

## PHONOLOGICAL PECULIARITIES OF CANADIAN ENGLISH

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The present research is dedicated to the study of the most typical lexical and phonetic peculiarities of the English language among the representatives of Ukrainian diaspora in Canada. Traditionally, Canadian English had long been considered as a pure mixture or blending of American and British English. However, recently the attention of linguists and linguistic studios has been focused on the factors that have an immediate impact on the evolution and considerable alterations within the standard of Canadian English.

We share the viewpoint of some scholars that among the numerous reasons defining the lexical and phonetic character of Canadian English, the drastic influence is being produced by the co-existing Ukrainian language spoken by a huge diaspora. Historically, the Ukrainians, having come to the Canadian territories, formed the communities, where the Ukrainian language was originally preserved, but English inevitably occupied the predominating position as the state language.

Afterwards, all this became the main reason of bilingual situation in the Ukrainian communities of Canada. Accordingly, the process of co-existence of two completely unrelated languages had a powerful effect on each other, and consequently it led to the formation of the regional variety of the English language that can be called "English of Canadian Ukrainians".

In fact, the scholars identify two types of Canadian Ukrainians speaking English. The first group includes the Ukrainians, for whom Ukrainian remains the first language and they are called *allophones* while the second group is represented by *anglophones*, the Ukrainians, whose first language was and still is English. By the way, the Canadian Ukrainian community witnesses the tendency to regeneration of allophones into anglophones since the "genuine" speakers of Ukrainian become fewer and fewer due to the age and their younger successors gradually lose their ethnic originality and get "assimilated" to English due to the social environment.

Meanwhile, the lexical and phonetic character of English among the representatives of Canadian Ukrainian diaspora immensely differs from the standard Canadian English. First, the lexical system of Canadian English is, to a great extent, enlarged with Ukrainian borrowings. A numerous bulk of Ukrainian lexemes have established themselves in Canadian vocabulary having assimilated to the pronunciation norm of English. For example, the Ukrainian word *тата* spelt as *tato* has almost replaced the English *Daddy* and sometimes can cause a kind of misunderstanding among English speakers since the

Ukrainian **tato** is very close in pronunciation to the English word **tartar** which means a brownish-red deposit of grape juice or a very testy person.

The similar situation can be observed with the Ukrainian lexeme **баба** which stands for the English *Grandma* and completely coincides in the sound form with the English word **barber** (the men's hairdresser), that very often can be the reason of misunderstanding.

Thereafter, the other reason of numerous Ukrainian borrowings is the absence of some one-word notions in the English language and the availability of them in Ukrainian. For instance, the Ukrainian words **кум** and **кума** constantly replace the English multi-component notions:

*godfather of one's child* or *godmother of one's child*

*father of one's godchild* *mother of one's godchild*

In order to avoid the 'wordy' constructions the speakers are inclined to use the Ukrainian borrowings, easier for use due to their laconic form.

The linguistic explanation for such kind of borrowings can be found in *the universal tendency of speakers to economize the language resources*. This law is claimed to function on all language levels and on the phonetic in particular, what has been called "linguistic Darwinism" by modern scholars.

The similar situation takes place with the Ukrainian borrowings into Canadian English such as: **svat** and **svaha** replacing multi-component combinations:

*son's- in-law father* or *daughter's-in-law father*

*son's- in law mother* *daughter's-in-law mother*

*son's-in-law parents* *daughter's-in-law parents.*

The other part of our investigation concerns the phonetic variations in the English speech of Canadian Ukrainians. The observed material enabled us to conclude the following phonologically relevant features in speech of allophones as well as anglophones:

Actually, this is the tendency of General American, but, nevertheless, it is quite obvious in the speech of Ukrainian allophones. Scholars sometime call it "*the close-mouth articulation*".

In total, we can conclude that the conducted research manifests the inevitable integration and tremendous impact on both languages in the communities where bilingualism is the language norm.

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