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***TYPES OF ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION***

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## Foreword

Modern English is the language of many big countries in the world, as Great Britain, the USA- official language in Australia New Zealand and Canada. Interest to the learning of regional varieties of English pronunciation has been risen for the last 20 years. The essential part of the manual is based on the material of theory and practice of teaching different types of pronunciations. Thus the main aim of the manual is to present new investigations in pronunciation. Moreover, such essential points of teaching process as descriptive –comparative analysis of above variants. There are 5 essential themes with key words and comprehension questions for self study of teachers . These themes offer modern ways of learning and developing pronunciation all types and it makes the teaching process very easy, motivated and effective. The manual can be used of the lessons of Theory of Phonetics, Practical, Phonetics dialectology and for Master students. Moreover, for further professional activity of teachers. The manual will help to create competent qualified teachers with potential demands for Students' needs.

## THEME 1

### STANDARD ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION

#### 1. General characteristics of English pronunciation

Today English is a world language; it is spoken by millions both as first and second language almost all over the world. The varieties best known to people are British and American English. Another variety of English, which is spoken by both native and non-native speakers, is a mixture of British English and American English called Mid-Atlantic English. Attitudes and prejudice amongst pupils and their teachers towards these two varieties are looked into as well as whether the pupils speak the variety of English they claim they speak. The question of why the pupils speak the variety they do is also investigated. The results show that most pupils mix British and American English and that American English features predominate in the mix. According to this investigation, teachers and pupils find British English to be a bit “snobbish” while American English can sound a bit “cocky” to them. This investigation concludes that the two major influences on the pupils are their teachers and different kind of media. [16, 28]

All English language teachers are pronunciation teachers. Nobody can speak a language without pronouncing, and even if teachers ignore pronunciation in the classroom, they give the message that their learners' pronunciation is satisfactory, or that pronunciation doesn't matter. Questionnaires and needs analysis procedures frequently reveal that learners regard pronunciation as a high priority - often much more so than teachers - and it isn't difficult to appreciate the reasons for this: in spoken interaction, pronunciation is often the first barrier to intelligibility, and uncertainty about pronunciation is often a major reason for learners' lack of confidence in speaking.

Many teachers would like to offer their learners more help and support with pronunciation, but feel that they lack the necessary knowledge and skill, or that their own pronunciation is not sufficiently good. In other words, pronunciation is an area where teachers as well as learners often suffer from lack of confidence.

It is very difficult for learners to achieve a pronunciation that sounds like a native speaker's. Discussions of the pronunciation of English as an international language have emphasized the fact that native-like pronunciation is also unnecessary for many learners, and may indeed not be wanted. It has been suggested that intelligibility is a more appropriate objective than conformity to any pre-existing model. Proposals have been made for an agenda of high-priority features which are particularly important for intelligibility. These include consonant sounds (excluding 'th' sounds, which are often difficult for learners of English, but unimportant for intelligibility), consonant clusters (except at the ends of words), contrasts between long and short vowels, and tonic stress. Features which are less important for intelligibility, such as precise vowel qualities, weak forms, and features of connected speech and pitch movements would not be included in teaching programmes. Intelligibility is a complex issue, however, and no doubt depends on different pronunciation features in different contexts, not to mention factors unconnected with pronunciation. Also, of course, learners have different priorities and aspirations - including for some (though probably a decreasing number) a wish to achieve a native-like pronunciation.

In order to be able to deal more effectively with pronunciation, teachers are likely to benefit from developing their knowledge and skills in the following areas:

1. Understanding how speech sounds are produced, how languages make systematic contrastive use of sounds, which sequences of sounds occur in particular languages, how sequences of sounds are modified in connected speech, and which patterns of stress, rhythm and intonation occur in English and other languages.
2. Predicting and identifying the aspects of pronunciation which are problematic for particular learners, drawing if possible on contrastive awareness of English and the learners' first language.

3. Identifying priorities for teaching, taking into consideration learner needs and ambitions, and sociolinguistic factors related to the role of English as an international language.
4. Distinguishing between aspects of pronunciation which are important for learners to acquire in their own speech, and aspects which are perhaps only important for recognition purposes in facilitating listening comprehension.
5. Implementing effective procedures for pronunciation teaching, drawing on the range of low- to high-technology resources available.
6. Integrating a concern for pronunciation into other classroom work whenever appropriate, as well as isolating specific pronunciation features for focused attention.

The regional accents of English speakers show great variation across the areas where English is spoken as a first language. This article provides an overview of the many identifiable variations in pronunciation, usually deriving from the phoneme inventory of the local dialect, of the local variety of Standard English between various populations of native English speakers. Local accents are part of local dialects. Any dialect of English has unique features in pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar. The term "accent" describes only the first of these, namely, pronunciation. Non-native speakers of English tend to carry over the intonation and phonemic inventory from their mother tongue into their English speech. Among native English speakers, many different accents exist. Some regional accents are easily identified by certain characteristics. Further variations are to be found within the regions identified below; for example, towns located less than 10 miles (16 km) from the city of Manchester such as Bolton, Oldham and Salford, each have distinct accents, all of which form the Lancashire accent, yet in extreme cases are different enough to be noticed even by a non-local listener. There is also much room for misunderstanding between people from different regions, as the way one word is pronounced in one accent (for example, *petal* in

American English) will sound like a different word in another accent (for example, *pearl* in Scottish English).

## **2. Advantages of Standard English pronunciation**

The English language, in its spoken form, is the national language of Great Britain, the United States of America, Australia, New Zealand and the greater part of the population in Canada. Today all the English-speaking nations have their own national varieties of pronunciation. The national variety is defined as the speech of a nation. Any language, in its spoken form, is likely to have variant forms, so that the existence of such varieties as American English, Australian English, Canadian English is in no way exceptional. However these reciprocally intelligible varieties do not rank as "dialects" of British English. They represent national variants, or varieties of the English language. This makes the problem of investigation very actual. The pronunciation of every national variety of English has peculiar features that distinguish it from other varieties: "British English", "American English", "Australian English", "Canadian English". On one hand, the term "English" denies the implication of a separate language. At the same time the adjectives "British", "American" etc. are intended to indicate "more than a mere transplanting of a vernacular to a new soil, but rather to suggest its new growth as a somewhat changed and wholly indigenous organism" of English. However, all the national varieties also have much in common. Therefore, they are considered to be varieties of the same language, the English language.

Standard pronunciation is the pronunciation governed by the orthoepic norm. The orthoepic norm is then "a regulator which determines the inventory of variants, the borders of variation and also acceptable and non-acceptable variations in pronunciation". The standard includes in its inventory the pronunciation forms which reflect the main tendencies in pronunciation that exist in the language. It is the pronunciation used by educated people, typified by radio and TV announcers and recorded in pronunciation dictionaries as the "proper" and "correct" pronunciation.

However, standard pronunciation is not fixed and immutable. It is subject to change through the normal evolution of language and as a result of external factors (such as the

movements of populations), though the rate of change is not a rapid one. Pronunciation divergences are directly due to innovations. The factual material on the national varieties of English pronunciation testifies to the fact that each national variety may fall into several regional standards which, too, are considered equally "correct" or acceptable. They may be described as varieties of the national standard pronunciation which have more similarities with it than differences. In other words, the regional standard has more features consistent with the norm than those at variance with it. Regional standards are usually grouped into major dialect areas. Every regional standard of pronunciation is characterized by features that are common to all the dialects used in that region; dialects in their turn, are marked one from another by a set of features (in pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar) that distinguish them from all the other dialects. The relation of the regional standards of pronunciation towards dialects is no different from the relation of the national standard forms towards dialects. [20, 18]

A regional standard is a variety of the national standard. Dialects may be geographical in the sense of being spoken by those living in certain areas. They may also be classified according to criteria other than geographical ones, i.e. sociolinguistic. These dialectal differences may arise from a variety of sources, such as locality, early influences, education, occupation, social surroundings, class distinctions, etc. Dialect speakers are, as a rule, the less educated part of the population.

