

RESEARCH ARTICLE

The American Variant of The English Language and The Characteristics of Americanisms In Dictionaries

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Abstract

In this article analyzes the relationship between the British and American regional variants of English, and in particular, the linguistic nature of the concept of Americanism. The article provides a comparative analysis of approaches to interpreting "American dialect" as an independent language since the 19th century, as well as points of view that explain it as a regional variant of literary English. Based on the materials of the "Century Dictionary", the recording of Americanisms in the dictionary, their place in the general English lexical system, and their percentage indicators were determined.

KEYWORDS

Americanisms, regional variants of English, American English, British English, "Century dictionary", regional language norm, English literary language.

INTRODUCTION

As is known, the issue of regional variants of the English language, especially the relationship between the language norms formed in Great Britain and the United States, has been a source of heated debate in linguistics for many years. At the center of these debates, first of all, is the term "Americanism." The question of how to evaluate the lexical and grammatical features that emerged as a result of the development of the English language in new social, cultural, and political conditions in the Americas has not always had a clear-cut solution. Since the 19th century, some scholars have attempted to interpret "American dialect" as an independent language, while others have interpreted it as a regional variant of literary English. From this point of view, determining the nature of Americanisms, their recording in dictionaries and their place in the English lexical system is not only theoretical, but also of practical importance.

METHOD

The concept of "Americanism" directly touches on the problem of interlinking of the English language of Great Britain and the United States of America, which is extremely complex even in our time.

As is known, in the first quarter of the 19th century, attempts were made in the United States to demonstrate the existence of an independent "American language." In this, we are American G. We are referring to Mencken's book "The American Language" [4].

Some works have been devoted to this problem in world English linguistics. Authors usually conclude that the data presented in the analysis of the languages of both countries do not provide evidence to distinguish American as an independent language, but rather, on the contrary, this language, which is currently called "American", is a language that has a grammatical structure and basic vocabulary similar to that of literary English, differing only in pronunciation and

vocabulary from literary English. Thus, the fact of the existence of differences is indisputable, but, nevertheless, when compared with the English language (since their commonalities far outweigh the differences), the American variant of English cannot be considered either a completely separate language or a dialect of the English language (since it does not meet the most important characteristic of a dialect - its subordination to the general literary language, the absence of official and artistic writing). The American version of English is an independent state language and a literary language. The American version of English is an independent state language and a literary language. Of course, "words and phrases, pronunciation and spelling of words, as well as grammatical constructions that originated and are used on American soil began to be called Americanisms" [1. 28]. Linguist scientist N. According to Mahmudov, "Such regional variants of the language form a unique lexical-semantic system under the influence of national culture and social system. Americanisms – should be considered as a derivative product of the English language adapted to the new social reality" [2. 112]. From this perspective, the special mention of Americanisms in the "Century Dictionary" demonstrates the functional adaptation of the language to the new social environment. It is with this understanding of Americanisms that we approach the material under analysis.

Addressing the issue of Americanisms, the authors of the Century Dictionary note in their preface that "Americanisms have received the recognition they would have received in an American dictionary. At the same time, many of them are recorded for the first time" [5. VI]. On the other hand, many words previously considered peculiar to America turned out to be widely used in England itself, and this, according to Whit, is the first time that the "Century Dictionary" has paid attention to this. Unfortunately, Whitney does not provide examples of these uses, and it seems impossible to verify the veracity of his assertions (the relevant references are completely absent from the dictionary articles).

A sample of 2,000 words taken for analysis (grasp-gyves sample) showed that 27 of these words are Americanisms; thus, the percentage of Americanisms in the "Century Dictionary" is 1.4%. We also compared the 200-word passage (macadam-noon-mark) in M. M. Matthews's Dictionary of Americanisms [1] with the "Century Dictionary". 7.5% (15 words) of the Americanisms cited in Matthews were found to be listed in the Century Dictionary. Moreover, the Century

Dictionary highlights the most important concepts and terms that are widespread in the United States (with or without the U.S. prefix).

machete n.1 'a heavy knife or cutlas used among Spanish colonists and in /Sanish- American countries, both as a tool and as a weapon';

machine n.8 'a strict organization of the working members of a political party, which enables its managers, through the distribution of offices, careful local supervision, and systematic correspondence, to maintain control of conventions and elections' (U.S.)

Thus, Americanisms make up only $\approx 1.4\%$ of the vocabulary in the "Century Dictionary". It is unlikely that this insignificant number confirms the bold claim of the compilers of the "Century Dictionary" that Americanisms "have received the recognition they deserve in American dictionaries" [5. VI].

The study of Americanisms within the broader framework of English lexicography reveals important insights into how regional variation contributes to the dynamic evolution of a global language. The emergence of American English as a distinct national variant is closely tied to historical processes such as colonization, migration, and the formation of new socio-political identities, which inevitably influenced linguistic development. As settlers adapted the English language to new environmental, cultural, and administrative realities, they created lexical innovations that reflected uniquely American experiences, including terms related to governance, technology, and everyday life. These lexical units, later termed "Americanisms," illustrate how language evolves not in isolation but in direct interaction with social context. Importantly, the relatively small proportion of Americanisms identified in comprehensive dictionaries such as the Century Dictionary—approximately 1.4%—does not diminish their significance; rather, it highlights the selective and cautious approach of lexicographers in recognizing regional variants within a standardized framework. This selectivity underscores a broader methodological challenge: determining which regional features achieve sufficient stability, frequency, and communicative relevance to warrant inclusion in authoritative lexical resources. Moreover, the interplay between British and American English demonstrates that linguistic variation is not a sign of fragmentation but of enrichment, as both variants continue to influence each other through literature, media, and global communication networks. In contemporary linguistics, the rigid distinction between "standard" and "non-

standard" forms is increasingly being reconsidered, giving way to more flexible models that acknowledge plurality and variation as inherent characteristics of language. From a lexicographic perspective, this shift necessitates a more inclusive representation of regional forms, including not only Americanisms but also other global English variants shaped by local cultures and identities. Additionally, the role of dictionaries has expanded beyond mere documentation to include the interpretation of linguistic trends, requiring lexicographers to balance descriptive accuracy with normative guidance. The example of Americanisms also raises questions about linguistic authority and ownership, as language is no longer confined to a single geographical or cultural center but exists as a shared and continuously evolving system. In this context, the recognition of regional variants becomes a reflection of linguistic democratization, where multiple forms coexist and contribute to the richness of expression. Ultimately, the analysis of Americanisms within lexicographic practice demonstrates that language variation is not a peripheral phenomenon but a central component of linguistic vitality, reinforcing the idea that the evolution of vocabulary is deeply intertwined with historical change, cultural diversity, and the communicative needs of speakers across different contexts

Lexicon of the English Language. Legare Street Press, 2022. P. 260.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the differences between British and American English are not a wall separating them, but rather two different colors that enrich the common English language. Studying such regional variations of language helps us understand how human thought adapts and evolves in different environments.

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