PHONETIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BRITISH AND AUSTRALIAN ENGLISH

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The development of Australian English has a relatively short history spanning just over two centuries.

With the appearance of English in Australia, the identical language was used in England, but over time it was separated and gained its territorial dialect. It existed only in oral speech. However, the original English was still used in a written form. Subsequently the language of the divided collective began to be used in the field of a written–literary language and had its own literary norm, its social and territorial varieties, their vernacular and slang. Nowadays it is Australian English.

According to the history the Australian variation has its origin from the English of the lower stratum of society from the XVIII century and from the specific characteristics of the language of sailors and soldiers, and the closest to the South–West dialect of British English with a large admixture of Irish. The languages of the Australian aborigines influenced on the names of animals, plants and the names of paces. All this led to the fact that English of modern Australia differs from the English of Great Britain. [1, p. 23]

Let us examine phonetic features of Australian.

The main observations concerning the origins of Australian pronunciation were made by Australian linguists Mitchell and Delbridge, who have done a significant research in the field of Australian pronunciation. They postulate the following: 1) Australian English in origin is the so-called "urban" because the first settlers were mostly from the cities; 2) it is primarily the language of the working class, the language of the majority of uneducated and poor people; 3) Australian English includes language features of many parts of England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

So, all these forms of language were brought into Australia, and Australian variant is a generalization of all language peculiarities of transported dialects.

When the researchers compare Australian and British English they note that the largest differences occur in the speech of everyday communication and in the phonetic system and vocabulary of the two varieties of English.

In Australian English today we can distinguish three spelling variations: General, Cultivated and Broad. These spelling variations haven't particular geographical localization, they haven't clearly defined cultural constraints between segments of the population. These variations in pronunciation can be observed within the same city or even the same family. The most typical variation for Australia is General, more than half of the population, including members of Parliament, teachers of schools and other educational institutions speak this variation. Many researchers believe that at least 30% of native speakers can use and change the type of pronunciation depending on the situation of communication.

Despite the differences that exist between the three variations of Australian pronunciation, they form a single system that is different from English pronunciation. Broad has the largest number of differences, Cultivated is the closest to it. Based on this, some researchers put forward the hypothesis that the primary form of Australian pronunciation is a colloquial form that is the result of mergers and the evolution of

parlance, dialects and jargons spoken by the first settlers in Australia. Broad and especially Cultivated arose as more "prestigious" forms by smoothing out the features of the vernacular. [2, p. 72]

Australian English intonation is also characterized by less sharp increases and falls of tone within the utterance. So the tone of the British version seems to be more lively and emotional, comparing with the smoother and monotonic Australian even in the statements of the same type. In addition to the differences in pronunciation of sounds Australians prone to reductions and omissions of sounds. Sometimes it can lead to mistakes in understanding the meaning of the statements. Differences in pronunciation can be illustrated by the following examples:

Australian	British	
"egg nishner"	"air conditioner"	
"G'dye, myte"	"Good day, mate"	
"Wyne chevva cold share."	"Why don't you have a cold shower."	

There are differences of intonation in certain types of questions in some traditional formulas, but these phenomena began studied seriously. Researchers see the result of the influence of Australian English intonation in standard phrases like "Good–bye now. Is that so?" and similar phrases intonational contour of which coincides with Australian English.

There are differences in the placement of accents in the sentence, too. Australians avoid large number of unstressed syllables between two percussive sounds. The secondary stress appears or unstressed word in RP (Received Pronunciation) becomes stressed in the GAus (Great Australian). As a result, the number of stressed syllables in the sentence in GAus is typically greater than in RP. [3, p. 48]

All peculiar features of Australian English are most consistently manifested in the form of colloquial pronunciation, combined with numerous cuts. For example, suppose dialogue. [4]

Australian	British	Russian
— Knife a samich?	— Can I have a sandwich?	— Можно мне сэндвич?
	— I'll get you one in a sec.	— Один момент.
— I'll gechawun inn a sec.	— How much is it?	
— Emma chisit?	— That'll be eight ninety.	— Сколько это стоит?
— Attlebee aitninee.		— C Bac 8.90.

We can say that this dialogue reveals the essence of the Australian accent. The level of English we study at schools and universities doesn't always allow us to understand people and to communicate with them freely in Australia. It is evident by our research, during which we played out the dialogue in front of friends who study English. According to the results it was found that phrases that were spoken with an Australian accent, were partly not understandable to the listeners.

After some investigation of the Australian language, it became clear that studying General English at school and university will not allow you to communicate with Australians and understand them better.

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