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## **LINGUISTIC FEATURES OF THE MODERN AMERICAN ENGLISH**

### **Лингвистические особенности современного американского варианта английского языка**

Nowadays, there are a lot of languages in the world. English is considered as an international language, although its American version is used more often because it is easier. The purpose of this article is to study the linguistic features of the American version of the English language.

There is a tendency to clearly pronounce individual words such as «*voluntarily*» in American English. At the same time syllables in such words are swallowed in the British version. One of the main features of American intonation is its consistency. Americans tend to lengthen vowel sounds and put them on two different steps instead of one.

When analyzing the features of the American English, there are several grammatical differences between the British and American English in addition to phonetic diversity. For example, in American English Past Simple is often used instead of Present Perfect to give more information or report on recent events: «*I lost my key. Can you help me to look for it?*»

In American English phrases such as «*I have / I don't have / Do you have?*» are more commonly used than «*I've got / I haven't / have you got?*». For example, «*We have a new house*»; «*Do you have a sister?*»

Some verbs in American and British English have different forms in Past Simple and Past Perfect tenses. For example, verbs such as *to burn, to learn, to lean* tend to be regular in American English: *burned, learned, and leaned*, while in British English they are both regular and irregular: *burn-burnt, burned; learn – learnt, learned*.

If we analyze American and British verbs, we can come to the conclusion that: the verbs such as *to spill, to spell, to smell, to leap, to dream, to spoil* are irregular in British but they are regular verbs in American English. The past tense participle of the irregular verb *get* is *gotten, prove – proven*. For example, “*Your English has gotten much better since I last saw you*”.

And at last, we can compare the lexical differences in the American English and the British. They are very extensive due to numerous borrowings from Spanish and Indian languages, which one can't find in British English. The following words have been selected as perfect examples:

<b>American version</b>	<b>British version</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
Account	Bill	Счёт
Apartment	Flat	Квартира
Streetcar	Tram	Трамвай
Soccer	Football	Футбол
Police officer	Bobby	Полицейский
Pants	Trousers	Штаны, брюки
Neck	Snog	Обниматься
Fall	Autumn	Осень
Cookie	Biscuit	Печенье
Drugstore	Chemist's	Аптека
Movie	Film	Кино, фильм
Sick	Ill	Больной

Thus, American English is spoken by about 2 times more people than any variety of English and 4 times more than British English. This can be explained partly due to the leading position of the United States in the world. Our research shows that the American English is spoken by many people because it is easier in several characteristics: its stepwise intonation, and simplification of verb forms. There are also a lot of borrowings from other languages. These borrowings are simple, and they reflect the American nation lifestyle, environment and history.

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## **FROM NOSE TO TONGUE: THE PROBLEM OF CATEGORIZING ODORS IN ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGES**

### **От носа до языка: проблема категоризации запахов в английском и русском языках**

It is common knowledge that people have five senses: sight, smell, hearing, taste and touch. We navigate through life thanks to the information that we get from the sense organs. With the help of our noses we can feel odors. As the pandemic has shown us, it's possible to live without the ability to smell, but it definitely feels like missing out on various experiences.

«Smell does not allow itself to be described, but only compared through similarity with another sense.» The German philosopher Immanuel Kant wrote those

words in his book «Anthropology: History and Education» more than 300 years ago, but the situation hasn't changed since then.

That's why the goal of this paper is to find out what are the problems of categorizing odors in English and Russian languages.

Linguists and other scientists have always worked on finding the answer to why it is so hard to describe smells. On the one hand, there is the opinion that smells are too multifaceted for our brains to comprehend and name, others think it simply shows the fact that humans rely mainly on eyesight.

With the relatively small number of names for odors it should be easy to categorize them. There are several systems for distinguishing smells, but most of them focus only on perfumery and ignore the stinky ones.

Some researchers have used mathematics to describe odors systematically and simplify them into 10 categories: fragrant, woody/resinous, fruity (non-citrus), chemical, minty/peppermint, sweet, popcorn, lemon, pungent and decayed. Others try to take into consideration complicated smells like 'river odor', which includes the smells of fish, air and seaweed, or even 'scent of morning' – a combination of smells of coffee and eggs. Among all the categorizations it's hard to argue only with the one that suggests simply to divide smells into neutral, pleasant and unpleasant, but even this one seems rather subjective.

Looking at the problem from the linguistic standpoint, it's also ambiguous.

It's fairly obvious that a lot of the words describing smells actually can be used when talking about tastes too. This is applicable for both English and Russian: sweet – *сладкий*, citrus – *цитрусовый*.

For artificial (and occasionally natural) smells there is a variety of words, most of which come from the materials that cause the odors: plastic, alcohol, etc. They give off mainly unpleasant scents or even stench. In Russian, however, this category doesn't really exist, and all such smells are described by a combination of words: запах алкоголя, запах лекарств (иногда применяется «лекарственный»).

The most uncertain category, which still deserves to be mentioned, is the adjectives of mixed smells. Earthy, feminine, rancid, stale, body odor, herbal smell – the range is rather wide. However, all those odors can be attributed to other categories, if they are evaluated by depth, relation to nature or any other feature. This applies to the Russian language too: *горный, цветочный запахи и т.д.*

To sum up, there isn't a certain system for categorizing words dealing with smells neither in English nor in Russian languages. This has to do with both the small amount of such lexical units. As well as that, the polysemy of many adjectives makes it impossible to put each word in only one allotted category.