Научно-исследовательская работа

Иностранный язык

# "WHICH ENGLISH WILL YOU CHOOSE?"

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# Content

Introduction	3
1. Historical background of the emergence of different dialects	
1.1. The history of British and American English	4
1.2 Reasons for the differences between two English versions	6
2. Which English do people prefer more?	7
2.1 Differences in phonetics, grammar, vocabulary and spelling	7
2.2 Which English will you choose?	12
Conclusion	15
List of references	16
Addendum 1	17
Addendum 2	18
Addendum 3	19
Addendum 4	20
Addendum 5	23
Addendum 6	24
Addendum 7	25

### Introduction

English is one of the most widely spoken languages on the planet, second only to Chinese and Spanish in terms of the number of people who speak it. It is the mother tongue of 400 million people and the second language of more than a billion people.

Learning this language, we need to know that there are two options – British and American. Immediately the question arises: "What version of the English language should be taught to modern man?" So, the topic of the study is "Which English will you choose?" My hypothesis is based on the numerical superiority and mass use of media resources of the American version of the English language. I think that American English in the near future will replace the British version of English.

The relevance of my topic is determined by the importance of these two versions of English in modern society. The purpose of the research is to study American and British English in more detail, to consider the differences and similarities.

Research problem:

- 1) to consider the differences between the British and American versions of the English language on the examples of words of colloquial and journalistic genre.
- 2) on the basis of theoretical literature to conduct a comparative analysis;
- 3) to conduct an experiment among school students, a survey in social networks;
- to make a memo of the most common words of the British and American versions of the English language.

The following methods were used in the study:

- 1) comparative analysis of differences between British and American English;
- 2) experiment among students of the school;
- 3) the survey on the social networks.

The practical significance of this work is to attract the attention of peers to the English language, to promote their interest in its study, knowledge of the differences between British and American English.

### 1. Historical background of the emergence of different dialects

1.1. The history of British and American English

The history of the origin of the English language goes far into the past. In 1 Millennium BC Britain was inhabited by Celts (Gauls) – ancient Indo-European tribes. In the 7-10 centuries ad formed the Anglo-Saxon nation, which absorbed the elements of Celtic culture. Then they came to Britain Scandinavians (Vikings), who spoke the ancient Icelandic language. Later, in 1066, the land of England was conquered by the French. The French conquest of England greatly affected the language spoken by the British at that time. Nearly two thousand years the French language was the language spoken by the English aristocracy, the English language was distributed only among the common people. This led to the fact that many French expressions appeared in the vocabulary of the English language. The result of the use of two languages today is that in English there are many words-synonyms that are the same in meaning, but different in sound.

Three centuries ago, there was only one version of English. It was spoken by British people. But the story did not stand still. In the XVII-XIX centuries English travelers discovered many new lands, which were later settled by the British or became colonies of Great Britain. These are the Islands Of New Zealand, India, Asia and Africa, Australia and America.

### The history of American English

English on the territory of the North American continent appeared together with the first settlers. In 1607, John Smith founded the first colony in Virginia. And at the beginning of the XVII century Europeans began to move to North America. This period was the beginning of a huge flow of immigrants from Europe to North America. American English is replenished with a large number of neologisms (new words) and keeps in use words that in England are considered archaisms (words that are out of use). A large number of words come from the languages of Indian tribes, which were neighboring settlers.

Unlike the British version, American English is more flexible, open to change and easy to understand. In particular, that is why it has become more widespread in the world. It is a language of a new generation without a certain nationality and place of residence, brought up on mass culture. A huge contribution to the formation of American English made Noah Webster (born in 1758, died in 1843). He was the" founding father " of the language. He developed most of the American norms of phonetics, spelling, and vocabulary adopted today.

Noah Webster published his first dictionary almost two hundred years ago. His goal in creating a dictionary, he outlined the creation of a book that would reflect the speech of a young nation. As a result, we have a simplified spelling, grammar, as well as a kind of pronunciation and different from the British English lexical composition of the language.

