

Research Article

Lexical variation in American and British English

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Since English is considered a global language in the world, its different variants have emerged in various regions. The most widespread of these is the American and British dialect. Although these two versions are grammatically and phonetically similar, their vocabulary differs. In this article, the distinctive aspects in this direction between American and British English are analyzed scientifically. The article extensively covers the historical formation of lexical traditions and the influence of various factors. In the course of the research, the differences between the two dialects of words used in everyday life, transport, clothing, education, and words used in official speech are considered. This article will help students learning English choose the right option in both written and oral speech.

Keywords: *American English, British English, vocabulary differences, lexical variation, language variation, word usage, linguistic diversity, regional variation, semantic differences, language standardization.*

INTRODUCTION

Today, English is recognized and used as the primary language in international communication, education, and science. The largest and most influential variants of this language are American and British English. Although these two variants are grammatically and morphologically similar, several differences are observed in their lexical composition. Differences in vocabulary are clearly noticeable in everyday communication, meaning the same object or event is associated with different words in these two dialects. This very situation creates some misunderstandings and difficulties for speakers and learners of this language. Therefore, the study of lexical differences between American and British English is one of the important directions in linguistics. The independent historical development of these two dialects led to differences in lexicology. In the 17th-18th centuries, English entered the Americas, and later, with the formation of America as an independent state, American English also entered a stage of development. New social environments, geographical segregation, and a new culture influenced the emergence of new words in American English, i.e., the partial renewal of vocabulary. However, during this same period, this language continued to develop traditionally in Britain. As a result, lexical differences began to

appear between the two dialects. Since accuracy and consistency are the main criteria in academic writing, one should not confuse American and British vocabularies. The main purpose of this article is to identify differences in vocabulary composition between the two variants, explain their historical and cultural reasons, and analyze them scientifically. Knowing lexical differences helps to identify the richness and diversity of English vocabulary and increase efficiency in international communication.

LITERATURE REVIEW

To date, variants of the English language have been studied by several linguists. *David Crystal* connects the spread of this language throughout the world and its regional variants with historical development, explaining each of them. The development of American English is connected with independent cultural and political progress, and this process emphasizes the emergence of new lexical units and the enrichment of vocabulary.

The text *Maiden* recognizes lexical changes in the English language as a linguistic process. As the language develops, new words appear, and at the same time, the meaning of some words changes or differs between dialects. This linguist calls these processes a natural process.

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Carolina Tagg conducted research focusing on the importance of differences in vocabulary in education and written speech. According to his theory, the ability to distinguish between American and British English ensures accuracy and consistency in academic writing for students and speakers.

In the sources of *Oxford university*, the lexical norms of British English are defined as the standard, and UK is compared with American English. these sources clearly show that the differences in vocabulary have a historical basis.

METHODOLOGY

This research was conducted based on the method of qualitative analysis. During the study, scientific literature on the topic was studied, and differences in the vocabulary of American and British English were considered. Words used in everyday life, such as transport, clothing, food, etc., were taken as examples, and the units in these areas were compared. During the analysis, it was found that different words are used in different dialects, expressing the same meaning, and the reasons for this situation were studied. In the study, the main focus was on lexicology.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In everyday life, the differences between the vocabulary of American and British English are clearly noticeable. This means that one concept or subject is expressed by two different words in two dialects. Such a difference arose as a result of historical and social factors.

Words related to housing and daily life

In American and British English, there are differences in words related to dwelling. For example, while the word *flat* is used in British English, *apartment* is widely used in American English. Or the words *lift*, *post* in British English, *elevator*, *mail* are characteristic of American English vocabulary. These differences cause misunderstandings in everyday communication.

Differences in transportation

The transport system is developed differently in these two countries. Therefore, the vocabulary structure is also formed differently. For example, in British English, the term *lorry* is used for a truck, but in American English speakers use the word *truck*.

The British people call the underground metro *underground* and the Americans call it *subway*. *Boot* is used in British, and *trunk* in American English.

Nutritional words

In these two variants of the English language, there is also a difference in the matter of food. While British English's vocabulary includes *biscuit*, in American English *cookies* are used for sweet pastries. *Chips* are typical of British vocabulary, while *fries* are typical of American English. American English *chips* are called *crips* in Britain.

Words related to the education system

In this area, the differences between the vocabulary of the two dialects are also noticeable. *Primary school* in Britain and *secondary school* in America, the terms *elementary school* and *high school* are used. However, the term *university* can be used in both cases. Such differences also cause difficulties in the education system.

Clothing & everyday items

In British English, thick clothing is called a *jumper*, while *sweaters* are more commonly used in Americans. In British English, *trainers* are called American *sneakers*.

Semantic differences

The word used in American English can have a different meaning in British English. For example, the word pants in America means *pants*, while in British it means *underwear*. This very difference causes major misunderstandings for speakers. Such lexical differences found in American and British English go back to the historical development of the language. Studying the differences in vocabulary helps to understand clearly and correctly in international communication.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, historical and cultural development led to the creation of different forms of the same language in both countries, which also affected vocabulary composition. Although these contradictory situations led to the expansion of language richness, they also led to some misunderstandings. The ability to distinguish lexical differences is important for speakers and learners of this language. It is especially necessary to distinguish between peoples in communication and academic oral and written writing. For these reasons, lexical differences in American and British English have become a direction that needs to be studied in linguistics.

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