Thus, dialects may be defined as varieties that are spoken by a socially limited number of people, or are characteristic of certain localities.

The degree to which dialects differ from the standard depends on a number of factors, such as the history of the development of the dialect, the socio-economic structure of the society, etc. Dialects often preserve features which have disappeared from its vernacular. Moreover, dialects remain free from outside interference.

Dialect studies are particularly useful for problems of history, such as the development of English phonology, changes in the distribution of particular features, the survival of relics, the delimitation of culturally isolated areas, etc.



For reasons of political, economic and other social factors, one of the local dialects becomes the standard language of the nation, and the pronunciation of the dialect becomes the national standard, whereas the pronunciation of other dialects is regarded as substandard. In the history of the English language in Great Britain dialects followed the familiar pattern. In the fifteenth century England was a continuum of regional dialects. With the rise of urbanism a standard language emerged; this was basically the London form of Southeast dialect. In the course of time it lost some of its local characteristics and was finally fixed as the speech of the educated class. It is essentially the pronunciation of the educated at public schools (which are private). It is largely through these schools that the pronunciation, known as Received Pronunciation, or RP, is perpetuated. RP is not the pronunciation of any region (except historically). Today because of its use on radio and television within Britain RP has become the social standard. Great prestige is still attached to this implicitly accepted social standard of pronunciation. It has become more widely accepted through the advent of radio. Thus, RP is often identified in the public mind with "BBC English". It is the form of pronunciation most commonly described in books on the phonetics of British English and traditionally taught to foreigners. [14,22]

It would be wrong to think, however, that RP is used by the entire population of Great Britain. It is the "accent" of a minority (incidentally, it is spoken by only 3% of the British population). Moreover, present-day RP is not homogeneous either. A. Gimson, a British phonetician, within RP itself distinguishes three main types: "the conservative RP forms used by older generation and, traditionally, by certain professions or social groups; the general RP forms most commonly in use and typified by the pronunciation. It should be also pointed out that the linguistic situation (including pronunciation) has changed greatly since the fifties due to communication, greater mobility, the influx of films, pop music, etc. from other English-speaking countries, especially the USA. For instance, in the thirties and forties, as well as the post-war years, American films were dubbed in England. It is no longer the practice today.

The differentiation between standard and dialectal forms of pronunciation is marked only in some regions, especially in the south of the country.

The observations of some Australian linguists lead to the conclusion that there are no local dialects or regional standards in Australia. Rather, speech differences are distributed in terms of social and personal features. Australia is, generally speaking, linguistically unified. However, to attribute uniformity to Australian speech is not to suggest that all Australians speak alike. Within the structure of the Australian sound system there are three variations from person to person that fall into well-defined groups. These groups of variations allow Australian linguists to postulate three varieties of Australian English: Cultivated Australian, General Australian and Broad Australian.

The present work is primarily concerned with the phonetic analysis of the present-day varieties of English pronunciation (national and regional). The phonetic analysis comprises a description of the concrete phonetic characteristics (mainly articulatory with references to acoustic features and auditory impressions) of the national varieties of English pronunciation including certain deviations from the "norm". These differences are all within the province of the sound system of the language. But there are also differences which are in the province of prosody, such matters as pitch patterns, stress patterns, tempo, rhythm. The research of inter- and intravariety differences is far from being mature.

The national varieties of English pronunciation are by no means homogeneous. Every national variety has been affected by new environment and uses. On the one hand, "the transplanted language" has adapted to new situations, and on the other hand, it has become a conglomeration of, and compromise among, numerous forms of speech. It is fairly accurate to say that the polar varieties of the national language, in its spoken form, are the standard, or the literary, or the orthoepic norm of pronunciation, and dialects which exist as territorial varieties.

**Listen to samples of BE (RP) and mark the stresses of the following words: Unit 2, Pronunciation ex. b**

Vocation	Vary	Match
Vandalism	Bad	Black
Back	Dare	Flat

**Mark sentence stress: Unit2, Pronunciation , ex. A**

How do I get involved?

How do I go about this?

Who do I need to speak to?

**Unit 2 Listening ex.1-2 Questions for discussion**

1. Characterize English as world language.
2. Why is it difficult to achieve pure English pronunciation?
3. What is the reason of so many English dialects?
4. What are the main types of English pronunciation?
5. What is standard English pronunciation?
6. What are the advantages of standard pronunciation?

**THEME 2****AMERICAN ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION****1. The main points of American and British pronunciation**

The problem of the work is concerned with varieties of English in different regions of Britain and various countries of the world. It is quite clear of course that dialectology is inseparably connected with sociolinguistics, the latter deals with language variation caused by social difference and differing social needs; it studies the ways language interacts with social reality.

We propose now a definition of this field of science: Sociolinguistics is the branch of linguistics which studies different aspects of language - phonetics, lexis and grammar with reference to their social functions in the society. The aim is to explain language phenomena in connection with factors outside the language faculty itself in terms of large-scale social structure and in terms of how people use language to communicate with one another.

Though in the past fifteen years Sociolinguistics has come of age and is a fast expanding and increasingly popular subject it should be fair to mention here that language has always been viewed as a social phenomenon, the most important means of human intercourse. So it is evident that language is indissolubly linked with the society; in it we can see a faithful reflection of the society in which people live.

It is quite clear, of course, that such fields of science as linguistics, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics are inseparably linked in the treatment of various language structures. For example, the subject matter of ethnolinguistics gradually merges into that of anthropological linguistics and that into sociological linguistics and that into stylistics, and the subject matter of social psychology.

Some scholars consider functional stylistics to be a branch of Sociolinguistics since it studies the distinctive linguistic characteristics of smaller social groupings (such as those due to occupational class, age and sex differences). In the case of English there exists a great diversity in the spoken realization of the language and particularly in terms of pronunciation. The varieties of the language are conditioned by language communities ranging from small groups to nations. Now speaking about the nations we refer to the national variants of the language. In then - treatment we follow the conception of A.D. Schweitzer. According to him national language is a historical category evolving from conditions of economic and political concentration which characterizes the formation of a nation. In other words national language is the language of a nation, the standard of its form, the language of a nation's literature. [18, 97]

It is common knowledge that language exists in two forms: written and spoken. Any manifestation of language by means of speech is the result of a highly complicated series of events. The literary spoken form has its national pronunciation standard. A «standard» may be defined as «a socially accepted variety of a language established by a codified norm of correctness».

Today all the English-speaking nations have their own national variants of pronunciation and each of them has peculiar features that distinguish it from other varieties of English.

It is generally accepted that for the «English English» it is «Received Pronunciation» or RP; for «The American English» - «General American pronunciation»; for the Australian English - «Educated Australian» (we shall speak about it in detail later in the book).

Standard national pronunciation is sometimes called an «orthoepic norm». Some phoneticians, however, prefer the term «literary pronunciation». Though every national variant of English has considerable differences in pronunciation, lexis and grammar, they all have much in common which gives us ground to speak of one and the same language - the English language.

It would not be true to say that national standards are fixed and immutable. They undergo constant changes due to various internal and external factors. Pronunciation, above all, is subject to all kinds of innovations. Therefore the national variants of English differ primarily in sound, stress and intonation. It is well-known that there are countries with more than one national language, the most common case being the existence of two national languages on the same territory. For this Canada will be an example, where two different languages - English and French - form the repertoire of the community. In this case scholars speak about bilingualism in contrast to monolingualism typical of a country with one national language. Here arises the problem of interference, that is «linguistic disturbance which results from two languages (or dialects), coming into contact in a specific situation». [24, 85] Learners of a foreign language often use the word "accent" to describe pronunciation features in a foreign language influenced by the mother tongue, in other words, a foreigner may be easily recognized by an accent.

