into account and to head to a meeting beforehand.

As far as ordinary life is concerned, people in America do not need to call up the day before a meeting to check the time or the place. Russians usually use one vague verb – «созвониться», which has no exact equivalent in the English language. An American cannot understand if he has to call or his interlocutor has to. What is the reason for this proposal? An American may think that his interlocutor cannot inform him of fixed time of the meeting or whether he will come or not. In English there are two ways to say it. They are «we will call each other» and a colloquial version «we will be in touch». If a Russian insists on «the control call» (calling to confirm), the best way to say about it is to say «I will call you a day before just in case anything unexpected comes up to an American».

It is important to be frugal with your own and other people's time. From an American ethics' viewpoint it is impolite to invite guests on the same day or one hour before lunch or to go uninvited to someone's house. It represents the total disregard to the daily routine of others. That's why it is difficult to find a similar English equivalent to the common expression in Russia «заглянуть на огонек» - «to drop in on the spur of the moment, without calling».

In this way, one of the most important problems which can suddenly come with talking to people brought up in different countries, is the various attitudes to time. Understanding different points of views and positions promotes good cross-cultural communication.

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What is Russia for foreigners?

Russia attracts and pushes away foreigners at the same time. Not everyone is ready to visit the country of bears and nested dolls even if they have enough money. All the same, some people who decide to visit our country will meet certain difficulties.

Foreigners can think that all Russians are rough and aggressive, especially in the large Russian cities. It seems that the people surrounding them don't notice anything near them and, look at each other with a blank look and never smile. Foreigners can understand their severe expressions as aggression and bad temper. Actually, Russians smile only when they really want to. For example, if they hear something funny or pleasant. Sometimes Russians can seem tactless. They can ask a person they just met a private matter. Some people like to interfere with other's lives and even to give advice. Especially this concerns elderly people who can easily express negative opinions on the appearance or behavior of a stranger. Moreover, they will even insist that the person listened to their advice and follows it by all means.

Russians don't observe personal space at all. One Englishwoman living in Moscow for several years, remembers with a smile: "In Great Britain passersby give way to each other kindly. And if suddenly someone faces a stranger, then both of them begin to apologize. In Moscow there is a constant crush. People got used to being pushed for a long time, therefore nobody apologizes". Foreign mass media advise men to be especially careful. In their opinion, Russians welcome foreign guests in a big way and will use their best efforts to make sure that the guest was satisfied. In their opinion, "contentment" means a plentiful binge after which the next day many wake up under a table. That's why foreign mass media carefully warn: "Never underestimate the force of Russian vodka, otherwise you will wake up not under a table, but under a hospital bed". In Russia corruption is one of the most serious problems. Many Russians claim that they hate "взяточничество". However it's hardly possible to find a person who has never given bribes or gifts in our country. Russians don't see anything shameful in giving a gift to "the necessary person". Usually they present to men a bottle of expensive vodka, whisky or liqueur, to women - a bouquet of flowers, box of chocolates or perfume. Foreigners are advised to note this delicate detail of the Russian reality. Foreign mass media notes that gifts are a latent form of "взяточничество".

In Russia there is practically no concept of "service sectors", and those foreigners who are used to the polite address can be unpleasantly surprised with the tactless or indifferent address in various Russian establishments. Besides, many houses are subject to demolition or restoration for a long time, and the size of rooms and apartments is very small in comparison with the European standards. Therefore, foreign tourists should approach the choice of a hotel especially attentively. Sometimes it is difficult to find Internet access and points of an international telecommunication in Russia.

Nevertheless, despite all the difficulties about which newspapers warn, the flow of foreign tourists to Russia does not weaken. Sometimes foreigners want to experience the exotic, consider a visit to our country as something like an extreme trip. But those who accept the Russian reality and don't try to change it and don't condemn it, open absolutely another world for themselves.

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Learning English through the Internet

Nowadays, it is very important to know as more foreign languages as possible. It is a crucial skill when we deal with people who have another native language, not the same as ours. Of course, if you live in one country and you are not going to move anywhere, you will ask: “Why do I need to learn another language?” But it is not so easy as it might seem at the first look.

