

۱۴۱.۲۴۸

British and American English Varieties

Naghmeh Mirzaie

2016



میرزائی، نغمه، ۱۳۲۹ -	سرشناسه
Mirzaie, Naghmeh	عنوان و نام پدیدآور
British and American English varieties/ Naghmeh Mirzaie.	مشخصات نشر
تغریش : دانشگاه تغریش، ۱۳۹۵ = ۲۰۱۶ م.	مشخصات ظاهری
۲۲۵ ص.	شابک
978-964-6244-87-0	وضعیت فهرست نویسی
فبا	یادداشت
انگلیسی.	یادداشت
واژه نامه.	یادداشت
کتابنامه.	یادداشت
بر...	آوانویسی عنوان
د انگلیسی -- دستور زبان تطبیقی -- انگلیسی آمریکایی	موضوع
English language -- Grammar, Comparative -- English language -- United States.	موضوع
د انگلیسی -- دستور زبان تطبیقی -- انگلیسی آمریکایی	تشناسه افزوده
۱۱۶ م/ ۹۹ ص	رده بندی کنگره
۲۵	رده بندی دیویی
۲۲-۲۹۸	شماره کتابشناسی ملی

نام کتاب : British and American English Varieties

مؤلف : نغمه میرزایی

قطع : وزیری

ناشر : دانشگاه تغریش

تیراژ : ۵۰۰

قیمت : ۱۵۰۰۰ ریال

Introduction:

About English	I
How British and American English came to be Different	IV
Varieties in British and American English	VII
Dialects and accents of British and American English	X
Chapter1: British and American Vocabulary Differences:	1
Chapter2: British and American Spelling Differences:	22
Chapter3: List of words having different and common meanings in British & American English:	38
Chapter4: British and American Phonetic Differences:	245
Chapter 5: British and American Grammar Differences:	249
Chapter 6: British and American Idiomatic Differences:	287
British and American Spelling Differences of idioms:	287
British and American Vocabulary Differences of idioms:	289
British and American Grammatical Differences of idioms:	299
Chapter7: British and American Cultural Differences:	302
Bibliography:	323

Introduction

About English

About three hundred years ago, English was simply the language of the English. The language we know today as English, developed by about 1400 out of English, with a good deal of borrowing from Norman French, the language of those who had conquered England in the year 1066. Wales, Scotland and Ireland were at that time separate countries whose inhabitants spoke Celtic. The North American continent was unknown to Europeans. Australia had not yet been discovered. The language in which European scholars wrote and communicated was Latin. If we take English to be around six hundred years old we can say that, for half its history, it was exclusively the mother tongue of the people of England.

In the 17th century, English wasn't spoken by Americans but then the British came there and there was a very important colonization of Britain. So, after it, people started speaking English. The Colonization was followed by trade and by the establishment of colonies of settlers. European languages (including English) came to be used in places far from Europe, both as the home language of the emigrants and their children,

About English

and also as the language in which the new trading communities conducted their business. In addition, the English was used for administration, education and commerce, either as the mother tongue or as a foreign or second language. The settlers from England and later from all over the British Isles founded communities which used English as their native language, not only at home and at work but also for government and law. Yet in many places these English-speaking settlers were a minority. This was the case in North America for many decades, but the American Indian population declined as the colonists multiplied, and eventually the English-speaking settlers outnumbered the non-English speaking population, which included colonists of other nationalities as well. English came to be used, then, not only as the mother tongue by the English, not only by the population of Britain as a whole (after the incorporation of Wales, Scotland and Ireland), not only by the English-speaking settlers in the colonies and dominions, but also as a foreign language by large numbers of non-English speaking inhabitants of those territories. By the beginning of this century, English had already become a language of worldwide use by colonists. Nowadays, there are 300 million people speak English as their mother tongue, and at least a further

