

The Myths of Indian, British, American English – A Study

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Abstract:

English language plays an important role in our lives and it helps to develop communication skill. It is the pivotal language for studying any subject all over the world. It is essential for students as it broadens their minds, develops emotional skill, improve the quality of life by providing job opportunities to them. Moreover, the use of the English is growing with time because it is the only medium of communication in many countries. It is used widely by writers in various countries to publish books often in English. The British rulers often made the people to speak English rather than their native language. Simultaneously the British English has left an indelible mark in media, trade and business during the time. English has a unique role in India, Britain and America. It is followed often a second language that students learns English in schools, colleges and universities in India. It is also constitutionally recognized supported and followed in India. In this analysis I would like to bring the myths of Indian, British and American English in detail way.

Keywords:

Indian, British, American English, features of Indian English, six differences between British and American English – A Study.

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I. Application:

In order to prepare our nation's children to be the next generation of future entrepreneurs, doctors, engineers, scientists, we must fasten an environment from young age to promote multi-lingual learning-Indian, British and American English. Throughout we are setting up ourselves, our children, and our future generation, for growth, success, security and ultimately prosperity to achieve something in life.

II. Methodology:

English is in demand everywhere. People have realized that knowledge of English could lead to a better career and get higher income, and provide greater opportunities in life. It allows new ideas and innovations around the world and provides us with a new kind of opportunity to the people. For developing and emerging economics, there is enormous demand and need for English in educational system to boost stability, employability and prosperity, English is major medium of instruction in schools, colleges and universities. Larger number of books have been written only in English. Technology, medical, space science are learned through the medium of English language. It is the determinant business language and it has become almost a necessity for people to speak only in English. Language impact the daily life of the people of any race, creed and religion of world. It helps to express on feeling, desires and queries to the world around us. Therefore choosing and learning multiple language is indispensable for everyone.

III. Features of Indian English:

Today, most speakers of English language throughout the world are not native speakers and India is on course to become the country with the largest population, the country with the most English speakers. All of us should become familiar with features of Indian English. "India now claims to be the world's second largest-speaking country. "The most reliable estimate is around 10% of its population or 125 million people, second only to the US and expected to quadruple in the next decade"[BBC].

Indian English as a distinct dialect of English. In theory, English speakers in India follow British English as specified in the Oxford or Longman's English Dictionaries. To practice, Indians use many words and phrases and do not exist in British or American English.

Three features of Indian English stand out to me. First one the usage that seems archaic compared with contemporary American or British English. For example an office within a high rise building might be referred to a **cabin**; while customer demand is referred to **patronage**.

The second feature is the use of Hindi words within English. This is known as **hinglish**. In some parts of India people speak and write in Hindi sentences sprinkled with a few English words. In other region, the core sentence is

in English with few Hindi words or phrases included. Either way one could understand the meaning of Hindi references in unique way.

The third feature in the mixing of vocabulary in a common occurrence in many language. The French borrow English words, vice versa. In India English - Hindi words have been incorporated. Even British and American English have incorporated a number of Indian words, such as pajamas, juggernaut and thug.

Six differences between British and American English:

There is an old saying that American and British are "two nations divided by common language" but the American and British are really revealing and great"².

Vocabulary:

The most noticeable difference between American and British English is vocabulary. For example, British call the front of the car the **bonnet**; while the American call it the **hood**. American go on **vacations**; while British go on **holidays**. New Yorker's live in **apartment**; while Londoner's live in **flats**.

Collective nouns:

In American English, collective nouns are singular, for example staff refers to a group of musicians, team refers to a group of athletes but in British English, collective nouns are singular or plural. For example, the team are playing tonight or the team is playing tonight.

Auxiliary verbs:

Another grammatical difference between American and British English related to auxiliary verbs; known as helping verbs. British sometimes use shall to express the future. For example:

- 1) I shall go home now (British)
I will go home now (American)
- 2) Shall we go home now? (British)
Should we go home now? (American)
- 3) You need not come to work today (British)
You do not need to come to work today (American).

Past tense verbs:

We find some small differences with past forms of irregular verbs:

<u>British</u>	<u>American</u>
Learnt learned	Learned
Dreamt Dreamed	Dreamed
Burnt Burned	Burned

American tend to use -ed (ending)

British tend to use -t (ending)

Past participle (irregular verbs)

American tend to use the -en (ending)

For example:

1. I have never gotten caught (American)
2. I have never got caught (British)

Tag questions:

Tag questions encourage people to respond and agree with the speaker. American use tag question but less often than British.

Spelling:

There are differences between British and American English | spelling.

British	American
Colour	color
Honour	honor
Behaviour	behavior
Labour	labor

Noah Webster dropped the word "u" in American English.

IV. Conclusion:

The myths of British and American English have far more similarities and differences and these differences have sometimes often been exaggerated. The British and American could understand each other without too much difficulty. They watch T.V shows, sing each other's songs, and read each other's books.

Meanwhile Indian English is unique and has a distinct character and dialect of English. Even British and American English have incorporated a number of Indian words. Either way the students from colleges and universities might come forward to learn the myths of Indian, British and American English in a unique way.

References:

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