In the American version of the English language, there are three main dialects that are used in communication by residents:

- 1. North America (Northern dialect);
- 2. South America (southern dialect);
- 3. Central America (Central dialect).

Each of these dialects is divided into subdialects. The southern dialect is significantly different from the others, it seems to be the basis, the essence of the pronunciation adopted in American English. The closest thing to classical British English is the Northern dialect. It is spoken by residents of the East coast. It was here in the years of emigration moved immigrants from the UK.

Thus, we can say that America has formed its own, a completely new language. American English is much easier to understand than British English. People who consider this language their native language belong to the nation of the new generation, which does not have a single nationality and the same cultural roots. Today, American English is called a simplified version of British English.

### 1.2 Reasons for the differences between two English versions

Based on the facts and statements above, we can distinguish 3 main reasons for the difference between British and American English:

## 1. Noah Webster's Dictionary

Undoubtedly, one of the main reasons is Noah Webster's dictionary. He believed that for complete independence from the UK, the US needed a change not only in the political and public sphere, but also in the language, so he sought to make as many changes in the American version of the English language. Webster was also a proponent of spelling reform, the main idea of which was to write words according to their sound.

### 2. Immigration

Of course, such a phenomenon as immigration is not unfamiliar to the UK, but the number of immigrants, who took the US, especially at the beginning of the XX century, at times exceeds the number of immigrants to the UK. Immigration to America is a cultural phenomenon that has changed not only the language, but also the society of the country. Immigrants who came to the United States lived mostly in communities, but over time these boundaries were erased, and new words and expressions began to come into English. Undoubtedly, immigration has played an important role in the formation of the American version of the English language.

## 3. Blend of accents

England is a country consisting mainly of the British. English was always spoken in England. But the US is a country of immigrants from all over the world. Often not knowing English, they taught it on the go, communicating with the local population, often integrating into their English speech words from their native languages. It is also worth mentioning that the German speaking English and the French sound completely different. Therefore, perhaps it is this mixture of different accents, dialects and languages that led to the creation of one, American English.

Thus, from of all the above, we can say that the British version of English is significantly different from the American one. What are the differences between the two variants of the same language, we will consider in the next Chapter of our study.

# 2. Which English do people prefer more?

# 2.1 Differences in phonetics, grammar, vocabulary and spelling

So, after analyzing the theoretical literature on the problem of research, I am convinced that the British version of the American language has significantly differences from the British one. One of the main differences between the two English versions is their spelling.

1) One of the main differences in the spelling of British and American words is the endings:

# I. -OUR /-OR

British	American
colour	color
fav <b>our</b>	fav <b>or</b>
neighbour	neighb <b>or</b>
savour	savor
val <b>our</b>	valor
lab <b>our</b>	lab <b>or</b>

Since in the English language in the words with **OUR** the letter **u** is not pronounced, then in the American version it is also not written.

# II. -RE /-ER

British	American
theatre	theat <b>er</b>
centre	center
fib <b>re</b>	fib <b>er</b>
sabre	sab <b>er</b>
sombre	somber

This is directly related to Noah Webster's "American dictionary of English". Considering that it would be more logical to write the words as they sound, he decided to replace the suffix **-re** with **-er**.

# III. -CE /-SE

British	American
offence	offense
lisence	lisense
defence	defense
practice	practise
pretence	pretense

The American version of English retained its original French spelling.

Similar differences in the spelling of British and American words are in the suffixes:

# IV.-ISE/-IZE (-YSE/-YZE)

British	American
real <b>ise</b>	real <b>ize</b>
analyse	anal <b>yze</b>
breathalyse	breathal <b>yze</b>
paralyse	paral <b>yze</b>
apolog <b>ise</b>	apolog <b>ize</b>

V. Окончание -UE/-E

British	American
catalogue	catalog
programme	program
prologue	prolog

The ending of the American version of English **-e** and **-ue** in words of French origin is often omitted.

