

AMERICAN-BASED PRONUNCIATION STANDARDS OF ENGLISH

Khaydarova Nigora

Scientific supervisor, Andijan

state institute of foreign languages,

Department of Theory and Practice of the Russian Language,

Student group of 401 Rakhimova Inoyatxon

e-mail : raximovainoyatxon57@gmail.com

Abstract: English functions as a global means of communication, resulting in the development of several pronunciation standards. Among these, American-based pronunciation standards, commonly represented by General American English, occupy a central position in international communication, education, and media. This article examines the defining phonetic characteristics of American-based pronunciation, including rhoticity, vowel quality, consonant realization, stress patterns, and intonation. It also discusses the role of American pronunciation in language teaching and mass media, as well as its advantages and limitations in the context of global English usage. The study highlights the importance of understanding American-based pronunciation as a widely intelligible and influential model of spoken English.

Keywords: American English, General American, pronunciation standards, phonetics, stress and intonation

American-Based Pronunciation Standards of English

Introduction

English is spoken worldwide and exists in many regional and national varieties. As English spread beyond its original borders, different pronunciation standards emerged. One of the most influential of these is the American-based pronunciation standard, often referred to as General American (GA). This standard is widely used in broadcasting, education, and international communication.

A defining feature of American-based pronunciation is rhoticity, meaning that the /r/ sound is pronounced in all positions, including word-final and pre-consonantal

contexts, such as car, farm, and teacher. This feature distinguishes American English from many British accents.

Another characteristic is the realization of the /t/ sound as a flap [ɾ] between vowels, as heard in words like water and better. Vowel pronunciation in American English is generally clear and strong, with noticeable distinctions in vowel quality and

American English follows a stress-timed rhythm, in which stressed syllables occur at regular intervals, while unstressed syllables are reduced, often to the schwa /ə/. Intonation patterns tend to be smoother and more level, contributing to effective communication. Word stress may differ from other varieties of English, which is important for language learners.

American-based pronunciation standards are commonly used in English language teaching worldwide. Many textbooks, dictionaries, and online platforms present American pronunciation as a model. The global influence of American films, television programs, and digital media has further strengthened the spread of American English pronunciation.

The main advantage of American-based pronunciation standards is their clarity and international intelligibility. General American lacks strong regional features, making it suitable for global communication. However, some scholars argue that focusing on one standard may reduce awareness of the diversity of English pronunciation worldwide.

Conclusion

In conclusion, American-based pronunciation standards of English play a crucial role in modern communication. Represented mainly by General American English, they provide learners with a clear and widely accepted pronunciation model. At the same time, recognizing other pronunciation varieties remains essential for a comprehensive understanding of the English language

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