Globalization is the main feature of relations between all countries now. People became highly connected, open-minded and educated. If you know how to communicate with foreigners, you will be able to get more information to expand your intellectual abilities and to improve your communication skills. Also, knowledge of foreign languages can be used for living. For example, teaching other people, translating diverse documents, texts, servicing people who come from other parts of the world. It is obvious that knowledge of the English language can be beneficial. English is an international language. It means everyone in the world should know this language and people from anywhere would understand you. If in previous decades society did not have too much opportunities for interacting with foreign speakers, currently every possible way of studying is available through the Internet connection. Learning English through the Internet can be more fun, interesting and faster than just attending usual classes, which are sometimes extremely boring. Especially learning English through the Internet is suitable for people who are too busy to take any classes. The Internet gives opportunity to study in time, which is more convenient for you. It does not cost too much and provides endless sources of study material. Textbooks, video and audio materials will be easily downloaded with one simple click. These materials contain all necessary information that is intended for learning various aspects of the language: speaking, reading, listening, memorizing, etc.

People are interested in improving English through the Internet, because learning foreign languages is an extremely complicated process and it is important to use all resources that may help. Learning another language is not just saying foreign words, it is an immersion in completely new world that might appear to be different from what we have got used to. I have done a research in order to find the best offers of the Internet, which are useful and valuable for people who learn English. The first step of learning any language is definition your real knowledge level. It helps to set up the most effective program of study and choose materials with the degree of difficulty, which is more preferable for you. Diverse tests are used for these purposes. Mostly they consist of questions related with grammatical aspects of the language. They don't differ too much and everyone can find them on the Internet just by typing “define your English level” in the search line. People with different knowledge levels need their own specific ways of learning. Mainly my research was dedicated to people with Beginner/Elementary level of English. Such websites as [<https://puzzle-english.com/>] and [<http://lingualeo.com/ru>] offer training materials designed for fast learning progress. Everyone can choose content that she or he likes. These websites provide modern information and the latest news. The first website has its own YouTube channel [<https://www.youtube.com/user/PuzzleEnglish>]. Users are able to get information about using the website, to find helpful advices, to learn new words and to improve their pronunciation there. Besides this educational channel, YouTube contain many and many others. It is not a secret that vlogging is popular on YouTube now. Such category of video will be also useful for learners. Usually vlogs aim at showing daily personal life to the audience. Bloggers tell subscribers about their routine, thoughts and feelings. They don't act or pretend and use normal phrases in their speech, which you can hear if you talk with them in private. It gives the idea of how a real speech may sound, proper pronunciation of words and displays changes in the modern language. Another useful resource is podcasts. *Elementary Podcasts by the British Council* and *The English as a*

Second Language Podcast are suitable for the beginner and intermediate learner. The podcasts include situations that people experience every day. In addition, podcasts consist of broader discussions on some topics. *BBC podcasts* are very educational as well. You will find topics in which you are interested more there and you can listen to the latest news through this website. All BBC podcasts are available for downloading. *The English we speak podcast* featured by BBC is highly recommended for beginners. Diverse audiobooks should be an essential part of learning English too. It is not necessary to buy any audio materials. There are plenty of them on the Internet. Even usual browser plugins can be convenient for the listening comprehension. For example, Google Chrome plugin [<http://audiobooks.beelingo.com/>] provides hundreds of free audiobooks, which are open for downloading audio materials and textbooks as well. Another useful Google Chrome plugin is *Google Dictionary*. It gives an instant access to words definition and pronunciation. If you want to improve reading skills than online newspapers should become the part of your daily life. The most readable online newspapers are [<https://www.washingtonpost.com/>], [<http://abcnews.go.com/>] and [<http://edition.cnn.com/>]. They give information about all important news. Another way of learning English is speaking directly with native speakers. The most popular websites for interacting with foreigners are [<https://www.interpals.net/>] and *Twitter*. You can make some English-speaking friends and read their twitter postings there.

In conclusion, there are a lot more methods of learning the English language through the Internet. It is incredible that now people have ability to control studying process on their own and to get as much information as they want. I lighted up just a tiny grain of education services provided by the Internet. The Internet has become a big part of most people's lives; the wealth of information posted from all over the world makes it a valuable tool for learning the English language.

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Friendship in Russian and American cultures.

