

LANGUAGE PECULIARITIES OF REGIONAL BRITISH ENGLISH VARIANTS

S. A. Shurko

*Belarusian State University,
Niezaliežnasci Avenue, 4, 220030, Minsk, Republic of Belarus, shurko.bsu.by*

Language accents and dialects are factors which sometimes may lead to misunderstanding between people speaking one and the same language but living in different areas and districts. The purpose of this article is to outline the differences of the regional dialects from the standard and to underline characteristic features peculiar only for them. In this paper we have analyzed the speech of people who live in the UK on the examples of the speakers of British dialects and accents which were taken from the video film called "Language accent file".

We have traced the differences and made a conclusion that every single accent or dialect possesses a number of features which could only be heard in a definite area or among particular class representatives. This article reflects the factors influencing the way people speak, such as geographical area people were born in and raised, their education, age and class delineation which is still strong in Great Britain.

Keywords: dialects; accents; rhotic language; glottal stop; h-dropping; double negation; reduction; syllables merger.

ЯЗЫКОВЫЕ ОСОБЕННОСТИ РЕГИОНАЛЬНЫХ ВАРИАНТОВ БРИТАНСКОГО АНГЛИЙСКОГО

С. А. Шурко

*Белорусский государственный университет,
Незалежнасці пр, 4, 220030, Мінск, Рэспубліка Беларусь, shurko.bsu.by*

Языковые акценты и диалекты являются факторами, которые иногда могут привести к недопониманию между людьми, говорящими на одном и том же языке, но живущими в разных районах. Цель данной статьи - выделить отличия региональных диалектов от общепринятых и подчеркнуть характерные черты, свойственные только им. В этой статье мы проанализировали речь людей, живущих в Великобритании, на примерах говорящих на британских диалектах и акцентах, которые были взяты из видеофильма «Файл языкового акцента». Автор пришел к выводу, что каждый акцент или диалект обладает рядом особенностей, которые можно услышать только в определенной области или среди отдельных представителей класса. Эта статья отражает факторы, влияющие на то, как люди говорят, такие как географический район, в котором люди родились и выросли, их образование, возраст и разграничение классов, которые все еще сильны в Великобритании.

Ключевые слова: диалект; акцент; ротический язык; глоттальный стоп, выпадение h, двойное отрицание, редукция, слияние слогов.

The British are well-known for being extremely sensitive about how they and others speak the English language. Accent differences seem to receive more attention here than is general anywhere in the world, including other English-speaking countries. It may be for this reason that native and non-native teachers of English

view the matter with considerable interest. Additionally, their own pronunciation is important because it is the model for their students to imitate.

Britain geographically expands for many kilometers and consists of plenty of regions. Each part of Britain is unique, especially taking into consideration people's speech. People speak differently not just because they live in various areas, but it also depends on their age, surrounding and family background. It can be proved by the fact that the speech of pupils from secondary schools and locals living in one and the same country and even in one and the same region speak different languages, pronouncing one and the same word completely differently and use various expressions for defining one and the same object or phenomenon.

In this article we will reflect speech characteristics of people speaking the following dialects: Cockney, Dorset, Liverpool, Belfast, Yorkshire, Newcastle, Cambridge, Norfolk, Birmingham, Glasgow, Scottish and London.

We shall dwell on the most distinctive peculiarities of the dialects mentioned above.

Thus, for example, in Cockney dialect we have to outline some variations in the pronunciation of words. The speakers are mostly young people who constitute the working class. In Cockney dialect sound [r] is replaced by sound [w]. For example, *thwee* instead of *three*, *fwasty* instead of *frosty*.

The phenomenon that is also occurred in American English is glottal stop: *I'll see ya la[ʔ]er*.

They widely exercise h-dropping and the omission of consonants in final position: *Now anybody can 'ave, anythin' they like. Ay, tha knows! 'Appen Sunday!*

People, speaking Cockney, often use *me* instead of *my*. For example, *At's me book you got 'ere. Ain't* instead of *am not*, *has not* and *have not*, *isna* instead of *isn't*. *It isna horrid*.

Double negation is used, for example, *I didn't see nuffink*. To reject something quickly negative particles are applied: *nay, nay!*

Dorset's dialect possesses features of the south-western dialects. Only people who are settled in this area speak it. People whose speech was analyzed come from different classes, but mostly they are representatives of the middle class. The following features are common for the Dorset's dialect. For example, sound [r] is pronounced everywhere, *park, car, garden, part*. But with one exception, it is usually omitted before s. For example, *burst – bu'st, corse – coo'se, force – fwo'se, horse – ho's*.

