

Study on the Changes of Pronunciation and Vocabulary in English Linguistics

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Abstract

As a language, English has been developed for more than 1500 years. It is the most popular language according to its distribution area and the most widely used second language. Influenced by time and region, great changes have taken place in the development of English: in terms of pronunciation, there are certain changes in phonetic position, vowel pronunciation and phonetic deficiency; In terms of vocabulary, English vocabulary is constantly expanding and innovating, and the emotional color expressed by vocabulary has also changed to a certain extent. This paper will use the theory of English linguistics to discuss.

Keywords

English Linguistics; Pronunciation; Vocabulary; Change.

1. Introduction

English is the mother tongue of Britain, the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and other countries. It is the official language of nearly 60 sovereign countries. After more than ten centuries of development, the English language we now contact has been very different from the earliest ancient English, especially the changes of pronunciation and vocabulary. This paper will analyze the changes of English pronunciation and vocabulary from the perspective of linguistics.

2. The Historical Evolution of English Language

2.1. Old English

About the middle of the fifth century, Germanic tribes invaded Britain and brought their own dialects. These dialects gradually merged to form ancient English. Therefore, we can say that with the Anglo Saxon conquest of Britain, English was really born. Old English has laid a rich foundation for the improvement of the English system. [1]

1.Voice Characteristics

Every letter of an old English word is pronounced.

Such as: "God", "gold", "hand", etc.

85% of the original words of Old English have been replaced by Latin and French. Most of the preserved words are monosyllabic, which constitute the basic vocabulary of modern English.

Such as "the", "can", "and", "child", etc.

2. Vocabulary Characteristics

The vocabulary of Old English is different from that of modern English. Most old English words are inherent words of West Germania, and there are also some words borrowed from other languages.

For example, the word "cheese" borrowed from Latin, etc.

The sex, case and number of ancient English are more complex than modern English. They all add letters at the front or back of words to change the vowels in words. Therefore, ancient English sentences do not rely on word order, and the position and word order of words in sentences are irrelevant.

For example, Old English nouns have three unnatural natures, "wife" (with "woman") is masculine, "sorg" (with "sorrow") is feminine, "SCIP" (with "ship") is neutral. They are irregular.

2.2. Middle English

Between 1100 and 1150 BC, great changes took place in the structure of English, and ancient English gradually changed into Middle English. During this period, social unrest, language got rid of the strict constraints of social system and showed a trend of free development. [1]

1. Voice Characteristics

Great changes have taken place in English pronunciation. For example, the Great Vowel Shift, the "ded" in Old English has become the "ded" in modern English; the changes of vowels "a", "O", "U" and "e" in unstressed syllables, and the "Nama" in old English has become the "name" in modern Chinese.

2. Vocabulary Characteristics

There are about 50000 to 60000 Old English words and a large number of words in French into English words. Influenced by political factors, French has replaced English as the official language of Britain. A large number of French vocabulary and grammatical structures have appeared in English, which has further expanded the development of English language.

Prefixes such as "dis -", "in -", "trans -" and suffix structures such as "- able" and "- ise" are derived from French usage.

2.3. Modern English

It was early modern English from about 1500 to 1700. Since 1700, the process of English standardization and standardization has been completed. There is no great change in English pronunciation and vocabulary, only vocabulary is expanding and enriching. This stage is later modern English.

1. Vocabulary Characteristics

A large number of new words have been added. With the development of science and technology and the emergence of new inventions and new creations, for example; "Information highway", "computer speak", "Internet" and other new words.

The influence of American English on English is increasing. The British use conservative and cautious words, while the Americans are bold and novel.

For example, "radio" replaces "wireless" and "fall" replaces "authumn".

Slang has become standard English. For example, "rubber neck" is used to describe people who like to stretch their necks and pay attention to the privacy of their neighbors, "yes man" is called a submissive person; "Money talks" is called money omnipotent.

The number of acronyms, abbreviations, compound words and loanwords increased.

3. Specific Concepts of Phonetic and Lexical Changes in English Linguistics

English has a long and long history. In the process of evolution and development, its pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar have integrated the cultures of many regions, countries and nationalities, and have undergone continuous changes. In the research history of English linguistics, we can summarize the concepts and corresponding laws of pronunciation and vocabulary changes. [2]

Language is a tool for communication between people. It needs to be changed in combination with human needs to promote trade and cultural exchanges among regions of the world. The

so-called phonetic and lexical changes in English linguistics refer to the changes in English language and vocabulary with the needs of social development. The typical ones are some foreign words in English vocabulary. For example, "bonsai" and "cheongsam" from China, "judo" and "haiku" from Japan, "Sheikh" and "admiral" from Arabia are all effective examples of vocabulary extension according to the actual needs of communication.

There are obvious differences between pronunciation and vocabulary, that is, in order to facilitate communication, there are often continuous sounds in pronunciation and the unified pronunciation law between vowels and consonants, so that countries can effectively use English for communication. In addition, due to their own language habits, English often adds some auxiliary sounds to make English pronunciation more fluent and realize effective communication.

4. Phonetic Changes in English Linguistics

Language is the carrier of culture and the tool of communication. It needs to adjust its pronunciation according to the actual needs of human society, so as to help communication. For the development of language, the change of pronunciation is doomed. Typical examples of the change of modern English pronunciation include: incomplete sound explosion, i.e. burst [P], [b] [t] Under certain circumstances, complete blasting is not required, such as a great change, or there is a loss of blasting, such as a bit more expensive. [3]

From the history of English development, English phonetic changes have certain laws. Through the study of the history of the development of linguistics, it can be seen that the change of English pronunciation is carried out according to a certain development law. First, the emergence and development of any language is a fixed language form gradually formed by people of different cultures, genders, regions and ages in the process of communication. The change of pronunciation has a certain relationship with the language group itself, Typically, black Americans suffer from racial discrimination for a long time, which makes them different from the generally recognized universal pronunciation in some specific language pronunciation, so as to meet various situations they may encounter in the process of communication. Specifically, the changes of English pronunciation mainly focus on the following aspects.

