ЛЕКСИКО-СЕМАНТИЧЕСКИЕ ОСОБЕННОСТИ АВСТРАЛИЙСКОГО НАЦИОНАЛЬНОГО ВАРИАНТА АНГЛИЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКА

LEXICAL AND SEMANTIC FEATURES OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL VARIANT OF ENGLISH

УДК 1751

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Аннотация

В данной статье рассматриваются особенности Австралийского национального варианта английского языка на лексико-семантическом уровне. Они анализируются и рассматриваются на примерах, тем самым подчеркивая разницу между британским и австралийским национальными вариантами английского языка. Также в данной статье рассматриваются заимствованные лексические единицы из других языков, таких как ирландский, немецкий, испанский и др. Кроме того, мы проанализировали разницу не только с британским национальным вариантом английского языка, но и с американским национальным вариантом английского языка.

Annotation

This article discusses the features of the Australian national variant of English at the lexical and semantic levels. They are analyzed and considered using examples, thus highlighting the difference between the British and Australian national variants of the English language. Also, this article considers borrowed lexical units from other languages, such as Irish, German, Spanish and etc. In addition, we analyzed the difference not only with British national variant of English, but also the difference with American national variant of English.

Ключевые слова: австралийский английский язык, диалект, лексика, лексико - семантические особенности, заимствования.

Keywords: Australian English, dialect, vocabulary, lexical and semantic features, borrowings.

In the modern world, English is one of the most widely spoken languages among native speakers, as well as the number of people who speak it, for whom it is not their native language. English is the official language of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, the United States of America, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. A sufficiently large areal distribution of this language causes its variability, not only territorial, but also social. The fact that English is the official language of many organizations and the language of international communication increases interest in it and the necessity to study it at all language levels.

All language variants that serve more than one nation have their own specific features that express the potential development of the variant. The interest of this issue is related to the interaction of various languages, cultures and mentalities in the modern world. In this article, we will consider the lexical and semantic features of the English language in Australia [1].

Despite the fact that the Australian Constitution does not have an official status, English is the main language mainly used in the territory of this country. It first appeared on the territory of Australia in 1788 with the arrival of the first colonies of prisoners.

The colonists who organized their settlements in North America spoke the "standard" English of that time (17th century), while most of the prisoners in Australia were settlers who spoke the dialects and social jargons of Great Britain.

The language situation in England at that time was quite complicated, if we are talking about regional dialects. The borders between regional dialects were vague: some dialects penetrated the territory of neighboring dialects, and a significant number of professional expressions and slang expressions were common

property of their speakers. So each dialect consists partly of dialect-colored vocabulary, including a significant part of professionalism, slang, and vocabulary used in everyday colloquial speech and partly of Standard English. Thus, during the formative period of AuE, it could be described as a mixture of the slang of criminals, whalers, sailors, and the more conservative English of military and civil servants [2].

A. Mitchell says that English in Australia is "the language of the working class", i.e. "the language of people who are poor and mostly uneducated" [3].

Until the mid-20th century, Australia remained a place of exile for political prisoners and criminals. However, the discovery of gold in Australia led to increase of the population by 4 times. This contributed to evolving of the economy and foreign trade relations. Outside relations in the world were gradually developed, and the population got the concept of national identity. These changes affected the AuE.

G. Orlov emphasizes that more than a century and a half of the existence of the Australian dominion, separated from the metropolis by several thousand miles, as well as a weak "cultural" connection with the metropolis, affected the vocabulary, pronunciation and grammatical structure of the language.

Besides the peculiarities of grammar, phonetics and spelling, also the lexical characteristics of the Australian national variant of English are traditionally distinguished.

The differences between the British and Australian national variants of English relate not only to words that are not widely used, but also to lexical units that are part of the core vocabulary of modern English and the literary language. For instance, words such as *village, field, meadow, wood, stream, spinney* and many others have almost fallen out of usage and are no longer part of the vocabulary of the Australian national variant of English. Instead, lexical units such as *township, paddock, gully, and bush* are used.