Initial *h* is dropped: *Arable* from *horrible*. *This road is arable*.

There are 4 vowel sounds which in Dorset's dialect are replaced by the letter *i*. For example, *spell – spil, lord – lird, house – his, coat – cit. My his is nearby*.

Consonant cluster 'sk' in British Standard English is replaced by 'x', *ask – ax*.

By the way the most useful tendency which people spoken this dialect possess is that some pairs of like-sounded English words are distinguished in Dorset: *sea – rests sea, but see is changed into zee. He hasn't zeen me for ages* [1, c. 25].

Nowadays Belfast, Yorkshire and Newcastle dialects are mainly represented by teenagers. As we may notice, their speech abounds in set expressions which they daily use in the conversation with their peers. They are more mobile and easily adopted to new technologies in which some slang words and expressions are widely used and frequently mentioned.

In Belfast set expression *A'ha's 'bout you?* means 'How are you doing?'. *Catch your cell phone!* means 'Stop doing something!'. *Waving your hair.* – has a meaning 'What are you talking about?'.
In Yorkshire vowels are sometimes reduced or even omitted, and consonant sound *th* is reduced to [t]. For example, *Going down to t shop*.

The speech of people who use Yorkshire dialect is really fast. The major reason for it is frequent reduction and sometimes even omission of vowels and substitution of some consonant clusters by one consonant. Only one letter remains in articles and moreover in some cases of fluent speech they are fully omitted.

The following set expressions are widespread among the speakers of the Yorkshire dialect: *Allus at t' last push up*, means 'until the last moment'. *It's nut jannock*. 'It's not fair'. *A reight gooid so art*. 'A really good person'.

In Liverpool the word *mangle* means 'silly'. *Yerjokin' me* is used instead of *you're kidding*. The term *made upis* often used to express happiness or joy toward someone. For example, *I'm made up I didn't go there*.

The word *sound* has a different meaning. For example, *It was sound*. 'It was good'. *How are you? – I'm sound*.

Some words in Liverpool English possess additional cognitive meanings and as the result their speech looks highly emotional.

New Castle dialect has its own peculiar features too. Here they say: *Hoo ye gannin?* – How are you? *Tara now, pet.* – Goodbye. *Bonny day the day.* – It's nice weather. *Cowld the day.* – It's cold today.

The rest dialects are characterized by the area where they are spoken. Moreover people use these variations despite their class delineation and age.

In Norfolk county people use Norfolk dialect. Here you can come across the following peculiarities in pronunciation and vocabulary:

- vowels are longer;
- syllables merger is a characteristic feature of this dialect: *holday, doing-durn*;
- relative pronouns like *who, which* and *that* in most cases are replaced by pronoun *what*. For example, *that was the one what I was talking about*.

In addition they frequently use these expressions while speaking with people whom they know in person for many years: *Titty-totty* – 'very small', *Bor* – neighbour or boy.

Birmingham dialect has a unique vocabulary that we could not understand without knowing the meanings of some words and expressions. The awareness of these phrases will help to comprehend, what they are talking about [2, c. 105].

For example, *It's boasting.* – 'It's gray'. *Cake hole* means 'mouth'. *Bosti fetle* means 'good food'. *Booza* has a meaning of pub. *Oi quoit loik it, oil giv it five.* – 'I quite like it, I'll give it five'.

Glasgow dialect can be vividly observed on the examples of the university students. Of course they mainly use slang words talking with each other. In Glasgow slang the following set expressions are common: *Nugget* – 'idiot'. *Mad wi' it* – 'drunk'.

Actually this dialect abounds in lexical differences as it is similar to the Scottish variety of the English language. In these particular examples the youth differ-

ences were taken into consideration to show the live dialogues between people who are graduates from Glasgow colleges and universities.

We have found out that dialect tells us not only what people are saying or how they're communicating but it tells us a great deal – by intonation and tone, content and circumstance – about the quality of the character of people, possessing this or that dialect. We have traced the differences and made a conclusion that language is very rich and powerful. The most precious thing in every language is dialects, its cultural sophistication, and artistic values. Young people are more affected by the impact of mass media, they are more mobile. But the general attitude in the meritocratic Britain today is that people should not be judged by the way they speak. It is not that people should change their attitude.

REFERENCES

1. Barnes W. Grammar and Glossary of the Dorset Dialect. London : M&E case county printers; 1st ed., 1886.
2. Leshchova L. M. English Lexicology. Minsk : MSLU, 2016.
3. Standard variants and Dialects of the English Language [Electronic resource]. URL : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=riwKuKSbFDs> (date of access : 07.10.2019).