

L. Bilenka, Junior specialist student
O. Hyliarska, research and language advisor
Berdychiv Pedagogical College

AMERICANISMS IN MODERN ENGLISH

In recent years, researchers have become increasingly interested in the issue of language communication. Today the most existing languages are prone to penetrating their lexical borrowing from other language systems. The English language is not an exception.

The problem of the use of Americanisms in the English language is constantly attracting the attention of domestic and foreign scholars and educators – V. D. Arakin, G. A. Weikhman, A. A. Evseev, K. V. Dushenko, N. K. Ivanova, Ya. A. Goldovansky, L. P. Kislyuk, A. V. Klimenko, M. M. Moskovtsev, H. V. Nesterchuk, A. I. Smirnitsky, H. D. Tomakhin. This is evidenced by the large number of books, journals, articles devoted to this topic "Stages of development of words of foreign language origin in the system of the recipient language" (Ya. A. Goldovansky), "To the sources of the term "Americanism"(A. A. Evseev), "Realities-Americanisms" (H. D. Tomakhin) and others. However, the problem of the use of Americanisms in modern English still remains insufficiently studied.

The aim of the article is to investigate Americanisms in modern English and their features from the point of view of linguistics, to show the main advantages and disadvantages of Americanisms. The article focuses on magazine and newspaper texts, advertisements on the Internet, books in the fields of lexicology, phonetics, theoretical grammar, history of English and translation studies.

At the moment the topic of Americanism is quite relevant as the studies show that the American version of English is widely used not only in America.

Americanisms are lexical, phonetic, and grammatical features of English in the US, representing relatively few deviations from the British literary norm [1].

Americanisms include:

1. Words that have turned into archaisms or dialects in England but are still widespread in the United States (tardy – "late", fall – "autumn").

2. On the contrary, words that are still in common use in England and in America are used only in common sense, such as: to roil, to guess, to reckon in means "to think", "to consider".

3. Words that have real or only imaginary American ancestry but they are now in common use, such as: lengthy, to progress, to advocate.

4. Words used both in England and in the US, and in which the specific American is only one of their meanings: market – "grocery store", career – "professional", pavement – "paving stone".

5. Words that originated in the United States and did not spread in England: the names of plants and animals of the North American continent moose – "North American moose", various phenomena associated with the state and political system of the United States, for example: the word faculty in England is used in the meaning "faculty", and in America "teaching staff".

The American English version includes a set of elements of lexical, phonetic, spelling, grammatical, stylistic, semantic features that create national colour and relate to the natural climatic conditions, culture, traditions and history of the United States. Because Americanisms are the only verbal notation of these phenomena and objects of American reality, these words are linguistic references that reflect features of the English language in the US or they are borrowed from the American English language by both Americans and foreigners.

So, under the influence of local conditions in the USA, a number of new words that are not used in England have appeared, for example: squaw man – white, married to an Indian, trailer park – a parking lot with mobile homes, permanently installed. Some words have a new meaning or meanings: block – city block, not building, apartment – apartment, not room, etc. Although Americanisms do not significantly change the basics of the English language – its grammatical structure and basic vocabulary – they must be taken into account in the interests of accuracy and correctness of translation.

Much of Americanism is attributed to the slang used by modern American authors of gold-digger – "an adventurer seeking a rich man", blind date – "a date with a stranger".

The British have long been accustomed to the influx of Americanisms into English. However, in recent years this invasion has led to the increasing use of Americanisms in the British language by neglecting equivalents from British English. According to well-known British journalist Matthew Engel, some Americanisms pose a threat to the identity of the English language. He writes about it in an article published on BBC News [2].

He believes that Americans' technological, economic, and cultural achievements should not be used as an excuse for the senseless, or even ugly, predominance of Americanism instead of their equivalent English equivalents in the British media and their penetration into the everyday language of the English.

According to M. Engel, they are increasingly using rookie (American) instead of newcomer, elevator (American) instead of lift, wrench (American) instead of spanner, apartment (American) instead of flat and freight train (American) instead of goods train and so on.

Differences of using American and British:

Orthography:

Color (American) - colour (British)

Program (American) - programme (British)

Center (American) – centre (British)

Monolog (American) – monologue (British)

Traveled (American) – travelled (British)

Grammar:

a) Instead of the Present Perfect formula, Past Indefinite is used:
She already did it (American). – She has already done it (British).

They just left (American). – They have just left (British).

b) The omission part of the passive infinitive in the construction of "Complex Object":

He ordered the money (to be) withdrawn immediately.

c) The "economy" of words is manifested in the omission of the word "should" in additional additions:

They suggested that I (should) do it myself.

It is important that they (should) correct this mistake.

d) The Americanism is also the use of have got instead of just have, and have gotten instead of became.

Vocabulary:

Hike (American jump or lift), price hikes (multiple and sudden increases in prices) – a walk, a trip (in British English).

Block (American city quarter) – building (in British English).

Corn (American corn) – wheat (in British English).

Consequently, English is in constant development interacting with other languages. The processes of intercultural communication are reflected in the language. The close interaction of British English with American has led to the emergence of such a phenomenon as Americanism in English.

REFERENCES

1. Вільна енциклопедія – Режим доступу: <https://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%90%D0%BC%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%B0%D0%BD%D1%96%D0%B7%D0%BC%D0%B8>

2. Стаття Метью Енгеля на BBC News – Режим доступу: <https://www.bbc.com/news/14130942>