4.1. Voice Position Change

English is a tool for communication. Therefore, in order to facilitate cultural exchanges in different regions, we often add accents to some special words and move the position of vowels when pronouncing, so as to make the pronunciation more consistent with the actual law. [4]

4.2. Vowel Change

The development of English has gone through three stages. Great changes have taken place in English since the 15th century. The most significant feature is the improvement of tongue position when pronouncing vowels. Great changes have taken place in the way and position of pronunciation when pronouncing [e], [i] and [a]. In addition, based on the development of modern English, diphthongs have gradually appeared, which actually separates English spelling and pronunciation. In addition, through the comparison of pronunciation between English, it is not difficult to find some obvious changes, that is, [Ou] has changed into [Au] and [v] has replaced [u].

4.3. Missing Voice

With the development of English, it is not difficult to find that language loss is also a common phenomenon in the process of English application. First, the diphthong becomes a unit sound in the process of pronunciation. At first, the sound behind the diphthong is mild, but with the

development of English and the popularity in the world, the second vowel is ignored by people. It makes the pronunciation of two vowels gradually evolve into one vowel.

Secondly, it is the common factor shedding in English, that is, if another vowel is followed in some English words, this vowel will be omitted when it occurs. In addition, if multiple consonants exist in multi syllable words, the vowel pronunciation also needs to be omitted.

5. Vocabulary Changes in English Linguistics

Through the study of the languages of various countries in the world, it is not difficult to find that language is a process of gradual enrichment. There are many typical examples in English. No matter the telephone and computer proposed with the development of economy and technology, or the Salon (from French) and moped (from Swedish) in English with foreign exchange, they are typical examples of enriching and innovating the traditional language with the actual needs of human society. For language, the development of social economy, the improvement of social technology, the improvement of human political system and the rise of cultural movement will lead to the development of verb vocabulary. Vocabulary is the basis of language. Therefore, if you want to carefully study the development and change law of English in the process of language derivation, you need to find some typical examples.

5.1. Emergence of New Words

Language needs to be improved day by day. The development of human society makes language richer and richer. A typical example is that if modern people go through 500 years ago, they will significantly find that they can not explain today's technologies for people at that time, such as cloning and mobile payment, because these words are brand-new nouns put forward under the development of modern technology, Therefore, in the process of language development, we need to constantly innovate ourselves. Through a careful study of English linguistics, it is not difficult to find that the generation of language vocabulary is often concentrated in the following situations.

1. Compound word

Compound words are the re integration of interrelated English words to make their meaning change significantly.

Typical examples are:

Seafood = sea + food

Blackboard = black + board

Watermelons = water + melons

Penfriend = pen + friend

2. Contractive Words

The concept of condensed words refers to the re integration of any part of different words to form a new word to meet the actual needs of daily communication in human society. Typical examples are breakfast and docusoap (document + soap).

3. Lexical Innovation

Human society is constantly developing and progressing. With the improvement of technical level and the development of human society, a variety of words emerge in endlessly, making a variety of innovative words appear continuously, such as:

Environmental protection: Earth Day, environment expert

Technical field: Cloud Computing

Political field: communism, hip pop, Renaissance

4. Abbreviations

In the process of daily use of English, in order to facilitate use, there are often some typical abbreviations, such as, bike (bicycle) and so on, so as to facilitate effective communication between humans.

5. Euphemism

As a communication tool, language needs to choose a more appropriate language for corresponding communication activities in the process of practical application. Generally speaking, there are different taboo words in different cultures, which need to be replaced by other forms when expressing, so as to improve the level of communication. For example, when it comes to the scandal of presidential election, it uses Watergate} thing (i.e. Watergate incident), and when it comes to the knowledge of death, it often doesn't choose die or pass away, Instead, we choose sleep , forever or took, him as a euphemism for death.

6. Acronyms

Some words are complex and inconvenient in application. Therefore, in order to ensure the convenience and timeliness of language communication, the initial letter can be used to replace the original words, so as to improve the effect of actual expression. For example, TV (television), CD (compact disc) and CEO (Chief Executive Officer). [3]

5.2. The Emotional Color of Vocabulary has Changed

In the process of language development, the most common change in vocabulary is that the emotional color of vocabulary expression has changed. For example, shrewd has changed from bad intentions to intelligence, and gossip has changed from godfather to gossip. This change is not limited to from commendatory to derogatory or from derogatory to neutral. In fact, this change can find commonalities in various languages in the world. It is also an effective way to study the actual development of different languages and cultural integration, and it is also the only way to promote language development. [5]

6. Conclusion

Based on the theory of English linguistics, this paper combs and analyzes the changes of pronunciation and vocabulary in the process of English development, in order to expand the development of English Linguistics and establish a deep understanding and cognition of English linguistics. English is formed by the combination of many words. The increase of vocabulary, the expansion of word meaning and the adjustment of pronunciation and pronunciation habits have injected continuous new power into the development of English language, which is inseparable from the influence of many factors such as the historical development and ideological change of the areas where English is used. In the future, with the development of society and the changes of national political and economic situation, in order to better integrate and adapt to the world culture, the pronunciation and vocabulary of English language are bound to continue to change, innovate and expand.

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