

British English and American English : An overview

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Abstract

Today, we usually come across many a languages which are used widely by the people. Some of these languages are Hindi, English, Mandarin (Chinese) etc. There are various languages which are used by the people of different regions in a single country itself, apart from the National language. English language plays a vital role in our day today lives, only due to its universal feature, i.e people of two different nationalities know their own native languages very well but are not knowing about each others language (native) so English language becomes the medium of their communication.

English language is the most well documented language and there are of course various varieties of English such as Scottish, South African, Australian, British and American etc. All these types of English, American English and the British English are the most of these two types of English's are famous because of the large number of people who used them for communication. Basically, American English is a modification of British English because of the fact that, the British taught American English when they were their slaves but as the time passed and American got independence form the British a change in the style of Americans language was observed. And today in 2017, we can say that, there is lot of difference between both the forms of English both grammatically and spoken.

Keywords: British English, American English

1. Introduction

1.1 Grammatical Difference

We know that grammar plays a very important role in one's diction effective and worth listening. More than that, grammar plays an important role while learning English. So, following are some of the differences between American and British English (Grammatically).

1. Speakers of American English use the present perfect tense far less than the speakers of British English. While in British, the present perfect tense is widely used. And in spoken American it is very common to use the simple past tense as an alternative in situations where the present perfect would usually have been used in British English.

Examples

(a) Jenny feels ill. She ate too much.

(b) Jenny feels ill. She has eaten too much.

Here in the above examples we may clearly find the use of different tense as in (a) ate implies the use of simple past where as in (b) has eaten implies the use of present perfect. So, (a) type of sentences are spoken off in American English where as (b) type of sentences are used in British English.

1. In British English, collective nouns take plural/singular verb depending on whether the group is thought of as one idea or as many individuals.

Examples

(a) My team is winning.

(b) The other team is all sitting.

2. Whereas, collective nouns take only singular verb in every condition.

Examples

a) Which team is winning?

b) The other team is sitting.

The above mention sentence shows the differences from the point of view of grammar between the two types of English.

Now talking about the use of these two types of English in day today life:-

In Classroom Students are known to be nation builders and this includes their command over English language. The type of English a student speaks depends upon the following factors:-

1. A student may either speak American English or British English depending on the fact that he is going to live or in already living at a place where either of the two types of languages are used.
2. If the teacher is from one of those places where one of the types of English is spoken and he will directly influence the students style of speaking English. According to a survey, it has been found that people love speaking English because according to them, it adds more grace to their personality. Also the type of English spoken is a secondary thing.

People who travel abroad try their maximum to adapt the slang and accent used by the natives of that place. For an instance, an Indian speaking British English would definitely try to speak in American accent if he moves to America.

Another factor influencing people is the trend of watching English movies (Hollywood) which has completely revolutionized the English language and helped in gaining more lovers of the language.

2. Conclusion

So, we may conclude that more than other factors it is the number of speakers that revolutionize the two types of English.

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