

IDIOMS ACROSS THE ATLANTIC: AMERICAN AND BRITISH ENGLISH COMPARED

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Annotation: This article compares the differences between American and British English phraseological units. Since English is a widely used international language on a global scale, its various regional variants have formed. Despite the fact that these versions are grammatically and phonetically similar, some differences are observed in their idiomatic units. Idioms are one of the units of lexicology, reflecting the cultural, historical, and social features of the language. This study compares phraseological units used in American and British English, studying their semantic and pragmatic features. In the course of the research, words used in everyday life, idioms encountered in mass media and written speech are cited and analyzed as examples. This article is crucial for students learning English to understand and use idioms correctly.

Key words: Idiomatic expressions, American English, British English, idioms, language variation, cultural influence, semantic meaning, linguistic diversity, phraseology, comparative linguistics.

Introduction

English is one of the most important means of international communication today. It is widely used in many countries in various fields such as education, science, business, and diplomacy. The most basic variants of this language are American English and British English. Although these two variants are generally grammatically identical, they differ lexically, phonetically, and idiomatically. Idiomatic expressions are an important object of research in linguistics. Idioms are stable combinations that are not translated literally, but are used figuratively. They help to reflect the cultural character of the language, make speech expressive and rich. They arose on the basis of historical events, national traditions, and everyday life experience. It is important to study the phraseological differences between American and British English. Because to express the same situation, 2x2 different words can be mixed in both dialects. For example, some phrases used in Britain are rarely used in America or is expressed by another word. These differences arose due to the process of language development, geographical separation, and cultural environment. The purpose of this article is to identify the differences in phraseological expressions in American and British English

and to analyze them using a comparative method. During the research, the most common idioms are analyzed and their cultural characteristics are considered.

Literature review: *David Crystal* wrote a work on the development of English language. In it, he defines idioms as units reflecting the historical experience of language and social life. He emphasized that idiomatic units are units that reflect the national characteristics of language and make oral speech more natural.

Caroline Tagg emphasized that it is important to study lexical phraseological units for the English language, to be able to distinguish them, and that they play an important role in the process of language teaching. In his research, it has been proven that idiomatic expressions are a communicative tool that makes oral speech more natural and figurative. Due to this, idioms are analyzed both as linguistic units and as communicative means.

Fernando and Flavell stated and proved in their works that phraseological units are not only a simple lexical unit of language, but also a stable unit used ready-made in the process of speech. At the same time, ideology is closely connected with cultural experience and they emphasized that they have a metaphorical meaning.

Jennifer Seidl and W. McMordie also conducted extensive research in this area. According to their research, it has been proven that a correct understanding of idiomatic units is not only necessary to know the grammatical rules of the language, but also to know the cultural context. In American and British English variants, they put forward the idea that idioms were formed differently under the influence of the cultural environment.

Methodology

This research studied two dialects using the method of qualitative and comparative analysis. In the course of the research, phraseological units commonly used in American and British English were considered and substantiated with examples. Information is obtained from scientific literature, dictionaries, and books on linguistics. In the course of the research, expressions were semantically compared, their use in the context and cultural foundations were studied, substantiated, and enriched with examples.

Result and discussion

Idiomatic expressions are one of the complex aspects of the English language. They are used figuratively, meaning words are not translated verbatim and clarify the cultural, historical, and social context of the language. Idioms are used differently in American and British English and have differences. They are mainly used in everyday communication, work, education, and other fields.

1. In everyday life

In British English, the phrase "*not my cup of tea*" is used to denote dislike or lack of interest in something. The phrase "*Not my thing*" is used in American English to

express exactly this meaning. The phrase "*a storm in teacup*" is used in British English, and in America "*tempest in a teapot.*" Both of these mean that a small problem can be exaggerated.

2. Idioms in the field of work and education

In British English, the phrase "*hit the books*" means to start serious reading. In America, instead of the word "*books*" in the phrase, they use words like "*cram*" or "*study hard.*" The phrase "*Get your act together*" is used in Britain in the sense of putting things in order or taking serious action. "*Pull yourself together*" is used in American English.

3. Emotional expression

The British express a state of great joy or happiness with the phrase "*over the moon.*" Americans, however, use "*on cloud nine*" in this case. In English, "*feeling under the weather*" indicates health problems, while in American English this condition is expressed through "*not feeling well.*"

4. Financial context

In Britain, the phrase "*bring home the bacon*" is used in colloquial speech to provide income or support for the family. In American English, "*earn a living*" is active. In Britain, "*cut corners*" means to reduce work speed and quality slightly. In America, the composition of this phrase changes, meaning it is sometimes expressed with the word "*skimp.*"

5. Semantic Differences

Sometimes the same phrase can have different meanings between English variants. For example, "*pants*" in Britain means underwear, while in America it means pants. For this reason, it is important to study various strategies and manifestations of phrases and phraseological units.

Conclusion

In conclusion, idiomatic differences indicate the richness of the English language and the diversity of vocabulary between the two dialects. Studying phraseological units helps to understand English more deeply and demonstrates accuracy in spoken language. Knowledge of idioms is also important for English language learners, as they are widely used in everyday spoken language. In addition, to eliminate misunderstandings in the process of international communication, it is necessary to know the idiomatic difference between American and British English. In order to reduce misunderstandings, the study of phrases is becoming one of the important directions in sewing research.

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