

MODERN DIALECTS IN BRITISH ENGLISH

Introduction. Every language that exists in our world has its own peculiarities, for example, a dialect. But what is it? Cambridge Dictionary suggests the following definition. A dialect is a form of a language that people speak in a particular part of a country, containing some different words and grammar, etc. [3].

Perhaps, everyone who learns British English at least once deals with the existing dialects. There are about 40 of them, and they all have their own features, which it would be interesting to learn about.

The purpose of the study is to investigate the most popular dialects of British English and their peculiarities.

One of the most popular dialects is Scottish. It is also called «More Than a Dialect, Less Than a Full-Fledged Language» [7]. The Scottish dialect is radically different from the generally accepted British English. The biggest differences are in the vowels, namely, there is no difference between short and long vowels «so that 'good,' 'food' have the same vowel, as does 'Sam,' 'psalm' and 'caught,' 'cot'» [7].

The Scots also have an interesting vocabulary, with many words coming from Scottish Gaelic. Sometimes speakers can consciously use «Scotticisms». But it happens when such vocabulary can be used in a conversation not on purpose, but because the person with whom communication is taking place does not even realize that he is using some vocabulary specific to others.

Geordie is a dialect spoken in and around the Tyneside conurbation in north-east England [6]. This dialect is considered one of the most difficult to understand. Geordie is distinct from the other dialects found in British English. It has such differences because, unlike others, it was not influenced by the

Saxons, but by the Angles, for example, Geordie words like ‘dede’, ‘coo’, ‘clood’, ‘hoos’, ‘wrang’, ‘strang’ and ‘lang’ are in fact the original Anglo-Saxon pronunciations for ‘dead’, ‘cow’, ‘cloud’, ‘house’, ‘wrong’, ‘strong’ and ‘long’. For this reason, if a person is not from the area where it is spoken, he will need a little more time and patience to get used to it, unlike others, because other dialects are perceived much easier. «For most people, the Geordie accent has an undulating, bouncy rhythm. It also has lots of unique sounds, like an ‘a’ sound at the end of -er words: water is pronounced wata and better – betta» [8]. Also, there are certain words in the Geordie dialect that it would be a good idea to familiarize yourself with before travelling to countries where this dialect is used: canny – good or nice, gan – go, aye – yes, wey aye – yes (strong yes!), nee – no [8].

Scouse, also known as Liverpool English or Merseyside English, is incomprehensible even to native English speakers. This dialect came from a mixture of different languages, accents and dialects. And that is why it differs both in the vowels and consonants, and its vocabulary can be absolutely mythical for outsiders. The dialect is difficult not only because of its pronunciation, but also due to some grammatical features: «the object pronoun ‘me’ is commonly used in place of ‘my’. For example, ‘me pants have fallen down’ instead of ‘my pants have fallen down’. Also, before travelling to Liverpool, the city where you can hear the Scouse dialect, you need to read the words you can hear: abar – about, Baltic – freezing, Bezzy – Best friend, bizzy – police officer, crimbo – christmas, da – father, g’wed – go ahead, kecks – pants, la – male friend, lecky – electricity [4].

Cockney is one of the most famous dialects that can be found in such films as «Mary Poppins», «Lock, Stock and Two Loaded Barrels». Cockney can be heard in the East-End of London. This dialect got its fame due to the humour found in it «trouble and strife = wife» and its peculiar slang: the pronunciation of words backwards «yob = boy» and rhyming slang: «plates of meat = feet», «apples and pears = stairs» [2].

Essex is the usual dialect for the north and the east of Essex. This dialect can mainly be found among representatives of the older generation. Although in Harwich, a town in Essex, we can hear it among young people. One of the features of this dialect is that it slips out sounds, i.e. instead of «wonderful» they will pronounce this word as «wunnerful» or the word «correctly» will turn into «crackly» [5].

Yorkshire dialect is another rather interesting British English dialect that appeared in Old English and Old Norse. We can meet it in the works of Charles Dickens «Nicholas Nickleby» and «Wuthering Heights» by Emily Bronte. An example of this dialect is the following words: «Nah then» or «Eh up» which are analogues to the usual for many «hello» or «hi», «Oh my God» became «Eee by gum» [1].

Conclusion. Having studied even such a small number of British English dialects, we can note that each of them is special and interesting. Some of them have their own grammar, while others just some interesting words for the native speakers. All of them have their own history and were influenced by different languages, races and cultures. Each dialect is special in its own way and identifies its own place, where it can be heard.

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