The problem of “Difference in Russian and American Friendship cultures” is not only an urgent issue but it is of great interest for everybody nowadays. The fact is that at present time the relationship between different countries leaves much to be desired. For solving this problem it is very important to communicate with people from different countries as much as possible to discuss improving the present situation.

The purpose of this article is analyzing the items in Russian and American culture which do not coincide, thus leading to misunderstanding and mistrustful relations.

The word *friend*, has different meaning in these two countries. Americans believe that every person who is not an enemy can be a friend. An American can become acquainted with a complete stranger who he or she begins to consider a friend after that. American friendships however center around colleagues in an office, neighbors in a residential community, or participants in recreational activities. Americans try to understand a deep position of their friends’ troubles. A friend in need may be a friend indeed, but an American is more likely to refer a needy friend to a professional for help rather than become involved in the friend’s personal troubles. [4]

But Russians have another position, for them friendship is all-encompassing and connotes a special relationship.

In Russian language there are different words for “friend” (*drug*, pronounced “*droog*”) and “acquaintance” (*znakomy*), these words should not be misused. A *drug* is more like a “bosom buddy,” somebody to trust, confide in, and treat like a member of the family. Such friendships are not made easily or quickly, it takes time to develop, but when it is made and nurtured, a Russian friendship will embrace the entire person. Russians will ask friends for time and favors that many Westerners would regard as impositions.

In Russia people rely on a close network of family, friends, and on workers as protection against the risks and unpredictability of daily life. In the village commune, Russians felt safe and secure in the company of family and neighbors. Today, in the city, they continue to value familiar faces and mistrust those they do not know.

Visitors who know a Russian from a previous encounter will have a big advantage. First-time travelers to Russia are advised to ask friends who already know the individuals they will be meeting to put in a good word for them in advance of their visits. And ideally the same traveler should return for subsequent visits and not be replaced by someone else from his or her firm or organization.

Despite its vast size, Russia is run on the basis of personal connections. In the workplace and private life, Russians depend on those they know—friends who owe their favors, former classmates, fellow military veterans, and others whom they trust.

The friendship network also extends to the business world. Business managers, short of essential parts or materials, will use their personal contacts to obtain the necessary items. Provide a spare part or commodity for someone, and receive something in return. Without such contacts, production would grind to a halt.

Westerners who want something from their government will approach the responsible official, state their case, and assume (or hope) that law and logic will prevail. Russians in the same situation, mistrustful of the state and its laws, will approach friends and acquaintances and ask them to put in a good word with the official who will decide.

Americans tend to be informal in their speech—candid, direct, and without the rituals, polite forms, and the indirect language common to many other cultures. Russians welcome and appreciate such informal talk but usually only after a certain stage in the relationship has been reached. [3]

Секция 12. Межкультурная коммуникация

Addressing an American or Briton presents a dilemma for Russians. Their language has equivalents for “Mr.” (*Gospodin*) and “Mrs.” (*Gospozha*).

Like most European languages, Russian has two forms of you. The more formal *vy* is used between strangers and acquaintances and in addressing people of higher position. The informal *ty*, akin to the old English *thou* is reserved for friends, family members, and children. [1,2]

Which of these forms should foreigners use in addressing Russians? That will depend on the state of the relationship, and it may differ in each case. When in doubt, let the Russians decide, and follow their lead.

Carry a good supply of business cards (*vizitnaya*, in Russian, from “visiting cards”). Have them printed in English on one side and Russian (in Cyrillic) on the other. Be sure to include your title, academic degrees, and anything else that might impress.

In conclusion, I would say though there is something in common in interpretation of such notions as friendship and relationship in Russian and American cultures nevertheless we must assume that there is a great number of differences. I see the solving of this problem is in considering the differences in our cultures and following the traditions of the country whose people you deal with.

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The Influence of Immigration into the USA on Lexical Changes in Current English

“The action of coming to live permanently in a foreign country”, known as immigration [1], is rather a big problem for the United States of America nowadays.

The English speaking societies have a long history of receiving and assimilating millions of immigrants. The process has rarely been easy or without costs, both to the hosts and to the new arrivals, but over time it has largely been a success. And it goes without saying that process may cause some changes in the English language, including lexical ones.