It may be well to state that every national variety of the language falls into territorial or regional dialects. Dialects are distinguished from each other by differences in pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary. We must make clear that,

when we refer to varieties in pronunciation only, we use the word «accent». So local accents may have many features of pronunciation in common and consequently are grouped into territorial or area accents. In Britain, for example, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire accents form the group of «Northern accent».

We must admit, however, that in most textbooks on phonetics the word «dialect» is still used in reference to the regional pronunciation peculiarities, though in the latest editions both in this country and abroad the difference in terms «dialects and accents» is generally accepted. As we see, those terms should be treated differently when related to different aspects of the language. It is, however, true that there is a great deal of overlap between these terms. For certain geographical, economic, political and cultural reasons one of the dialects becomes the standard language of the nation and its pronunciation or its accent - the received standard pronunciation. This was the case of London dialect, whose accent became the «RP» («Received Pronunciation») of Britain.

It has been estimated that the standard pronunciation of a country is not homogeneous. It changes in relation to other languages, and also to geographical, psychological, social and political influences. In England, for example, we distinguish «conservative, general and advanced RP».

As a result of certain social factors in the post-war period - the growing urbanization, spread of education and the impact of mass media, Standard English is exerting an increasing powerful influence on the regional dialects of Great Britain. Recent surveys of British English dialects have revealed that the pressure of Standard English is so strong that many people are bilingual in a sense that they use an imitation of RP with their teachers and lapse into their native local accent when speaking among themselves. In this occasion the term diglossia should be introduced to denote a state of linguistic duality in which the standard literary form of a language and one of its regional dialects are used by the same individual in different social situations. This phenomenon should not be mixed up with bilingualism that is the command of two different languages. In the case of both

diglossia and bilingualism the so-called code-switching takes place. In recent years the effect of these forms of linguistic behavior is studied by sociolinguists and psychologists.

As was stated above, language, and especially its oral aspect varies with respect to the social context in which it is used. The social differentiation of language is closely connected with the social differentiation of society. Nevertheless, linguistic facts cannot be attributed directly to class structure. According to A.D. Schweitzer «the impact of social factors on language is not confined to linguistic reflexes of class structure and should be examined with due regard for the mediating role of all class-derived elements - social groups, strata, occupational, cultural and other groups including primary units (small groups).»[7,38]

Western sociolinguists such as A.D. Grimshaw, J.F.Z. Fisher, B. Bernstein, M. Gregory, S. Carroll, A. Hughes, P. Trud, Schweitzer A.D. and others, are oriented towards small groups, viewing them as «microcosms» of the entire society. Sociolinguists recognize the influence of society upon language by means of both micro - and macro-sociological factors. Every language community, ranging from a small group to a nation has its own social dialect, and consequently, its own social accent.

British sociolinguists divide the society into the following classes: upper class, upper middle class, middle class, lower middle class, upper working class, middle working class, lower working class. The validity of this classification is being debated in sociolinguistics. The problem of social stratification and of group theory has only recently been tackled by the science of sociology. The serious study of social dialects must be proceeded, or at least accompanied by significant advances in sociology and especially in the more precise definition of the notions, such as class, nation, nationality, society, language community, occupation, social group, social setting, occupational group, and so on.

It is well worth to understand that classes are split into different major and minor social groups (professional, educational, cultural, age, sex and so on). Correspondingly every social community has its own social dialect and social accent. DA. Shakhbagova defines social dialects as 'Varieties spoken by a socially limited number of people.»

So in the light of social criteria languages are «characterized by two plans of socially conditioned variability - stratification, linked with societal structure, and situational, linked with the social context of language use.» [6,38]

Having had our main terms straightened we may speak now of the «language situation» in terms of the horizontal and vertical differentiations of the language, the first in accordance with the spheres of social activity, the second-with its situational variability.

It is evident that the language means are chosen consciously or subconsciously by a speaker according to his perception of the situation, in which he finds himself. Hence situational varieties of the language are called functional dialects or functional styles and situational pronunciation varieties - situational accents or phonostyles.

It has also to be remembered that the language of its users varies according to their individualities, range of intelligibility, cultural habits, sex and age differences. Individual speech of members of the same language community is known as idiolect.

Now it would be a perfectly natural thing to say that language in serving personal and social needs becomes part of the ceaseless flux of human life and activity. Human communication cannot be comprehended without recognizing mutual dependence of language and context. The mystery of language lies, if nowhere, in its endless ability to adapt both to the strategies of the individual and to the needs of the community, serving each without imprisoning either. This is what makes sociolinguistics as a science so important. In this book, though, we



shall focus our attention on territorial modifications of English pronunciation viewing them as an object of sociolinguistic study.

The development of American English on the American continent has a comparatively short history. The conditions under which it developed were peculiar and quite unlike those under which the English language developed in Great Britain. [17,148] It is generally assumed that American English, in its spoken form, is essentially Southern English Standard of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries as modified locally in the course of the last century or two. The linguistic evidence for a historical connection between American speech of the North and West and that of Northern England on the one hand, and between the speech of Eastern New England and the pronunciation of the South of England on the other hand, is well supported by the history of American colonization, of the Westward movement, and of later immigration.

Though the details are complex and obscure, it is known that early settlers of New England and most of the central Atlantic coast were largely populated by people of the Southern and Eastern part of England. Those who settled Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey came from the north of England. During the first half of the eighteenth century a large group of Germans came to America and settled throughout Pennsylvania (they are known as the Pennsylvania Dutch). A group of Welsh immigrants also settled in an area just west of Philadelphia. These settlements were supplemented by the arrival of the Scotch and Scotch-Irish whose speech was similar to that of the North of England. Thus, differences in American speech represented differences in British speech from the outset. Later settlers also reflected later usage in the British Isles.

During the centuries in which the migrations were moving to the west of the country, the original settlements maintained a contact with Britain which the western settlers lost. Cities of the East coast long maintained their contact with London, and the Southern gentry continued to go to England for their education. Ships which arrived in Boston and other eastern cities brought new fashions in speech from across the Atlantic. These new fashions in speech rarely reached the west.

The foundations of most of diversities in American pronunciation were thus laid during the colonial period. Some of the present differences in American pronunciation are attributed to that period as well. American English pronunciation (AE) of today is by no means homogeneous. [24, 112]

Geographically the Eastern type includes New England east of the Connecticut River. The Southern type includes Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas and parts of Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky and Oklahoma. General American includes the rest of the US -the language which may be heard, with only slight variations,

As early as the fifteenth century linguistic evidence shows that British dialects of Southern English were dropping the traditional "r" before consonants or at the end of words. In seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the vocalization of "r" became a characteristic feature of Standard English. It became fashionable in educated circles when the American colonies received their great influx. Thus, the earliest American settlements showing the strong imprint of Southern English dialects as well as Standard English, were marked by the characteristic loss of "r", which more northerly English dialects as well as later settlements extending further inland, retained. By far the largest part of the USA today continues to use this "r" sound in all positions.

In spite of the inherent challenge to invent a better name than General American no one has done so. At least no better term has come into general use. The term General American (invariably known as Northern American, Midwestern American, and Western American) is commonly applied to all geographical areas spoken by educated Americans within the territory of the USA. The speech of the South differs markedly in the more northerly parts from that in the more southerly ones. Certain features labeled "Southern" are therefore not equally applicable to all of the South. Due to the mobility of population, and probably also to the schools, innumerable individuals and often considerable groups in the South speak a type virtually identical with that of GA.

