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### **The Distinctive Features of Canadian English**

The English language like most other languages in the world has many different dialects and national variants. This is due to the fact that during the period of English colonization, native speakers left their homeland. They began to communicate with representatives of other nations speaking different languages. As a result, languages have mixed and the English language has become different from British English. The Canadian English language is a variant of the English language which is spoken in Canada. In addition to vocabulary, grammar and spelling, the differences between Canadian English and other national variants include phonetic characteristics as well.

The Canadian English language owes its existence to important historical events, especially the Treaty of Paris of 1763, which ended the Seven-Years' War and opened most of eastern Canada for English-speaking settlement, the American Revolution of 1775-1783, which spurred the first large group of English speakers to move to Canada, and the Industrial Revolution in Great Britain, which encouraged a large group of the British to join them in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. These and other events determined the patterns of English-speaking settlement in Canada, which, in turn, influenced the current form of Canadian English. [3]

It seems that Canadian English is a kind of a crossroad for different variants of the English language. Many researches and ordinary speakers are of the opinion that the phonetics of the Canadian version of English is a combination of British and American ones. On the one hand, Canadians mostly use the British spelling of words 'colour' or 'centre'. On the other hand, people who have heard Canadian speaking can notice that the pronunciation is more common to general American English. Despite all the similarities, a number of distinctive features are distinguished in the phonetic structure of the Canadian English language. [1]

A typical Canadian English phonetic trait is the lack of distinguishing between long and short vowels. In this case, two historically separate vowels have merged into a single sound. Due to this feature, the difference in pronunciation is lost. Thus, words like 'cot' and 'caught', 'stock' and 'stalk', 'nod' and 'gnawed' are pronounced in the same way. Canadians raise 'ou' vowel sound in words 'out' and 'about'. That is why these words sound closer to 'oat' and 'about'. [1]

It is also worth saying that Canadians sound more like Americans to most people from other countries. Distinctive characteristics include the rhotic pronunciation of 'car', the 'd-like' pronunciation of 'bottle' and the usage of American variant like 'tomayto' for British 'tomato' and 'skedule' for British 'schedule'. British English preferences are placed in words like 'news', which sounds like 'nyoos', and in the pronunciation of 'anti' where American variant has 'antai'. [2]

As for youth slang as a linguistic phenomenon, young people in Canada often use 'eh' while Americans use 'huh'. What is more, 'eh' has the same meaning with 'Could you repeat what you said?'. But it is more common as a question tag 'You do want to go, eh?' It is also serves to express agreement or confirmation (It's nice, eh?) and commands, questions and exclamations (Do it, eh?). [2]

Another well-known phonetic peculiarity is the pronunciation of many words of French origin according to the rules of the French language. For instance, the Canadians pronounce the word 'niche' as 'nish'.

To sum it up, it is worth saying that none of these characteristics of Canadian English is universal for the whole of Canada.

#### **Литература**

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