About English

300 million use it regularly as a second language or are able to communicate in English when the need arises. It is a characteristic of all languages that varieties can be observed and described. Of course, they are all varieties of one and the same language; British and American English are varieties of English; as Mexican, Puerto Rican and Castilian are all varieties of Spanish. The important point is that different varieties exist in all languages. Whatever the varieties of any language may be, their number will reflect the sheer "size" of the language, that is, the number of people who use it, its geographical spread, and the range of its uses. In some countries, although English is not the mother tongue of the majority of inhabitants it may be the "medium of instruction", the language in which education is offered, at least in a major part of the educational system, or it may be an official language, used, for example, in courts of law. In such circumstances English is a second language. Elsewhere, when English has no special status it is a foreign language. Thus in Singapore, Hong Kong, Ghana, Nigeria, to name only a few examples, English is a second language because it has special status, and is used as a medium of instruction; in France, Brazil, Thailand, Japan and many others it is a foreign language.

Introduction:

How British and American English came to be Different

American English begins in Elizabethan times, around the year 1600 when English speaking settlers began to live on the Atlantic coast of the American continent. These first settlers had grown up in England; they had learnt as children to speak and write English in the last quarter of sixteenth century and what's more, they were people who did not have much formal school training. They were not used to writing. Of course, one should not forget that among the colonists there was a large proportion of educated ministers but there were not enough of them to attend to all the religious and governmental duties on the members of the communities that were established. So unusual and important functions frequently devolved up on men who in their homelands would never have been faced with such tasks. So an example of one important function in colonial days in New England was that of keeping records of the activities carried on through the various governing bodies which the colonists established. Many of these first settlers had not been to school enough to know how to spell some very common words.

How British and American English came to be Different

Moreover, these scribes were accustomed to use pronunciations and words in their daily life that seldom if ever appeared in the writings. The records left by these early New England clerks and secretaries are therefore interesting for the light they shed on the speech actually used by common people in certain parts of England during the first half of the seventeenth century. In England records of the kind kept in New

England were made by people trained to write as they should speak, not as they really did speak. Consequently, the records kept in England do not possess the linguistic interest of those kept in New England at the same period. Then the colonists naturally weren't aware of the changes going on in the language in Great Britain. In addition, there was colonization of many countries too, who spoke Spanish, German, French, and other countries had come and had contributed their share toward making American English differ somewhat from the English used beyond the Atlantic. As a result, British and American English came to be different: first, British English changed itself, as a result of the passage of time and the social history of the British Isles. Secondly, English as spoken and written in America acquired a character of its own, reflecting the growth and history of the American community. And third, the

How British and American English came to be Different

interaction and the relations between Britain and American changed themselves, which also affected the history of English.

On 18th June, 1812, the relations between British and Americans weren't good because of trade and conflict so there was a War.(from 1812 to 1815). This war caused the differences between Americans and Englishmen to be sharply accentuated. There was a tendency after the war for writers to single out and stress points of contrast between the peoples of the two countries. It was easy to be seen by the end of the eighteenth century when the language employed in the United States differed somewhat from that used in England. The Americans were quick to claim that the language as used by them was vastly superior to that employed in England, and the English lost no time in taking the opposite view of the matter. These two views have been maintained with varying degrees by their followers from then on. What's more, among the colonies established by England it has been only in the United States that a literature has been produced which can even remotely be thought of in comparison with that produced in the homeland. American authors and works have inevitably been compared to English writers and their products. These reviews and comparisons have tended to keep open the question of the relative superiority of the English used in England and that used in the United States. The

How British and American English came to be Different

really surprising thing about the English of England and that of the United States is not that they differ slightly. When they consider the great number of people of different nationalities who have come to this country during the past three hundred years they may well marvel that the present-day speech is so nearly standard English that whenever an American travels in the English-speaking world they do not have real difficulty in understanding the English speech they hear and in making themselves understood. The difference, however, between American English and British English has been a subject of study for the past century and a half. Some of the observations made by those who have dealt with the subject are quite useless, and show that their authors were not competent to pass any judgment on any phase of the subject they treated. Other observations were made by people who had the background necessary to enable them to have sensible views about the growing divergence between British and American usage.