It should be noted that the pronunciations assigned to particular regions are regarded only as the ones prevailing there. In any event, the external factors mentioned earlier (the

mobility of modern life and communication devices such as radio and television) are profoundly affecting regional standards and dialects, and they seem to be on the way to merging with each other. Many American linguists specify the fact that the diversities in pronunciation between the various regional standards in the USA are not so marked as in Great Britain, and they tend to become levelled out.

According to Smith D., for instance, in contrast to British English, American English "shows surprising uniformity. Regional differences in pronunciation are less marked than in the much smaller territory and smaller population of the British Isles". E. Ekwall, another American linguist, states on this account, that unlike British English, American English pronunciation is on the whole remarkably homogeneous, comparatively speaking. Even the speech of uneducated people shows no deviations from educated pronunciation comparable to those of English dialects.

The three major types of American English standard pronunciation are not equal in importance. It may be said with certainty that the pronunciation of the Southern States of the United States, for example, is not the pronunciation standard of American English. The Southern American. Pronunciation is peculiar to that part of the country only and has not spread north. Strictly speaking, there may be a question as to the priority of General American over Eastern American English. But it is an established fact that most of the typical American peculiarities of pronunciation are characteristic of both General American and Eastern American pronunciation. Eastern American has only a few features which are not to be found in General American. GA is the form of speech used by radio and television. It is mostly used in scientific and business discourse. It is not only the most side spread type in the USA, but like RP in Great Britain, the least regional in character and the regionally neutral variety.

The facts given above prove conclusively that GA pronunciation may be treated as the prospective pronunciation standard of American English. The peculiarities of GA will, therefore, be described as representing the "norm".

## **2. The system of American vowels and consonants**

The total number of AE consonants of the three major types, GA, Eastern American, Southern American, in general coincides with the inventory of RP consonants with the only exception being the AE [m] phoneme which is not listed in the system of RP consonants.

The differences mainly concern the pronunciation of the individual consonant phonemes and their occurrence, or distribution.

The phoneme [r]. The, articulation of the [r] consonant is, perhaps, one of the most characteristic features' of AE pronunciation. The narrowing for [r] in AE is formed between the tip of the tongue which is curled back (a retroflex articulation) and the lower part of the hard palate.

The AE [r] is more sonorous than its counterpart-cacuminal [r] in RP. Moreover, in prevocalic position [r] is accompanied in AE by lip-rounding, as in right, rain.

Like the RP [r], the AE [r] is used in word initial position before vowels, as in red, right. In this position, from the functional point of view, the AE [r] corresponds to the RP [r] but differs from it in articulatory and acoustic

The GA [ou] has the same phonetic status as the diphthong [ei], and is transcribed [o] by American phoneticians.

In GA the counterpart of the RP long monophthongs [a:, o:] and the centring diphthongs [is, eə, iə, oə] are, respectively [ar, or, ir, sr, ur], in which the second element is a full-fledge retroflexed [r], cf.

GA	RP
----	----

far	[far]	[fa:]
-----	-------	-------

form	[form]	[fo:m]
------	--------	--------

fare	[fer]	[fse]
------	-------	-------

C.G.Van Riper and D.E.Smith wrote in 1962: "It is difficult to generalize about Eastern American English, since within the region where it is spoken there are many differing pronunciations. We recognize immediately the distinctive Yankee flavor of coastal New England, the twang of the Vermonter. Perhaps this is due to the fact that it has more local tradition and insularity of standards than the remainder of the country."

We are primarily concerned with the standard forms of EA. Eastern American pronunciation is typified as an "r-less", or non-rhotic, type of American English pronunciation. Consequently, it is characterized by the loss of [r] in the final and pre consonantal positions, as in car [ka:] and park [pa:k]. EA speakers use [ɜ:] and [ə] instead of the GA [ɜ~] and [ə~] in such words as bird and sister, and [ɪ], [eə], [ɪz], [aə], [oə] in here, hair, poor, fire, four.

One of the most striking features of EA, or more precisely, of Eastern New England is, perhaps, the use of the broad [a], in far, park, father, Harvard, which is more advanced than its counterpart RP [ɑ:].

In the speech of the South (from Southern Maryland to East Texas) there are subareas and gradations of social status, as reflected in speech, to be found nowhere else in the country. Generally speaking, SA has unique differences in the manner of articulation. Southerners lengthen certain vowels, they make the single vowels (monophthongs) into diphthongs and triphthongs. The articulation is more lax and unprecise and it is this rather than the rate, or speed, of speech which characterizes "the southern drawl". [26, 146]

Southern American English is also typified as an "r-less" (non-rhotic) regional standard of AE pronunciation. Standard SA generally adheres to the following patterns. In SA final and pre consonantal [r] is usually omitted, as in far [faj] and farm [fa:m]. Intervocalic [r] frequently drops out, as in very ['ve;i] and Carolina [kə'la:pə]. The linking [r], as in far away [Ta:a'wei], is rare. Normally [ɜ] and [ə] replace the GA [ɜ-] and [s], as in bird [bɜd] and sister ['sɪstɪs].

Consequently, southerners use the diphthongs [ɪs], [eə], [ɪə], though [ə] may occasionally drop out. Therefore, fierce may be [fɪas] or [fi:s], poor may be [pɪə] or [pə] or [po]. [ɑ:], [a] and [0], as in cart, cot and caught, are usually clearly differentiated. On the other hand, caught sometimes diphthongizes as [kəʊt], approaching ambiguity with coat [kəʊt]. The shift to [ou] characterizes the whole class of words illustrated by caught, walk, cost, log and law. The diphthongal extreme is illustrated by laundry which may have [0], [d], [a], [ou], [du] or [au].

"Short-o" words may have [ɔ] or [d]: log and mock usually have [o]; log may also have variants with [d], [du] and [ou]; donkey may have [a], or [0], or [du], or [эй].

[a] predominates in forest, orange, tomorrow, horrid.

[ɹ] is predominant in hurry, worry, courage.

[e] or [ei] is usually used in Mary, area, various. Only in the South can one find a contrast between merry ['men], marry j'msn] and Mary ['mean].

[ɹŋ] is normally used in dance and ask, though a diphthongal variant [aei] is frequent, as in [aeisk] for ask.

Southern drawl is frequently thought of as consisting of an excessive slowness in speech. This concept is erroneous. Southern speech ordinarily is no slower than GA or EA speech. A dominant and conspicuous characteristic is diphthongization and triphthongization of vowels. It is very nearly true that there are no pure long vowels in SA. The southerner manages within the duration of a given vowel to produce two, three or four perceptible sounds. Theoretically this may happen to any stressed vowel. Actually it happens to lax vowels.

Examples:

AE BE

'any,body 'anybody

'black,berry 'blackberry

'lowjand 'lowland

'six,penny 'sixpenny

Certain compounds having as their second compound the word -day, including the names of the days of the week, are pronounced with or without a tertiary stress. The latter pronunciation, which is standard in BE, is regarded preferable in AE. Examples:

AE BE

'Sunday 'Sunday

'Mon,day 'Monday

'Tues,day 'Tuesday

'Wednesday 'Wednesday

'Thursday	'Thursday
,Fri,day	'Friday
‘Satur,dav	‘Saturday
birth,day	'birthday
'holiday	'holiday
'yesterday	'yesterday

A few miscellaneous words show the difference in tertiary stressing. Here the difference works both ways and in the following list of pairs on the left show American tertiary stress, and those on the right BE. In nearly all cases the pronunciation without the tertiary is the traditional one.

AE	BE	AE	BE
'fore head	'forehead	'chestnut	'chest,nut
'madman	'madman	'coconut	'cocomut
'saucepan	'saucepan	'peanut	'pea,nut
'steadfast	'steadfast	'someone	'someone

The comparative analysis of the accentual types of words in AE and BE shows that the differences comprise the distribution of the degrees of word stress within the word stress-pattern and in the greater use of the tertiary stress in AE.