Nowadays the leading countries of origin for immigrants to the United States of America are the United Mexican States, the Republic of India, the Republic of the Philippines, and the People’s Republic of China [2]. Thus Spanish, Hindi, Filipino and Chinese might bring lexical changes to English. Neologisms from those languages are mostly connected with national cuisine and entertainments. They may be commonly used in everyday life, but have yet to be accepted as forming a part of mainstream language.

The topic of the influence of immigration into the USA on lexical changes in current English contains a lot of questions, one of which is whether it is a blessing for the language or maybe this process just ruins it. It is very difficult to answer all of them, but in fact we cannot judge this natural, inevitable and long-term process.

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Anglicism. Fashion or necessity ?

At the present time there is an active interest in Russian-English contacts and there are good reasons. English is rightly called "Latin of the twentieth century". In the process of historical development human languages have engaged and continue to engage in language contacts with each other. Every day new English borrowings appear in the Russian dictionary. Internet, international contacts, world market, technology, and cultural events affect changes in the Russian language.

The words that come out of the English language are called anglicism by linguists. Do you know that you are using them every day? Do you want to see this?

In this article I would like to show the trend of the use of English words in the local press and by the local population. At the beginning we should understand how the «implementation» of borrowed words happens.

1. Direct borrowings. The word appears in the Russian language in approximately the same manner and meaning that the original one. For example уик-энд (weekend) - выходные; блэк (black) – негр; мани (money) – деньги.

2. Hybrids. These words are formed by joining Russian suffix or prefix to foreign root. In this case, it doesn't change the meaning of the foreign word. For example аскать (to ask - просить), бузить (busy – беспокойный, суетливый).

3. Kalka. The words of foreign origin that are used by keeping their phonetic and graphic appearance. It is words like меню (menu), диск (disk), вирус (virus), клуб (club).

4. Ekzotizmy. Words that describe specific national customs of other nations, and are used in the description of the non-Russian reality. The distinctive feature of these words is that there are no Russian synonyms. For example, чипсы (chips), хот-дог (hot-dog), чизбургер (cheeseburger).

5. Emotions. These words are fixed in a particular field of communication as a means of expression, which gives a special speech expression. For example, о'кей (OK); вау (Wow!).

6. Jargon. Words have appeared as a result of the distortion of any sounds. For example крезанутый (crazy) – шизанутый., инглиш (English) - английский язык, геймер (gamer) – игрок.

The causes

1. One of the main reasons for the appearance of anglicism in Russian speech is a fashion on English. For example, though we have Russian analogues, we use recycling instead of утилизации, bodybuilding instead of культуризм, trend -тенденции, we call кинорежиссёров – filmmakers or moviemakers. People who use such words in their speech demonstrate their high status in a society and their education.

2. The appearance of anglicism in the Russian language is largely due to the emergence of new ideas, goods, services, analogues of which we do not have. However, they have become a part of everyday life: бейдж, классификатор, сканер, ноутбук, тюнер.

Borrowings, being mostly words from books or special ones, are mainly used in the books of speech genres, scientific or technical texts. Nowadays, media has become the main source of the language material. Looking through a newspaper or watching TV, every person faces a lot of words of English origin. As a rule, all these words from newspapers and magazines can be divided into three groups:

1. Words that have synonyms in the Russian language and people often don't understand them, for example: мониторинг – синоним is «наблюдение». Using of these words in many cases, is not necessary and often causes complications in understanding of the text.

2. The words which usually have not synonyms in the Russian language. They have been used for a long time, all men understand them and people often do not think about the fact that these words have come to us from the English language, for example: спортсмен (sportsmen), футбол (football), проблема (problem).

3. The words that are printed in English in the newspapers. These words are not incomprehensible to most people, such as: Non - stop.

I have reviewed a number of newspaper articles and found that the English words are commonly used in the following sections:

- Articles on the political and economic subject;
- Articles about music;
- Sports articles;
- Articles about science and technology.

Using of Anglicism has become fashionable. The young believe that the standard of living abroad is much higher. And they think that adding the English borrowings in their speech they become near to this lifestyle. Elder generation is less tolerant to other people's vocabulary than the youth. When they were asked why they did not like the use of English words in the Russian language, the elderly and children said that they had insufficient knowledge of the English language. Many people are annoyed by using English words when there are appropriate synonyms in Russian.

