

COMPARISON OF BRITISH AND AMERICAN ENGLISH

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Abstract: This study compares British English and American English, two of the most widely used standardized forms of English. Even though they come from the same place in history, hundreds of years of being apart, developing their own cultures, and setting their own standards have caused big differences at different levels of language. The study investigates variations in pronunciation, lexicon, orthography, syntax, and pragmatic application. Special attention is paid to phonological features like rhotic and non-rhotic pronunciation, lexical differences between everyday and institutional language, orthographic differences caused by historical changes, and grammatical differences in how tense is used, how prepositions are used, and how collective nouns are used. The study also looks at the historical reasons why the two varieties diverged, such as the role of language planning and lexicography in the US and the preservation of traditional norms in Britain. Even though there are differences between British and American English, they are still understandable to each other and are used as main models in teaching English around the world. The results show that comparing these two types of language is important for understanding how languages change, improving communication between cultures, and helping people learn foreign languages more effectively.

Keywords: Language variation, British English, American English, comparative linguistics, pronunciation differences, vocabulary variation, spelling differences, grammatical differences, standard English, and World English.

INTRODUCTION

Millions of people around the world speak English, making it a global language. British and American English are the two most important and well-known standards among the many national and regional varieties. Both varieties come from the same historical source, but they have developed unique linguistic features because they are

from different places, have different cultural identities, have different political histories, and have gone through their own processes of language standardization. The two types started to become different in the 17th century, when English settlers set up colonies in North America. After the United States became politically independent, people tried to make a unique national identity. This also had an effect on how language developed. Noah Webster was one of the most important people in the development of American English. His dictionaries pushed for simpler spelling and usage that were different from British standards. In the meantime, British English kept changing based on its own social, literary, and educational traditions. There are now differences between British and American English at many levels of language. American English is mostly rhotic, while many British accents are not. Lexical differences manifest in quotidian vocabulary, institutional nomenclature, and idiomatic expressions. Orthographic differences can be seen in spelling rules, while grammatical differences include how tenses, prepositions, articles, and collective nouns are used. Moreover, pragmatic and stylistic preferences embody the cultural communication norms within each speech community. It is important for linguistics, language teaching, translation studies, and intercultural communication to compare British and American English. Understanding these similarities and differences helps students avoid getting confused, choose the right standards for school or work, and learn more about how language changes over time. Consequently, a methodical comparison of these two varieties enhances both theoretical linguistics and practical language application in a globalized context.

American English and its influence on British English vocabulary

American English is a big branch of the English language that grew up in the United States after the 17th century, when British settlers brought the language to the continent. American English was shaped by contact with Native American, Spanish, Dutch, and other immigrant languages. Noah Webster's works were very helpful in making American English a separate language. His dictionary helped standardize American spelling and vocabulary by adding simpler forms like color and center. The main differences between American English and British English are vocabulary, meaning, and how words are used. For instance, the same thing can be called a truck in American English and a lorry in British English, or an apartment and a flat, respectively. Some words mean different things in the two types. For example, "pants" means "trousers" in American English but "underwear" in British English. American English has also added a lot of new words, like skyscraper, teenager, and fast food. These words show how American society has changed over time. Since the 20th century, globalization and cultural exchange have made American English a much bigger part of British English vocabulary. American media, especially Hollywood, which is part of the global film industry, has been very important in spreading

American phrases in the UK. Movies, TV shows, and music have brought a lot of American words into British everyday speech. Lexical influence has also grown because of technological and economic growth in the United States. This is because many modern inventions came from places like Silicon Valley. Because of this, American English is often used in international business and information technology. Words like software, startup, email, and online are also common in British English. American words are becoming more popular around the world thanks to global tech and media companies like Google, Apple, and Netflix. Even though American English is becoming more popular, British English still keeps its traditional vocabulary, especially in formal communication, education, and broadcasting in the UK. Overall, American English is still an important part of the growth of modern English vocabulary. This shows how different varieties of English interact with each other in a dynamic way.

Today, a lot of different fields are interested in American English, such as economics, politics, sociology, and so on. Linguistics is a significant discipline in this context. Recently, different national versions of English are making progress in the field of linguistics. It is essential to recognize that the impact of American English on other variants is not a recent phenomenon. The British people used to think about how to make English better in America. Also, British people didn't like American English because they thought it was wrong, which made British English worse. People in the United States wanted to make their own language and tried to be completely free to choose their own language and improve it however they wanted. Webster used this dictionary to show that the language spoken in America is unique to America and has all of its own traits. He hoped that in the "New World," new science and society would be made. He also hoped that the new language would come from the relationship between these two fields and that language would be the Modern American Language. Webster used words like "senate," "congress," "court," "assembly," and others in his dictionary to back up his ideas. People in the U.S. and England use these words. But people in both countries understand them differently. He said that British English shouldn't be used as a model for other types of English because its taste has already been ruined and its importance is fading. The first name that comes to mind when we think of American English is Webster, the man who started it all. He was the first person to make an American English dictionary that included all the differences between British and American English. He became famous not only for making the American dictionary, but also for making American English. This dictionary is very important these days because the differences between American English and British English are getting bigger every day. People in America speak different languages and come from different countries, but they usually speak more up-to-date and complete English than people in Britain. Virginia Woolf, a British writer, said this point of view

for hundreds of years. In 1925, she said that the American version of English was more dynamic and alive, but that British English had lost its ability to change. Consequently, all British writers and authors were compelled to incorporate Americanisms to enhance the language of their novels. So, writers agreed that American English had a good effect on British English in terms of literature. More and more words that used to only be used in the US are now used in both spoken and written English in the UK and the US.

CONCLUSION

The article shows how American English has affected British English and other forms of English. The changes that are happening in the language also show how economic, political, and cultural factors affect the different forms of the language. Countries that have a lot of power in the world, both economically and politically, may be able to change other languages. As we look at the differences between these two types, we might ask, “Is English or English in America more conservative?” We think the language is the same, but people change the parts of language when they speak, which makes different types of language. It depends on the type of person who says the words. The primary objective is to preserve the integrity of standard English. Lastly, it’s important to note that all language changes and processes are based on social processes. Language variation is a consequence of ongoing societal confrontation. There have been, are, and will be language differences in American and British English for a long time. We want to keep our culture alive and pass it on to our children and grandchildren. Our roots, which include our native traditions and culture, will affect how we live and how we speak, no matter where we were born or grew up. The language as a sociocultural object aids in the preservation of such heritage. The differences in vocabulary between British and American English show how flexible, adaptable, and culturally embedded the English language is. British English has traditionally kept a more conservative vocabulary, especially in formal settings, legal language, and educational settings. American English, on the other hand, tends to be more open to new words, simpler words, and words that are clear about their meaning. These trends can be seen in everyday language, professional language, and stylistic choices, which show different ways of being economical and expressive with language. Even though there are differences between the two types, they are both stable and consistent within themselves. Lexical variation does not hinder mutual intelligibility; instead, it enhances the expressive capacity of the language. The fact that there are different lexical forms shows how national varieties change a common language system to meet different communication needs. This ability to change shows that vocabulary is a dynamic part of language that changes in response to changes in society. But British English doesn't always or without question use American words.

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