2) In addition to the above, there are many words that differ in their spelling between

British and American English:

British	American
grey	gr <b>a</b> y
p <b>y</b> jamas	p <b>a</b> jamas
do <b>ugh</b> nut	donut
cheque	check

counsellor	conselor
yog <b>ho</b> urt	yogurt
tyre	tire
ensure	insure
through	thru
though	tho
staunch	stanch
mo <b>u</b> ld	mold
mo <b>u</b> lt	molt
plo <b>ugh</b>	plow

3) There are also a number of grammatical differences between British and American English:

I. Grammatical difference between two variants of English in writing 2 and 3 forms of verbs dream, learn, spell, fit, smell, spell, etc.

British	American
dreamt, learnt, spilt, fit, smelt, spelt.	dreamed, learned, spilled, fitted,
(He dreamt of buying a new car)	smell <b>ed</b> , spell <b>ed</b>
	(He dream <b>ed</b> of buying a new car)

American English prefers writing with the end of 2 and 3 forms -ed.

II. For/ in (time)

British	American
I haven't been here <b>for</b> years.	I haven't been here <b>in</b> years.

III. In/on (street names)

British	American
I live in Main Street.	I live on Main Street.

IV. Using the words well and good (about your or someone's mood)

British	American
well (I'm well)	good (I'm good)

V. Events in the past tense

British	American
I have just seen her.	I just saw her.
He has already finished his homework.	He already finished doing his
	homework.
Has she left yet?	Did she leave yet?

Speaking of events in the past tense, the British will use the Present Perfect time, unlike the Americans, who will simplify their lives and say it all through Past Simple + already/just/yet.

VI. Using of the word **got** 

British	American	
I have got to go.	I <b>got</b> to go. = I gotta go.	
I have got a new car.	I got a new car.	

In American (informal) English, this word is used to express: necessity (Past Simple) and belonging. In British English, the word **got** is also used to express necessity and belonging, only with a different grammatical time – Present Perfect.

3) Words that are specific to Britain and to the USA:

British	American	Translation
flat	apartment	квартира
homework	assignment	домашнее задание
cellar	basement	подвал
banknote	bill	банкнота
milliard	billion	миллиард
tin	can	жестяная банка
wardrobe	closet	шкаф
biscuit	cookie	печенье
chemist	druggist	аптекарь
lift	elevator	лифт
rubber	eraser	ластик
luggage	baggage	багаж

Word	British	American
can't	/ka:nt/	/kænt/
tomato	/təˈmaːtəʊ/	/təˈmeɪtoʊ/
colour	/ˈkʌlə(r)/	/ˈkʌlər/
banana	/bəˈnaːnə/	/bəˈnænə/
water	/'wɔ:tə(r)/	/ˈwɔːtər/
car	/ka:(r)/	/kaːr/
theatre	/ˈθɪətə(r)/	/ˈθiːətər/

4) Differences in pronunciation:

Undoubtedly, the words in the British and American version of English are radically different in their pronunciation. One of the biggest differences is that American English is an oral (letter pronunciation) dialect, and British, in turn, is not.

This means that in the British version of the English letter  $\mathbf{r}$  is not pronounced, and in American on the contrary pronounced. This phenomenon can be explained by the same Noah Webster dictionary. When he composed it, he changed the pronunciation and spelling of the words to what he thought was more logical. One of the reasons for this was his desire to distinguish American English from British as much as possible.

So, in the current paragraph, various aspects of the two variants of the English language have been studied. As a result of the study, we found that the grammar system of the American and British versions of the English language is the same except for the simplification of some grammatical structures and the use of grammatical tenses.

Having considered a number of differences between British and American, I'm convinced that the American language is largely simplified in grammar, words that are "at the hearing of the people" – also with the American version. In the next part of my study, I decided to conduct a survey among the students of my school, a survey among Internet users and find out whether they know what the difference is, and what version of English they would like to learn the most.

### 2.2 Which English will you choose?

In the course of my theoretical study, I found that there are still differences between the American and British versions of the English language. The study revealed that the division of languages was due to two reasons: the historical influence of the UK and the geographical features of the country of the studied language.