In the opinion of many American linguists the most important differences between British and American pronunciation involve intonation rather than pronunciation proper. British intonation is often characterized as having "wider melodic curves" and "more rapid changes" than AE intonation. As a result of such intonation patterns, the speech of an Englishman sounds "abrupt, explosive, manneristic" to American ears. At the same time American speech often sounds "unemotional, rather dry, sometimes hesitating, monotonous, colorless and indecisive" to an Englishman. All these observations are very impressionistic. However, to do justice to American scholars, we should say that some of these observations are not groundless.

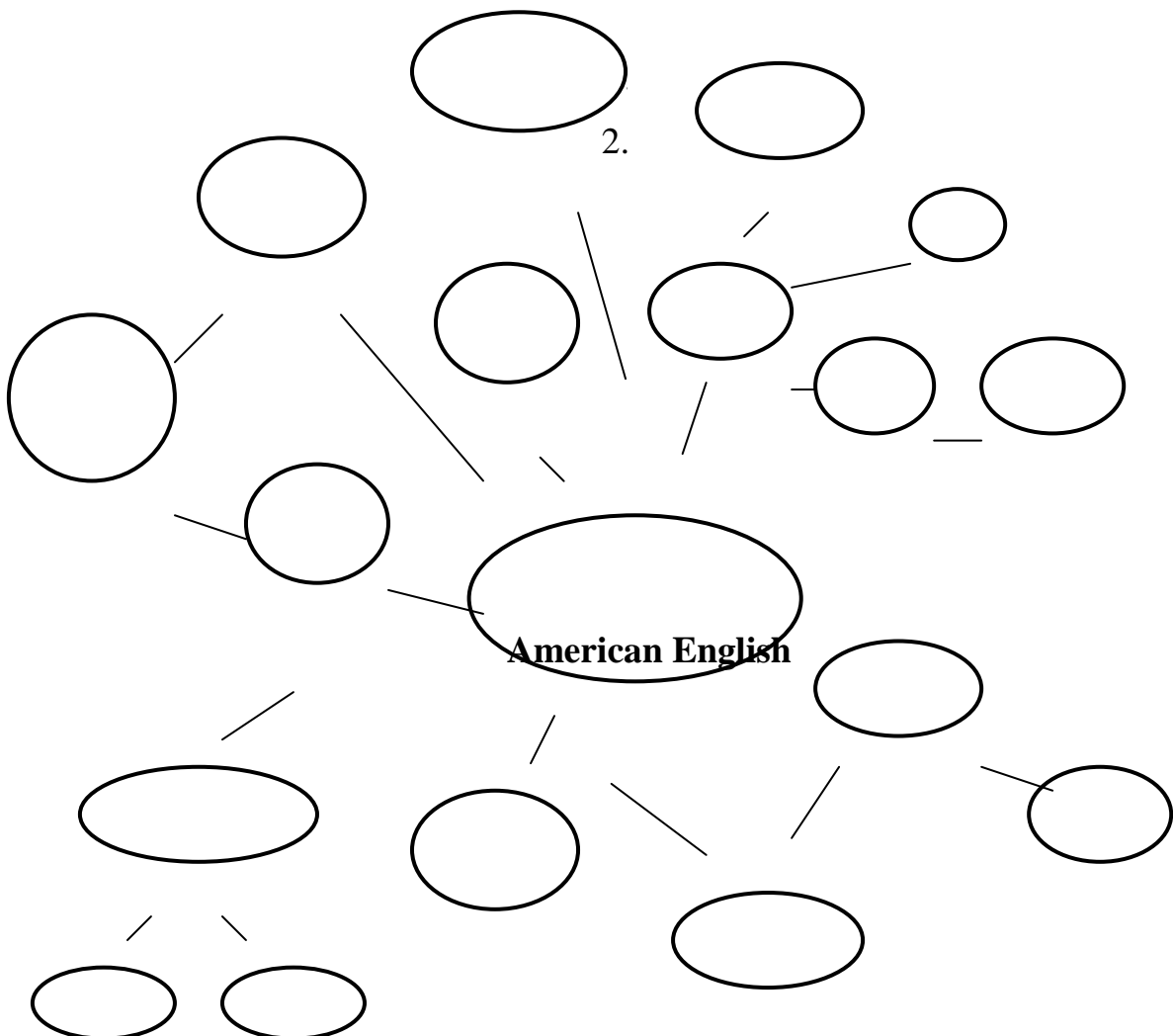
Over the past decade a number of electro-acoustic analyses in this country and abroad have thrown some light on the differences between AE and BE intonation systems.

Since most research and specialist literature is largely devoted to the study of intonation differences of General American and RP, the following analysis will mainly concern itself with these two varieties of English. The GA intonation has a general resemblance to that of RP. There are, however, quite a few noteworthy points of difference, both structural and functional.

### Questions for discussion

1. Which linguists investigated American type of pronunciation?
2. Give general characteristics of American English.
3. Speak about history of American English.
4. Characterize the system of American consonants.
5. Characterize the system of American vowels.
6. What are the differences between American and British pronunciation?

### Work with cluster





### THEME 3

#### AUSTRALIAN ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION

##### 1. The main points of Australian type of pronunciation

The development of the English language in Australia has its own history, which is a comparatively short one: less than two centuries (which is even less than the history of American English, comprising three and a half centuries). The chief reasons for the development of Australian speech are linguistic and historical, though, as the majority of Australian linguists state, it is difficult to trace them very satisfactorily.

Linguistic evidence which would make it possible to follow the development of Australian speech almost does not exist. Historical knowledge of early Australian immigration is not very sufficient or precise, particularly in the matter: what parts of England the transported convicts and early free settlers came from.

Australian speech, as well as Australian pronunciation, has always been subject to debate, the oldest argument being whether Australians speak Cockney. Australian diphthongs resembling the Cockney diphthongs have been heard in some type of Australian speech from early times. But no precise knowledge is to be gained from them. Remarks were also made that there existed "good speech" and "Cockney" in Australian. However, trustworthy evidence of what happened during the first generation or two of Australian history is lacking. [23,54]

Some general remarks concerning the origins of Australian ' pronunciation are ventured by A. G. Mitchell and A. Delbridge, Australian linguists, who have done a thorough investigation of Australian pronunciation. They maintain that (1) Australian is in its origins a town speech, since the overwhelming number of convicts and early settlers were from the towns, (2) it was in its origins a working class speech, the language of people who were poor and for the most part unskilled, (3) it included ways of speech

Cockney is a native of the East End of London, traditionally speaking a characteristic dialect. This dialect is characterized by an extreme diphthongization of vowels, the loss of initial h, and the use of intrusive "r". [23, 84]

The authors conclude that since all these forms were brought in Australia, and this had never happened in England, Australian speech began as a leveling and generalization of a number of English local dialects. Moreover speech- developed in Australian in a society in which there has been constant movement from place to place and social mobility from the beginning. There have been large population movements following land development, gold discovery, etc. These internal population movements, added to mobility in the social structure itself, have provided the conditions in which the national variety of English has developed in Australia, generalization and levelling of different English local dialects being dominant tendencies..

Though the demographic background to the development of 'Australian' English is similar to the great western movement in America, there was never in Australian settlement anything like that earlier period of American settlement in which different types of speech established themselves along the Atlantic coast and farther- inland. Australia does not show the regional variation of speech that is found in the United States. According to many authorities on Australian English pronunciation it is remarkable for its comparative uniformity. G.W.Turner writes on this account: "The homogeneity of Australian English is remarkable. It would be difficult to find elsewhere a geographical area so large with so little linguistic variation. The same accent is heard through widely different climates and there is little variation in vocabulary". [27, 18] Many observations lead to the conclusion that there are no local dialects in Australia. Differences in pronunciation are not distributed regionally, but rather in terms of social and personal features, such as the sex of the speaker, his age, the type of school he went to, his family background, place of birth, etc.