Is it necessary to introduce anglicism in the Russian language? Some words are impossible to take away out of the Russian language, they have gained social significance. But I think we shouldn't use them too much. We know that " the power of the people is in their native language.."

So, we can say with confidence that anglicism have a strong position in the Russian language. Our task is to learn how to use them correctly.

I should say that anglicism are sometimes important. Firstly, very often it is more convenient to use them because they are shorter and express the meaning more clearly; Secondly, many anglicism are clearer than a long translation into Russian; Thirdly, these words have become a part of the Russian-language speech , especially among young people, in the media; Fourthly, is there a necessity to take away English words in the age of globalization if they are not considered as profanity?

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Pronunciation Differences between British English and American English

One of the main difficulties a foreign student may face the remarkable variety of accents when learning English pronunciation. Like many other languages spoken in such a vast territory and by so many people, English presents wide variation in pronunciation. In spite of that wide variation, two standard pronunciations are distinguished: (1) The Received Pronunciation, also called Oxford English or BBC English, is the standard pronunciation of British English; (2) The General American is the accent considered as standard in North America. Such a pronunciation is heard in most of American films, TV series, and national news.

The main differences between British English and American English can be summarized as follows:

1. The presence of rhotic accent.
2. Differences in vowel pronunciation. The most relevant ones are change of diphthong [əʊ], change of [ɒ], change of [æ], and change of [ju:].
3. Differences in consonant pronunciation. This mainly involves the different pronunciations of letter t.
4. Change of stress. This comprises the change of stress in French loanwords, and suffix -ate.
5. Differences in articulation. American English has a clear tendency to pronounce unstressed syllables where British English does not show such a disposition.

1. Rhotic accent

The presence of the rhotic accent is one of the most noticeable differences between British and American English. American English is rhotic. British English is non-rhotic. Rhotic accent refers to the manner letter r is pronounced after a vowel within a syllable, as in words such as hard, borne, or here. [1] In English, rhotic accent is produced as a retroflex approximant. [2] The following words have rhotic accent: York, quarter, four, born, door, water, later, hers, heard, hurt, university, were, birth, thirty, ear.

2. Differences in Vowel Pronunciation

The shift from the British diphthong [əʊ] to [oʊ] in American pronunciation is also very distinguishing. The shift consisted in the change of the mid central unrounded vowel [ə] to the close-mid back rounded vowel [o] in the first vowel of the diphthong. [3] For example, BE- go [gəʊ] – AE- go [goʊ]; BE- [nəʊ] – AE- [noʊ]; BE- promotion [prə'məʊʃn] – AE- promotion [prə'moʊʃn].

Letter o is pronounced in many different ways in English and in American. Here we have a few illustrative examples of such diversity: Hot [hɒt] in BE, but [hɑ:t] in AE; coast [kəʊst] in BE, but [koʊst] in AE. The so-called “short o”, which often appears in a stressed syllable with one letter, underwent a change in American English. British English prefers a short sound as opposed to American English, which prefers a long sound in all cases. For example, BE- box [bɒks] – AE- box [bɑ:ks]; BE- gone [gɒn] – AE- gone [gɔ:n]; BE- possible ['pɒsɪb(ə)l] – AE- possible ['pɑ:səbl]; BE- sorry ['sɒri] – AE ['sɑ:ri].

The most frequent changes are from [ɒ] to [ɑ:] and [ɔ:]. However, in a very few cases vowel [ɒ] is changed to [oʊ] and [ʌ]. Here we have a list with the main examples: 1) Change [ɒ] to [ɑ:]: scone- BE [skɒn]- AE- [ska:n]; 2) Change to [oʊ]: impost- BE ['ɪmpəʊst]- AE ['ɪmpoʊst] , produce (as noun)- BE ['prɒdju:s] - AE ['prɔʊdju:s]; 3) Change to [ʌ]: hovel- BE ['hɒv(ə)l]- AE ['hʌvl], therefrom- BE [ðe:'frɒm]- AE [,ðer'frʌm].

In American English vowel [ɑ:] changed to [æ]. However, the change did not take off in British English. For example, brass- BE [bra:s] – AE [bræs]; half- BE [hɑ:f] – AE [hæf]; bath- BE [bɑ:θ] – AE [bæθ]; aunt- BE [ɑ:nt] – AE [ænt]; sample- BE ['sɑ:mp(ə)l] – AE ['sæmpl].