The next stage of my research was a survey of students. The tasks of the questionnaire were as follows:

1) To find out if high school students are aware of the differences between British and American English;

2) In the case of a positive answer to question #1 to find out whether they know how to apply this knowledge in practice;

3) Identify the popular language among students (British/American English), learn the reasons for this popularity.

The survey included 157 students in grades 8-11 of school #4 from Tuimazy. Students were asked to answer questions of the questionnaire developed by me on the basis of the studied literature. (Addendum 1)

Analysis of respondents' answers revealed:

1. Most respondents noted the high degree of popularity of the American version of English in modern life. (Addendum 2)

2. All participants of the survey believe that the reasons for the popularity of this option is a large population of America, technical achievements in the field of high technology, including the Internet, the economy and show business.

3. Most students understand quite well that there are differences between these variants of English, but it is difficult to name them.

4. The last question in the survey ("Which version of English do you like?") was primarily aimed at those children who know at least a little about the British and American version of the English language. Half of the survey participants (53%) chose American. They motivated their answer by the fact that it is easy to study. 34% of respondents chose the British version, considering it as "correct English". The remaining 13% chose other options, while not commenting on their choice. (Addendum 3)

Thus, the results of the survey indicate the growing popularity of the American version of the English language.

Next, we decided to conduct a linguistic experiment among two parallel students: 10 and 11 classes. I took this age, because those children learn English for a long time and may know the differences between the British and American version of English. The experiment involved group 11 "a" class (11 people), group 11 "b" class (10 people), group 10 "a" class (14 people) and group 10 "b" class (12 people). They are a total of 47 people. The result of my work was to determine the percentage of recognition of American and British words and sentences. I'm interested to know if students would be able to understand which language the proposed texts and words belong to. The participants of the experiment distinguish between the phenomena of the British and American language. 4 exercises were presented. (Addendum 4) All words and expressions were taken from fiction and excerpts from a newspaper article (Daily Telegraph). The children were asked to perform several exercises to determine the differences in spelling, phonetics, vocabulary, grammar. So, the first exercise was performed correctly by 73% of respondents, the second exercise -62%, the third -84% and the fourth -59%. (Addendum 5)

The analysis of the answers showed that the participants are most familiar with the lexical differences. The lowest percentage of correct examples was in phonetics. This can be explained by the fact that this type of activity is the most difficult for students.

The conclusion from the experiment is the following: the respondents are aware of the differences between the British and American versions of English. But a smaller percentage of respondents are familiar with phonetic differences, which complicates the correct perception of American speech by ear.

The last stage of my work was to conduct a survey in social networks, so the range of respondents has already been expanded they were representatives of different countries. Survey participants were asked: "What version of English do you prefer to use – British English or American English? Why?"

After analyzing the answers, we came to the conclusion that American English is more popular than British. They argued their answers, first of all, by the fact that it is easy to study. (Addendum 6)

So, after analyzing I can conclude that both American English and British English are just variants of the same English language. There are more similarities than differences between them. The reasons for the most of differences are the peculiarities of the historical and cultural development of the two countries, as well as the influence of the media and advertising.

The results of the survey allow me to conclude that today American English is probably the most widely spoken language on the globe. It is spoken by 80% of people in the world, despite the fact that there is a lot of debate about what is still the "right" language: British or American.

In conclusion, I would like to note that my work should, of course, be of practical importance. To this end, we have developed a memo, which presented the most common words of the British and American version of the English language. (Addendum 7) after the survey and experiment, each participant received such a memo.

### Conclusion

To sum up my work, I would like to note that there is a pronounced tendency to simplify languages in the world today, and English in this case, perhaps, is the clearest example of this phenomenon.

People are starting to use increasingly simplified versions of words without burdening themselves with complex grammatical structures. It is in this that the domination of the American version of English is manifested, which has become the leading dialect in the English-speaking world, which has replaced the British one.

Of course, this phenomenon is not new. British bands half a century ago were inspired and began their performances with songs of American jazz and Blues artists. But now it is more than ever before noticeable absorption of other English dialects American. This "absorption" is undoubtedly the result of globalization. Only time will tell what this irreversible process will lead to.