However, to attribute uniformity to Australian speech is not to suggest that all Australians speak alike. Within Australian pronunciation traditionally are distinguished three well-defined varieties: Cultivated- Australian (C Aus), General Australian (G Aus) and Broad Australian (B Aus).

## **2. National peculiarities of Australian English pronunciation**

General Australian is the most characteristic type of Australian English pronunciation. It is, so to speak the language of communication. According to A.G.Mitchell and A. Delbridge General Australian speech is used by people of good education and high standing in the community and is used by at least 75% of Australians. It is the type one hears on-radio and TV, in cinema and theatres, and even in political speeches and parliamentary debates. Broad Australian (or Uneducated, Popular Australian) is a substandard norm distinguished from the others chiefly by its vowel nuclei, the nature of its diphthongs and a good deal of nasality. [19,85]

In spite of the fact that the three varieties of Australian English are easily identified, one can hardly draw a firm border between them. The three types of Aus E pronunciation are characterized by a high degree of sameness. At the same time they are differentiated from RP not only in the system of sounds, but also in word-stress and intonation.

A tendency to place the primary stress on the root syllable in polysyllabic words, cf.

G Aus RP

hospitable [hos'pitabl] ['hespitabl]

exquisite [eks'kwizst] f'ekskwizit]

intricacy [m'tnkasi] fintrikssi]

controversy [kan'trovasi] ['krjnr3V3:si]

The pronunciations advertisement [aedva'taizmant] and transference [trasns'fb :rans] are to be heard in G Aus, but are regarded as vulgar and are not acceptable.

Australian English intonation is, perhaps, the least investigated component of the Aus E phonetic system. The commonest general impressions of Aus E intonation make up, however, a fairly comprehensive list:

"The English seem almost to sing their language, and by comparison with English intonation the Australian is a dull monotone."

"The English voice seems to be flicking up and down while the Australian appears to stay level."

"There is a general impression that the English intonation is more lively and vigorous than the Australian."

"Australian rhythms are typically slower, more even and more deliberate..."

Many theories have been offered to explain why Australians speak as they do and why they speak differently from other English-speaking nations. Few of these theories take account of the fact that pronunciation develops mainly in accordance with linguistic laws and principles.

The general idea of another point of view seems to be that the climate has some effect on muscular habits, leading to a more vigorous use of the organs of speech in cold climates and a more leisurely use of them in warm climates. The opponents of the second theory claim that this kind of relationship between climate and speech does not really exist. There are, at any rate, striking exceptions: the speech of many Canadians, for example, has a noticeably slow tempo, though they live in the North.

All these impressions and theories on Aus E intonation may be defined as interesting but metalinguistic. Such generalizations have no scientific basis. However, they show that the interest in Aus E is great and welcomes any investigation in that field. No full investigation of the intonation of Aus E has been published yet. Exact information on the intonation structure of Aus E may be gained only after serious linguistic investigations.

In Aus E sentence stress there is a tendency "to avoid long series of unstressed syllables". When such a series occurs it is commonly relieved in Australian pronunciation by a full stress or a secondary stress. As a result, the number of stressed syllables that occur in a given utterance is larger in Australian than in RP, cf.

Aus E RP

'Half a 'pound of 'butter.      'Half a pound of 'butter.

'All the 'way 'home.            'All the way 'home.

'Thank you 'very 'much.      'Thank you very 'much.

In questions ending with the words don't you, can't you, won't you (known as disjunctive questions, or tag questions) in RP don't, can't, won't are stressed, in Aus E they are unstressed, whereas you is stressed, cf. Aus E I 'think it's Tunny, don't ,you?

RP I 'think it's Tunny, 'don't you?

In RP general questions the auxiliary verb is stressed, as a rule, and is usually high pitched, in Aus E the auxiliary verb is usually unstressed, e. g.

Aus E RP

Is it a 'good 'beach? Ts it a 'good 'beach?

Have you 'ever 'surfridden 'Have you ever 'surfridden  
be'fore? be'fore?

To an Englishman, an Australian's speech may sound monotonous, to an Australian, an Englishman's speech may seem overemphatic. Yet an Australian can make his speech emphatic, if he wishes to, by merely certain changes in his pitch, stress and tempo.

The comparative analysis of Australian and RP intonations shows that differences between the two varieties of English are concentrated within the limits of structural characteristics, though the differences are not such as to create misunderstanding and confusion. The general effect of differences, when the comparison is made, is in unemphatic speech. At the level of perception the differences refer to the attitudinal function of intonation. Thus, to an Englishman an Australian sounds rather undemonstrative; the English sound a bit effusive and quite affected to Australians.

We have now analyzed two varieties of English pronunciation: American English and Australian English.

The comparative analyses prove that there are features that are more common to all the three varieties than differences.

The most frequently discussed outside influence on Australian speech is the American, and it is easy to exaggerate this. We are here restricting ourselves to pronunciation and can only judge as to what is happening in present-day Australian speech by what Australian phoneticians write about it.

It is evidently improper to deny or to neglect the influence of American English on Australian English. American style has been and is influenced through the films and through gramophone recordings. More recently the influence of American English has been strengthened by its daily appearance in the homes of most Australians in American

television programmes. Popular Australian entertainers have learnt to sing with American vowels and the retroflexed [r], so that the pronunciation of some Australian words has lost stability, especially in stress patterns. [10,16]

There is another extreme in Australia today among Australian adults, who try to acquire RP characteristics of pronunciation. Australians who try to adopt RP usually acquire only those characteristics in which there is a marked variation from the corresponding Australian characteristics. However, as A. Mitchell and A. Delbridge note, not without humour, "the procedure sometimes has its casualties and the effort to improve on local varieties sometimes produces a modified accent, which bears only slight resemblance to any known form of English, and which is worn, by men and women alike, as a sort of cosmetic. [10,82]

Yet many think that RP should be taken as a standard and that Australians should modify their speech away from Australian characteristics. However, there is a strong opposition in the country against this viewpoint: "Since there is an educated tradition of pronunciation well established in Australia there is no need to look elsewhere for a standard".

The primary educational problem in present-day Australia is to assist school pupils to achieve a skill in adequately acquiring the educated forms of pronunciation characteristics of Australian pronunciation.

Summarizing what has been said here about the differences between Australian English and RP we may draw the following conclusion:

