

VARIETIES OF ENGLISH – ENGLISHES

Stylistically Marked Vocabulary

STYLISTICALLY MARKED WORDS

- stylistic colouring
- particular style of speech/level of formality

Formal:

perspiration, amicable, climb

STYLISTICALLY NEUTRAL WORDS

- used independently of the sphere of communication

Neutral:

sweat, friendly, ascend

Stylistically coloured (marked) words

- suitable on certain definite occasions
- on the borders of the range:

FORMAL – NEUTRAL – INFORMAL

- formal (technical, official, literary)
- neutral
- informal (colloquialisms, slang, words with local colouring)

FORMAL VOCABULARY

- official situations, talks, documents, literary works, lectures, scientific works, etc.
- not socially or geographically limited
- polysyllabic
- Romance, Latin, Greek origin
- conservative
- words that do not belong to present-day English vocabulary
- archaic connectives and double conjunctions,
e.g. *efficacious = effective, donation = gift; furthermore, whereby, ...*

COLLOQUIALISMS

- everyday speech
- informal conversations, correspondence to friends
- emotional,
- jocularly coloured
- figurative meaning
- particular fields of human activity, e.g. business oral communication (cf. official correspondence – highly formal vocabulary)
- e.g. *blind alley job* = job that has no future, *get cracking* = work fast long-winded = using more words than necessary to say something
- **SLANG** = a set of new, very informal words used in private conversation language; used by specific social/age group; expressive, witty, ironical, impolite, unpredictable formation; helps make speech vivid, colourful, interesting; can easily be used inappropriately; can combine with local colouring (American vs. British slang, e.g. *to sack* (BE) vs. *to fire sb.* (AmE); American slang – rich, many nations)

Newspaper English

- the vocabulary of newspapers
- journalese - an informal, pejorative term
 - a style of writing and word choice found in newspapers and magazines
- Principles of newspaper English:
 - 1 economical
 - 2 condensed
 - 3 attractive language
- one goal → to attract the reader's attention in the smallest space possible

Newspaper headlines

- as few words as possible, i.e. grammar words often left out
e.g. *Turkish Minister Quits in Car Crash Scandal*
- a simple form of the verb
e.g. *Pepsi To Test New Colours*
- infinitive instead of future when sth. is going to happen
e.g. *USD 20 Million to Be Invested in Office Centre*
- shorter, dramatic words
- emotional adjectives, e.g. *sensational, breath-taking, impressive*
- abbreviations
- punning, i.e. playing with words, humorous use of words
- clichés, e.g. *Projects get a green light*
- slogans, e.g. from TV shows, movies, lyrics
- anagrams, i.e. rearranging letters to spell sth. else
e.g. from the names of famous people *James' Romance* (James Cameron, the director of the Titanic)
- new words with vague etymology
e.g. *venditation* – the act of setting force ostentatiously (probably from *vendetta*)

Regional Varieties of English

- Standard English (Received Pronunciation, The Queen's English) official language, current and literary, acceptable
- local dialects – no normalised literary form
 - variants – literary forms of regional varieties
 - in GB 2 main variants,
i.e. Scottish English (*loch = lake, lassie = girl*),
Irish English (*are ya away? = Are you leaving?, fillum = movie*)
 - five main groups of dialects, i.e. Northern, Midland, Eastern, Western, Southern
- Dialects – preserved in rural communities,
 - speech of elderly people (obsolete words)
 - tendency to disappear (migration, media, urban life)

Local dialects

- Cockney: regional dialect of London
lively, witty, imaginative, colourful
rhyming slang – some words are substituted by other words
rhyming with them, e.g. *boots = daisy roots*,
hat = tit for tat, *head = crust of bread*, *legs = bacon and eggs*
- Estuary English: London, along the Thames Estuary
(a water passage where the tide meets a river current)
not as posh as RP, not as ordinary as Cockney
- Yorkshire County: the largest in the UK, Yorkshire dialect,
e.g. *brass = money*, *scrán = food*
- Other dialects: e.g. *Brummie* (Birmingham), *Scouse* (Liverpool), *Geordie* (Newcastle), ...

The United States of America

- Standard American
- not a dialect
- a regional variety (literary normalised form – Standard American)
- not a separate language (does not possess phonetic system nor vocabulary)
- Modified norms of those accepted in GB
- Differences: pronunciation, vocabulary, spelling and grammar
- Lexical point of view:
Americanisms
= word or phrase peculiar to the English language as spoken in the USA
e.g. apartment – flat, faucet – tap, baby carriage – pram, cab – taxi, cookie biscuit, diaper – nappy, drugstore – chemist’s, elevator – lift, line – queue, mail – post, movies – pictures, one-way ticket – single ticket, store – shop, ...

Local American English dialects

- distinguished according to geographical parts of the USA:
the Southern, the Northern, the Midwest, the West
- plus dialects specific to a particular area of the country, e.g.
Tangier Island, Virginia (High Tider), South Carolina and Georgia (Gullah),
Boonville, California (Boontling), Louisiana (Cajun English)
- Ethnic groups – own dialects, e.g.
African-American English (Black English/Ebonics), Hispanic Vernacular English
(Chicago English, Chicano)

Other Countries

- Irish English/Hiberno English, Hibernia = Ireland in Latin (*jacks – a bathroom/toilet*)
- Canadian English (*shack = a hut*)
- Australian English (*smoko < smoking = tea/coffee break*)
- New Zealand English (*Aotearoa = New Zealand in Maori*)
- Indian English/Indglish

Time Aspect in English Vocabulary

- constant change
- new notions – new words
- NEOLOGISM
 - a word (or its equivalent) formed according to the productive patterns or borrowed from another language and felt by the speakers as something new
 - formation according to the rules of word formation, e.g. prefixation (*rehouse* – move a family to a new house), compounding (*aqualung*), conversion (*a comeback*), backformation (*to window-shop*)
 - other examples, e.g. euphemisms (*unprivileged* = *poor*), nonce words (words coined for one occasion, e.g. *He was whiskeyfied.*)

Obsolete and Archaic words

OBSOLETE words

- dropped out from the language, e.g. *eve* (the evening/day before)
- linguistic factor (the old word acquires a new stylistic property)
- extralinguistic factor (the denotatum is outdated and no more used, the word is not used as well)

HISTORISMS

- for social relations, institutions, objects of material culture of the past (e.g. names of ancient weapons, boats, carriages, e.g. *caravel*, *galleon*, ...)

ARCHAISM

- a word which is no longer in general use, but it is not absolutely obsolete, e.g. *shan't* = shall not, instead of *won't*, *I daresay* = it is possible that
- may sound more official, authoritative, magical,
- used in law terminology

Interesting facts

AMERICAN ENGLISH

- computers
- communication technologies
- Netcronym – internet acronym (F2F = face to face)

SMILEYS/emoticons

- mixture of oral, written and drama genres on Internet
- different punctuation marks to express body language, emotions, appearance, smiles and shrugs – everything that is invisible on a screen