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Phonetic Peculiarities of the English Language in India

English and Hindi are the two official languages along in India. The interaction of these two languages leads to their fusion and forms the third language "Hinglish", as it is called by the British media. The English language which is spoken in India is different from the one, which is spoken in other countries, for example the US or Great Britain. Let's consider main phonetic features of Indian English.

Hindi differs significantly from British English, that is why most Indians face difficulties in *pronunciation*, tone and intonation. Most Indians can not differentiate voiced and voiceless consonants. These are [v] and [f], [z] and [s], [d] and [t]. Indians pronounce the word 'veil' as [feil], instead of [veil]. 'Water' [wɔ:tə(r)] is pronounced like [wɔ:d(r)].

The feature with aspirates must be mentioned, too. *At the beginning of words, letters p, k, t must be aspirated like [p^h], [k^h], and [t^h]. Indians pronounce them as voiced sounds in any position of the word. The dental fricatives [θ] and [ð] are non-existent in Indian English. The aspirated voiceless [t^h] is realized for [θ], the voiced [d] is realized for [ð] as in the words 'thin' [t^hin] and 'then' [den].*

The sound [ŋ] is the same as in the UK English at the end of the words. However, in the middle position Indian English adds the sound [g], so the word 'singing' is pronounced like ['singɪŋ].

Syllabic [l], [m] and [n] are often replaced in Indian English by the group of the sounds [əl], [əɪm], [ən], so such words as 'corn' [kɔ:rn] and 'film' [fɪlm] are pronounced like [kɔ:rən] and [fɪləm].

It is said that the "Hinglish" system of vowels is less diverse from original pronunciation. Nevertheless, there are still differences. For example, the two vowels [ə] and [ʌ] do not diverse in Indian English. In various dialects, the back vowel [ʌ] is replaced by the front vowel [a].

It is common that a huge number of Indians do not notice the difference between the vowels [ɒ] and [ɔ:], such as in the words 'cot' and 'caught'. What is more, some of those living in southern India replace the sounds [ɒ] and [ɔ:] with [a]. The diphthongs [eɪ] and [oʊ], like in words 'male' and 'role', being characteristic of the ordinary British pronunciation, in "Hinglish" are replaced with monophthongs [e:] and [o:]. Also, many Indians pronounce such words as 'flower' and 'our' like [fla:(r)] and [a:(r)].

The stress usually falls on the first syllable of a two-syllable word, except those cases where the second syllable is heavier: 'ta'boo', 'mis'take'. In three-syllable words, the stress falls on the first syllable, too. But if the second syllable is heavy, stress falls on this syllable: mo'desty, char'acter.

For a long time, English, as well as a lot of various languages of India, have been in contact with a large number of cross-cultural borrowings which influenced Indian English pronunciation. The "Hindish", used by less educated people, is influenced by the phonetic and phonological features of the local language in a certain degree. It is still a matter for further research, how English pronunciation varies across such a large country.

Литература

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