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#### Questionnaire survey

«Знакомы ли вам различия между британским и американским вариантами английского языка?»

1. Сколько лет вы изучаете иностранный язык?

а) со 2 класса b) с 5 класса с) свой ответ

2. Правда ли что существует несколько вариантов английского языка?а) Да b) нет c) не знаю

3. Как вы думаете, какой вариант английского языка преподают в большинстве школ России?

а)британский b)австралийский с)американский d)канадский

е)ново-зеландский

4. Как вы думаете, какой вариант английского языка преподают в вашей школе?

а)британский b)австралийский с)американский d)канадский

е)ново-зеландский

5. По вашему мнению, чем отличаются вышеуказанные варианты английского языка?

- 6. Какой вариант английского языка, по вашему мнению, является более популярным?
  - a) британский b)американский c) канадский d) австралийский

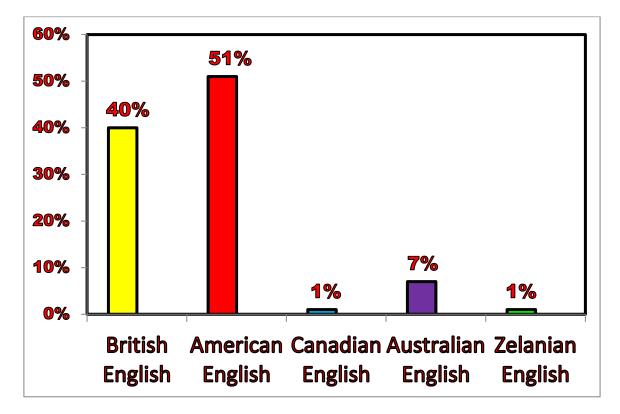
е) новозеландский.

7. Назовите причины популярности вашего варианта английского языка (исходя от ответа на вопрос №7)

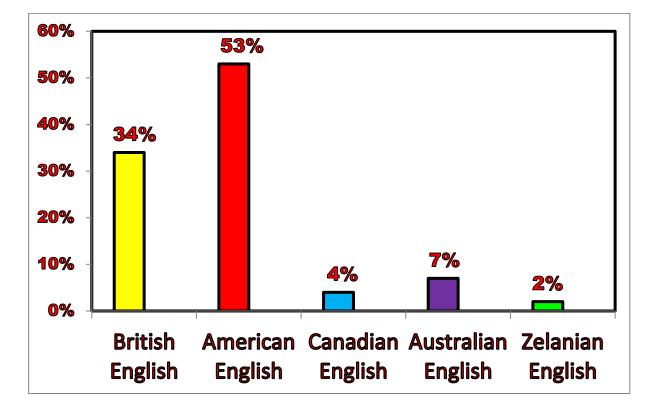
8. Какой вариант английского языка Вам нравится? Почему?

# The answers to the question

"Which version of English do you think is more popular?"



Addendum 3



The answers to the question "What version of English do you like?"

### Exercise #1

Какие из следующих слов написаны на американском английском, а какие — на британском? Можете ли вы привести второй вариант написания?

Образец: AE — mustache : BE — moustache

airplane, cheque, theatre, tyre, defense, woolen, pajamas, goal

Exercise #2

Из списка ниже выберите пары слов, имеющие одинаковое значение, и отнесите их к американскому или британскому английскому.

Образец: АЕ —	$-cookie = \mathbf{BE} - $	- biscuit
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closet	queue	vacation	fall	autumn	sweet
petrol	lift	gas	holiday	flashlight	subway
postman	baggage	movie	candy	underground	luggage
line	elevator	cupboard	mailman	torch	film

Exercise #3

Для кого (американца или британца) больше характерны следующие предложения?

You know something? - Do you know something?

Looking for him? - Are you looking for him?

Got a problem? - Do you have a problem?

Ever been in London? - Have you ever been in London?

I wanna know this story. - I want to know this story.