Due to the fact that the territory of England is much smaller than Australia in size, Australians are used to measure everything with quite extensive areas, which

affects the language. Many words and expressions of the British national variant of English have only partially changed their meaning, but they have completely changed their "dimensions". For instance, the *paddock* word in the British variant has the meaning of a *small lawn,* while in Australian national variant of English this lexical unit denotes *vast meadows* that cannot be covered with a glance. Or *creek* in "British English" it is a *narrow bay*, whereas in Australian it is a *huge river* [4].

The vocabulary of the Australian national variant of English was changed by various factors, one of which is the influence of a foreign language. During the period of colonization, part of the German, Spanish and Italian population moved to Australia. However, in modern AuE, there are few borrowings from European languages: from German, these are mainly words related to food and drinks (*schtrudel – Apple pie, lager beer – light beer*); borrowings from Spanish are more related to the life of the ranch: *lasso-lasso, rodeo - Rodeo, corral – corral, farm*.

The situation with the languages of local aborigines is a little bit different. Aboriginal languages are the languages of the indigenous population of Australia, except for the Papuan language Miriam and Tasmanian languages. The genetic affinity of Australian languages has not been proven. By the beginning of European colonization, there were about 300,000 Australians who spoke more than 260 languages. In the XIX—early XX centuries. the number of aborigines was constantly decreasing, in the second half of the XX century. there were about 160 thousand people, but they spoke aboriginal languages no more than 50%. Due to the difficulty of distinguishing a language and a dialect, the exact number of native languages that have survived to the present time is difficult to name [5].

All lexical units that were borrowed from aboriginal languages can be divided into several groups according to the classification proposed by V. S. Vinogradov:

- *ethnographic dialecticisms* that describe certain realities that are specific to a concrete location;

- *semantic dialecticisms* that display the dialect meaning of common words.

The group of words *of ethnographic dialecticisms* includes lexical units that reflect the national identity of everyday life: the names of national dishes, drinks, flora, fauna, household items.

The names of flora: *coobah* (a type of eucalyptus), *geebung* (a type of shrub), *mulga* (a type of acacia, in the 19th century meant a type of weapon made from this type of acacia. Now stands for carved ornaments on wood).

The names of fauna: *kangaroo* (kangaroo), *potoroo* (rodent species), *toopong* (fish species), *brolga* (large Heron species), *galah* (gray with pink breast cockatoo, and also in the meaning of braggart).

The names of household items: *boomerang* (boomerang), *coolamon* (wooden plate), *dilly* (wicker bag), *wrii* (bow, used in Victoria).

Semantic dialecticisms: *gin* (an aboriginal woman), *kipper* (an aboriginal man), *mall* (wild, this lexical unit is often contrasted with aborigines from the interior of the country to civilized aborigines) [6].

The main feature of borrowings from aboriginal languages is that almost all of them have a denotative meaning and they are rarely used in connotative meaning. Most of these borrowings are out of using in modern AuE.

Besides the influence of indigenous languages, and AuE English was also affected by the Irish language, especially during the early settlement period of the colonists. Among the exiled Irish, there were more than 1 third of them, and among the free settlers almost the half. Borrowings from the Irish language include the following lexemes: *caulker* (drink), *to cook* (kill), *to dust up* (cheat), *to mag* (talk, chat), *to peg out* (die). The most common Australian word *Sheila* in the meaning of a girl also came from the Irish language.

As mentioned above, the influence of the Irish language on AuE was the most significant in comparison with the influence of other languages, but in general there are few Irish borrowings. This is due to the fact that, firstly, the "lower" culture

cannot assimilate the higher one, and, secondly, at the time of migration, they were no longer active speakers of Irish culture and language.

Every year, the vocabulary of the English language as a whole is updated with new lexical units, most of which come from the United States, which is reflected in the AuE. In this article, we will look at those borrowings from the American national variant of English that are not just included in the AuE vocabulary, but also displace the rest of them. For instance, *hi – Hallo, so long – tata, wow – gee*. American *guy* almost replaced the Australian *bloke, chap, fellow, mate* (guy).

In the sphere of transport, the American *truck* was completely replaced by the one that came to AuE from BrE *lorry*. Also, *service station* replaced *garage [*7].

It should be noted that in Australian national variant of English there is a tendency to "mix" dialect features of English in the new territorial conditions, that leads to a simplification of the language system.

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