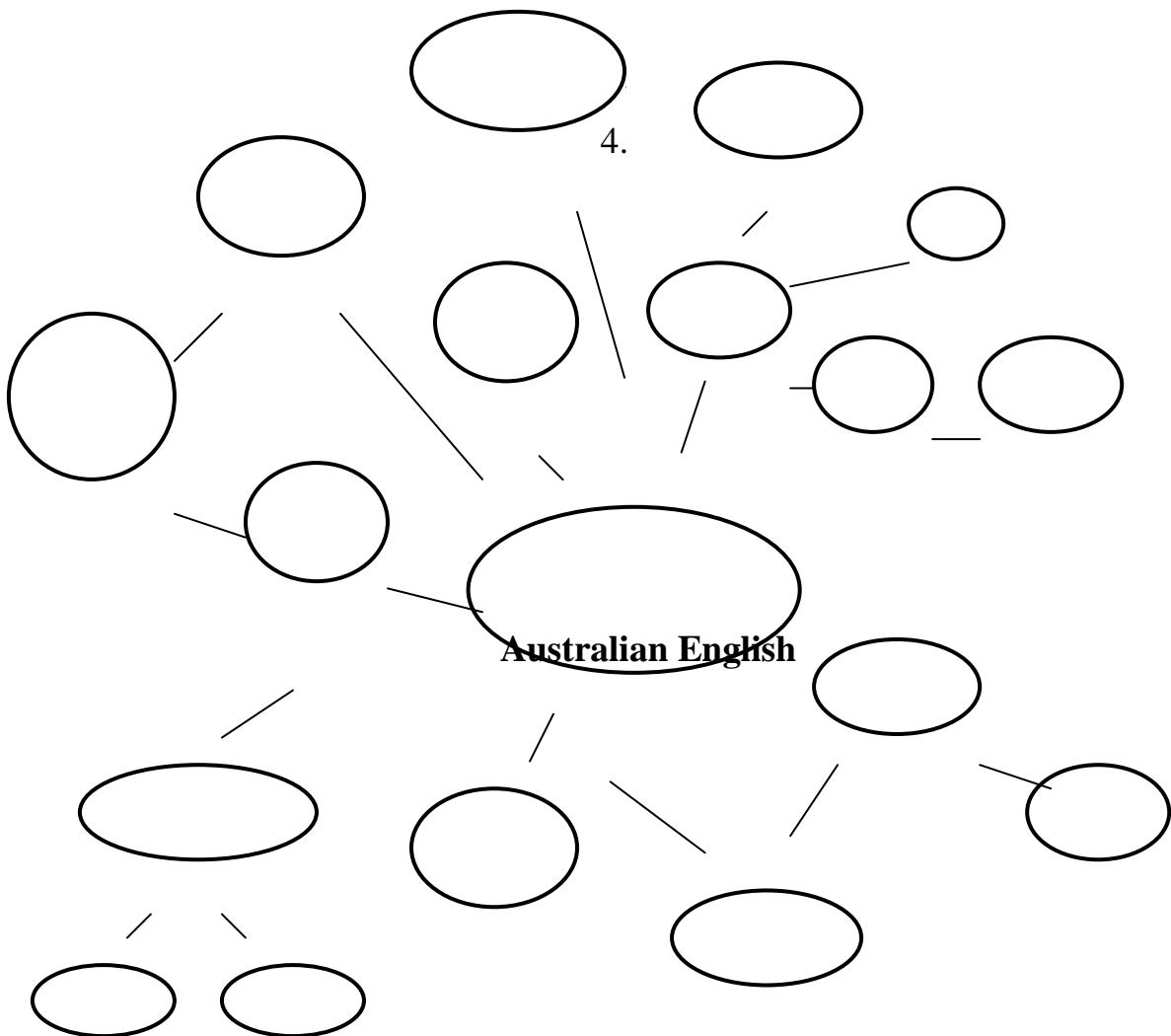
Australian English may be regarded as a single structure, its three varieties differing almost wholly at the diaphonic level alone. The phonetic differences between Aus E and RP do not go beyond the limits of variation within the English language, the variation which is observed in the other varieties of English pronunciation.

Differences in the inventory of sounds, word stress and intonation do exist, but they are not too numerous. Most of the differences refer to the "individual pronunciation of this or that unit in the phonetic system of the language and its distribution.

### **Questions for discussion**

1. Speak about the history of Australian English pronunciation.
2. Which linguists investigated Australian English pronunciation?
3. What are the national peculiarities of Australian English pronunciation?
4. Speak about the structure and system of Australian English sounds.
5. What are the differences between Australian English pronunciation and Standard pronunciation (RP)?

**Work with cluster**



**THEME 4**

**CANADIAN ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION**

**1. The main points of Canadian type of pronunciation**

The status of Canadian English as that of a literary variety of English is so far controversial. The adherents of one theory maintain that Canadian English has no status as an independent literary variety: The opponents of this theory assign to Canadian English the status of a peculiar "blend", or hybrid, of two national varieties of English, namely, American English and British. Investigations in this country, though very few, define Canadian English as a specific variety of standard English which occupies an intermediate standing between British English and American English in which the features of AE are more dominant. It is not so easy to evaluate all the theories, the chief reason being the lack of scientific evidence. In fact, it was not until recently that a trustworthy body of information about Canadian English began to accumulate. [21, 116]

The relationship between language, its pronunciation, vocabulary and structure, and the background and environment of the users of it has already been discussed. Language is a social tool or a social organism. As such it is the product of the society which employs it. Language, in its written and spoken forms, reflects the culture, the characteristic psychology of the people who use it. We now come to the question: How does Canadian variety of English reflect its cultural history, political and economic development as well as its physical environment which are peculiar to the English-speaking people in Canada? How does Canadian English reflect the American and British tradition? It remains for us to see what kind of answer could be found. But first we must look into the state of the English language, in its spoken form, at the time when the English-speaking were first established in Canada.

It is a well-known fact that an RP speaker, native or not, is likely to take a Canadian for an American. But oddly enough, a speaker of American English will easily identify a Canadian as non-American.

If Canadian English is both like and unlike GA, it also resembles and differs from RP. Theories about the origin of Canadian English correspond to different stages of Canada's development as a nation. One view, which goes back to colonial days, was that Canadian English was purely British English.



In the course of the historical development of Canada, the decline of British Empire and the growing spirit which followed % made the Canadian people less inclined to think of island as their only "spiritual and cultural home". American speech came, to be recognized as one of the original elements of Canadian English.

The question of Canadian variety of English is still an open question, as the theories of its origin have not been supported by any weight of evidence.

One thing is evident: Canadian soil gave birth to a "new" language, which was affected in the course of its historical development by two cross-currents - British English and American English.

It is not difficult to understand why Canadian pronunciation should share many characteristics of both British English and American. To begin with, there are good historical reasons for similarities: English-speaking Canada was largely colonized from Great Britain and the United States, and Canadian pronunciation could be expected to show the influence of this parentage. There are also social and educational reasons.

Walter S. Avis, a Canadian linguist, comes to the conclusion that the use of either British or American standard norms depends on the socio-economic level of the speaker: "...the preferred form is apt to parallel British usage when the word is literary and consequently of limited currency in speech, and American when the word is in widespread general use. The implication seems to be that British forms are apt to have greater currency at the top of the social pyramid, American forms - at the popular level". [21, 78-79]

The cultural, political, economic and linguistic penetration of Canada by the United States is today almost complete. Canadian speech is constantly americanized, although there is as yet no accurate data of the extent and speed of this process. [25,142]

On the other hand, very few Canadian school teachers are today pure, if at all, RP speakers and almost no public schools teach it. This shows that British English is not so widespread and may be characteristic of very limited social groups.

There may be an "official" tendency to favour RP as the variety recommended for radio and television announcers. But in general use including radio and television the influence of American English dominates.

The second national language of Canada is French. Though it is officially spoken only in one province-Quebec, the language is rather fairly widespread in the country. Besides, Quebec borders on the main English-speaking province - Ontario, where Ottawa, the country's capital, and some other large industrial cities are situated.

Thus, Canadian English has been under the influence of various languages owing to many extralinguistic factors. This fact cannot and should not be underestimated. The actual effects of these influences can only become clear after an investigation of the linguistic data. This, however, turned out to be somewhat difficult, for until recently there was almost no scientific investigation of present-day spoken Canadian English. The lack of investigation in this field can be explained by various facts. One of them is that Canada is often identified with North America, i. e. the USA, and j Canadian speech is simply identified with the American variety of English.

After a number of efforts of the Canadian Linguistic Association in focusing its attention upon the problem it is becoming possible to define at least the dominant tendencies of Canadian pronunciation in relation to the recognized standards of British and American English. Owing to the various factors mentioned above a large proportion of the English-speaking population of Canada uses Scarghill calls "a free pronunciation" - one using both British and American pronunciation. [25, 120] Other studies of Vancouver speech, the speech of British Columbia, Ontario and other parts of Canada tend at times to also correspond with British English (RP) and at times With General American.