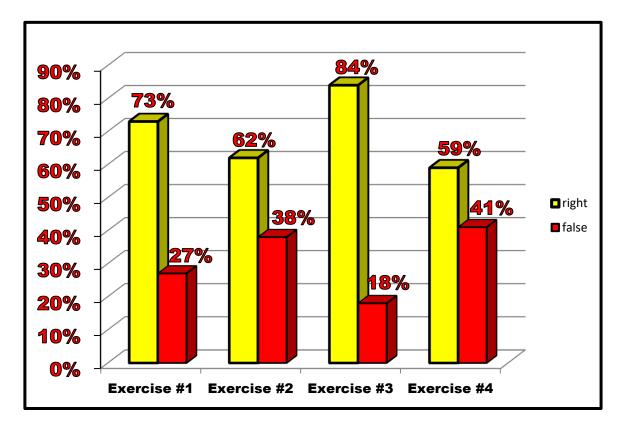
They gotta a hudge house. - They have got a hudge house.

Exercise #4

Прослушайте два музыкальных фрагмента и определите, какой фрагмент исполнен на американском английском, а какой на британском:

Can't let go (by Adele)	I Wanna Go (by Britney Spears)	
When did it go wrong, I will never know	Lately I been stuck imagining	
I have loved you all my life	What I wanna do and what I really think,	
How did it slow down, I go round and round	time to flow out	
Thinking about it all the time	Be a little inappropriate	
	'Cause I know that everybody's thinkin' it	
I gave you heaven on a platter baby	when the lights out	
I gave you everything you never gave me		
I never lied and I never faked it	Shame on me	
Only wanted for you to save me	To need release	
This love, it ain't all greed	Uncontrollably	
There's too much that I haven't said		
	I wanna go all the way	
Did you find the note that I wrote?	Taking out my freak tonight	
I hid it in the seam of your coat	I wanna show	
It was hard to write with a lump in my	All the dirt	
throat	I am running through my mind	
Do you even know I can't let go		
	Lately people got me all tied up	
Why were you so cold, let the truth me told	There's a countdown waiting for me to erupt	
Tell me was it all for the thrill?	Time to blow out	
What was I thinking, I gave you everything	I've been told who I should do it with	
But you still went for the kill	To keep both my hands above the blanket	
	When the lights out	
I gave you heaven on a platter baby		
I gave you everything you never gave me	Shame on me	
I never lied and I never faked it	To need release	
Only wanted for you to save me	Uncontrollably	
Did you find the note that I wrote?		
I hid it in the seam of your coat		
It was hard to write with a lump in my		
throat		
Do you even know I can't let go		

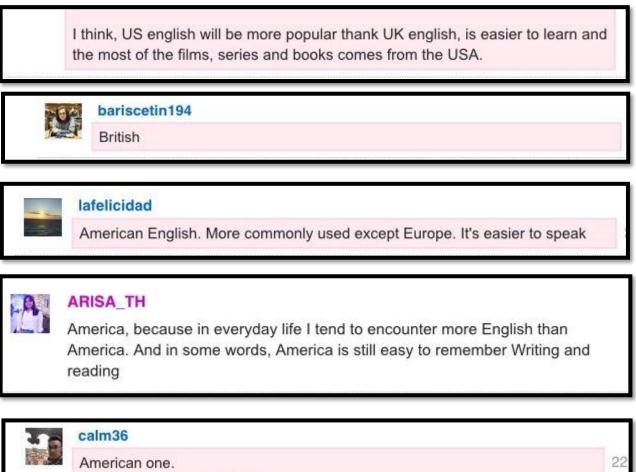
Oooh sometimes I feel like I'm in the dark
Oooh I thought I died in your arms
Did you find the note that I wrote?
I hid it in the seam of your coat
It was hard to write, I had a lump in my
throat
Do you even know that I can't let go
Hope you know, I won't let go



The results of a linguistic experiment

The survey on the social networks

"What version of English do you prefer to use - British English or American English? Why?"



Cuz Japanese education choices it



#### Amaros13

British, cause it's taught in our schools and generally it sounds prettier to me

Addendum 7

Memo of the most common words of British and American English