Around the beginning of twentieth century several changes took place in the English vowels. One of them was the so-called yod-dropping, the omission of sound [j] before [u:]. The change is named after the Hebrew letter yod, which represents the sound [j]. Both BE and AE embraced the change,

although AE extended the cases in which yod-dropping was applied. Yod-dropping before [u:] takes place in BE and AE in the following cases: 1) After the affricates [tʃ] and [dʒ], as in chew[ʃu:], juice[dʒu:s]; 2) After [r], as in rude[ru:d], prude[pru:d], shrewd[ʃru:d]; 3) After clusters formed by a consonant followed by [l], as in blue[blu:], flu[flu:]. Apart from this common corpus of words, in AE as well as in many other varieties of English we observe yod-dropping in further cases: 1) After [s] and [z], as in suit[su:t], assume[ə'su:m]; 2) After [l], as in lute[lu:t], and pollute[pə'lu:t]. 3) Especially in AE, after [t], [d], and [n], as in tune[tu:n], stew[stu:], student['stu:dənt] and new[nu:].

3) Differences in Consonant Pronunciation

In American English letter t is pronounced in six different ways: 1) As an aspirated sound [tʰ], for example tempting[ˈtʰemptɪŋ], potential [pəˈtʰenʃl]. 2) As an de-aspirated sound [t] - tempting[ˈtʰemptɪŋ], stop[stɑ:p], pet[pet]. 3) As a flapped sound [ɾ]. This phenomenon applies when words are linked together in a full prosodic unit, as in the sentence What is this?['wʌtɪz'ðɪz] when uttered it in colloquial register. 4) As a glottal stop [ʔ]. A glottal stop is a voiceless sound produced by the obstruction of the airflow in the vocal tract. The glottis is the organ that actually prevents the air from passing through the vocal tract. Examples - put[puʔ] or report[rɪˈpɔ:ʔ], button[ˈbʌʔn], or continent[ˈkɑ:nʔɪnənt]. 5) As a glottalized stop [tʔ]. In a glottalized [tʔ] the stop [t] and the glottal stop [ʔ] are produced at the same time. Example where this sound can be found are mutton[ˈmʌtʔn], or curtain[ˈkɜ:rtʔn]. 6) In the presence of the pattern formed by a stressed vowel followed by [nt], sound [t] is not pronounced in some varieties of AE - winter[ˈwɪnə] or center[ˈsenə]. In British English the flap [ɾ] is never used, but instead it is pronounced as a de-aspirated [t] or as a glottalized [tʔ]. [4]

4) Change of Stress

Loanwords from French were adapted by American English in a different way than there were by British English. Change of stress is the most noticeable difference: 1) First-syllable stress in BE but second-syllable stress in AE: baton [ˈbat(ə)n]/ [bəˈtɑ:n], brochure [ˈbrəʊʃə]/ [brʊʊˈʃɔ:], garage [ˈgɑ:rɑ:(d)ʒ]/ [gəˈrɑ:ʒ]. 2) Common words where AE has a first-syllable stress and BE has last-syllable are cigarette [ˈsɪgəret]/ [sɪgəˈret], magazine [ˈmægəzi:n]/ [magəˈzi:n]. [5]

Words ending in -ate, mostly verbs, have a different stress pattern in both accents depending on the length of the word. Most 2-syllable verbs ending in -ate have first-syllable stress in AE and second-syllable stress in BE. This includes dictate [ˈdɪkteɪt]/ [dɪkˈteɪt], donate [ˈdəʊneɪt]/ [də(ʊ)ˈneɪt] and etc. [6]

5) Changes in Articulation

There are some minor differences in articulation between British and American English. These differences do not compromise mutual understanding. American English is inclined to pronounce unstressed syllables. Thus, we hear necessary[ˈnesəsəri] in BE, but a more clearly articulated version in AE, necessary[ˈnesəsəri], with two stronger vowels in the same word. [7]

The material collected in this article should be enough to acquire a basic understanding of the main differences between British and American English. Understanding those differences will equip the advanced student with an excellent tool for enhancing listening comprehension and achieving greater clarity of pronunciation.

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