

ON THE DOMINANCE OF THE AMERICAN VARIANT OF ENGLISH IN UKRAINE

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The modern globalized world admitting the dominance of the English language is gradually inclined to admit the dominance of its American variant. Being the number one wealth in the modern world the US inevitably affected the other variants by the avalanche of scientific matter and the establishment of transnational corporations.

The dominance of British English in Ukraine formerly based on its limited access to the English native-speaking world behind the Iron Wall in the Soviet Union has recently given way to a gradual change towards American English on a par with the cultural transformation of the Western world with transatlantic travelling, international conferences, new economic ties, Peace Corps operation in Ukraine and, most importantly, with the establishment of numerous transnational corporations and academic mobility. In short, the transformation of British English dominance in favor of American English went hand in hand with that of the globalized world.

However, not so smoothly in the academic world. Even though there are bits of information on the topic in modern English language courses both at secondary schools and universities, there is no clear division between the two in practical use. Thus, students might be confused by “faculty” as a group of university professors in American English and “faculty” as a university school or institute in British English. Nonetheless, the most controversial field is the American accent totally suppressing in Ukraine the British accent. In real life they appear to be the mixture of both and the present-day curricula and syllabi don't bother even to include the issue into their lists of the required entries.

The author of a scientific study on related issues stresses the following: the influence of American English is present on both vocabulary and functional varieties (politics, economics, arts, travelling, etc.) With time “Americanisms” become standardized in British English [1, p.7].

The conclusions, though, are vague as to the Internet use. It used to be predominantly English, but with time other cultures voiced their identity through other languages. This is also true about British English, which, according to K. Pauline, is as strong as ever to express social and personal identities [1, p.122]. In fact, there is the back wave to support people's identity through their native language in all spheres of communication. The American borrowings can't but penetrate all the languages. However, the current cultural transformation may prove otherwise. Identity might be victorious.

Reference:

1. Katerina Pauline. The influence of American English on British English/Anno Academico. – 2013-2014. – 134 pp.