France was one of the first countries to occupy Canadian territories. In 1763 they became property of Great Britain, but quite a few French pioneers remained in Canada. Now the main part of the French population of Canada is concentrated in Quebec, the official French Canadian province. The national language in Quebec is French.

"something very' close to American English". But the influence of French and of the two polar varieties of English upon Canadian pronunciation is sure to lead to specific results and makes it quite impossible to coin Canadian English entirely after the American or British pattern. It is this very idea that W. S. Avis considers to be the most significant in his work. This is what he writes: "...Ontario English (and surely Canadian English

generally) is neither American nor British. But a complex different in many respects from both in vocabulary, grammar and syntax, and pronunciation".

All this leads to the idea that both the American and the British influences are strong in Canada. Our aim now is to single out the most general tendencies and find out which of the influences is greater, and whether Canadian English pronunciation has any qualities of its own which would allow us to assign to it a national variety status.

While analyzing the data obtained, we compared Canadian pronunciation to those of American and British standards (that is General American and Received Pronunciation), analyzed the influence of the French language and then tried to specify the most general features of Canadian English.

## 2. The system of Canadian English sounds

The chart given below indicates that Canadian English consonants, as a system, do not differ much from those of RP and GA.

The most marked difference between the three systems comprise the quality and the distribution of consonant phonemes.

Comparative Chart of Consonant Phonemes in Canadian English, American English and British English

CE	AE	BE (RP)	Examples
p		p	p paper
b		b	b beg

CI	AE	BE (RP)	Examples
ɹ	ɹ	ɹ	grow, bag
ɪ	ɪ	ɪ	cake
θ	θ	θ	thin, tooth
g	g	g	then, breathe
f	f	f	fan, knife
tʃ	tʃ	tʃ	chin, each
dʒ	dʒ	dʒ	judge

I	h	h	him, inhale
и	n	n	nice, gain
l	V	I l	let, tell
i	r	r	right, run
t	w	w	well

In other cases word stress in Canadian English follows either American or British stress pattern.

The intonation structure of Canadian English is the least investigated province of its phonetic system. As far as we know, no material on the intonation of Canadian English has been published yet. The descriptive material offered here comprises the results of an experimental study of Canadian intonation on a comparative basis with the intonation of RP and General American.

The experiment was expected to throw light on general intonation characteristics of Canadian English. We have made only one minor attempt at tracing the features of Canadian English intonation common with or different from RP and General American. The study described here is largely an auditory analysis. The material for this stage of analysis was mainly based on a collection of Canadian radio brief news items, weathercast and commercials made in Ottawa, Canada, in December 1978.

In an attempt to test the results of the auditory analysis, parts of the recordings were then subjected to an electro-acoustic analysis.

The next stage of our investigation comprised a few recorded texts which were also subjected to auditory and electro-acoustic analyses. The recordings were made at the Laboratory of Experimental Phonetics of the Maurice Tomez Foreign Languages Institute. The material of the recordings is the speech of two Canadian subjects (male and female), one RP and one GA subject (both male). All the four subjects were offered to read aloud a few texts selected from the collection of Canadian radio recordings (five brief news items, one weathercast and one commercial). All the speakers were approximately uniform in age and general educational standard.

Since variations in the pitch contours occurred frequently among the speakers, it was decided to give close attention to them in the recorded material.

As was pointed out, the most common characteristic of RP unemphatic speech is the gradually descending stepping head, in which the first stressed syllable in utterance is usually pronounced on the highest pitch and the syllables that follow it, both stressed and unstressed, form a gradually descending sequence. The intervals in pitch, and time between the stressed syllables, are more or less equal. The last stressed syllable may be pronounced with a falling, rising, falling-rising, etc. terminal tone.

In General American the syllables preceding the final stressed syllable start at a medium pitch and remain fairly even until the final rise or fall. This is generally known as a mid-level pre-terminal contour. A variant of the mid-level pre-terminal contour often used in General American is the so-called mid wavy-level contour, in which every stressed syllable has a wavy-like motion. The unstressed syllables between the stressed ones are pronounced at a lower pitch level. The "waves" are on the same medium pitch level. The descending stepping head, or the descending pre-terminal contour, is used by American speakers as well, but it is more characteristic of emotional speech.

Canadian English speakers did not show any considerable consistence in following either American or RP intonation patterns.

It was found that the intonation patterns have more similarities than differences in the speech of General American and Canadian male subjects. On the other hand, the intonation patterns of the Canadian female subjects have features that, to a great extent, correspond with the intonation patterns characteristic of RP intonation. [12,33] It should be noted, however, that we cannot be firm in the conclusion, for in terms of statistical data, a much wider experiment is needed for final and definite conclusions.

The most marked differences are focused in the distribution of stress and the structural characteristics of pitch contours in unemphatic types of intonation.

In comparing the intonation patterns of the three varieties of English we found it more convenient to use British system of notation in order to show details in intonation

characteristics. In the speech of the RP subject the utterance is divided into two intonation groups whereas the GA and CE speakers use three intonation groups.

The RP and GA speakers end the second intonation group with a rise, whereas the CE speaker has a fall-rise.

Our experience in listening to the recordings convinced us that there was a distinguishable set of utterances which are marked by a narrow range of pitch and a minimum pitch variability in the intonation of Canadian and American speakers at the level of un-emphatic speech. The pitch ranges reported in instrumental studies do not suggest that the normal range for Canadian speakers was any different from those found in General American. There was no significant difference in rate, or tempo between American and Canadian speakers.

Our judgment of a narrower pitch range of the Canadian and American male speakers is in contrast with that of the Canadian female speaker, whose normal range approximates the normal pitch range of RP female speakers.

It is commonly assumed (as stated earlier) that Americans speak with a monotone. Monotone was traced in the speech of Canadian subjects and radio announcers as well.

At the level of unemphatic types of intonation Canadian English manifests similarities with both General American and RP unemphatic types, being closer, however, to General American. The analysis of Canadian English intonation gives another proof of the mixed character of Canadian English with occasional resemblance to RP intonation patterns and a dominant influence of General American intonation.

At the level of emphatic types of intonation the three varieties of English have much more in common than what differentiates them, cf.

GA / CE Hu'midity is 'seventy per ,cent

RP

GA/CE So 'that's how it Is, my ,friends. RP

Such a series of falling pitch contours preceding a final fall or rise, occurring rhythmically at almost equal intervals of time, serve to produce (in the three varieties of English) a lively animated effect and to focus attention on the important words in an utterance.

If Canadian English intonation demonstrates correlation with General American and RP intonation, we may conclude then that intonation in the three varieties of English has structural differences which lead to functional differences, namely in the attitudinal function of intonation. These differences are mainly concentrated in the province of emotionally neutral intonation.

As a result of this experimentation we may conclude that owing to certain extra linguistic factors Canadian English pronunciation tends at times to correspond with RP and at times with General American at all levels of the phonetic structure of Canadian English (the system of vowels and consonants, word stress, intonation), although there is no apparent pattern.

We may agree in principle with M. Orkin that Canadian "does not possess anything like a standard pronunciation". [21,145] In fact, the analysis of Canadian English pronunciation (though comparatively limited) reveals that Canadian English is characterized by divided usage, which is probably typical of Canada as a whole.

Canadian English pronunciation is certainly closer to General American than to RP, although it has much in common with both varieties of English.

In spite of the fact that RP has always been propagated as the standard norm of Canadian English, Canadians are constantly influenced by American English, and this influence is so strong that sometimes the preference of Canadian speakers for General American pronunciation is almost overwhelming. This, however, must by no means lead us to the conclusion that Canadian English is the same as General American, or RP. Being influenced by both varieties of pronunciation, it differs from each of them. Moreover, the influences blend and under specific Canadian conditions lead to the appearance of a peculiar Canadian pronunciation, which is neither American nor British. It is a complex different from both varieties of English.

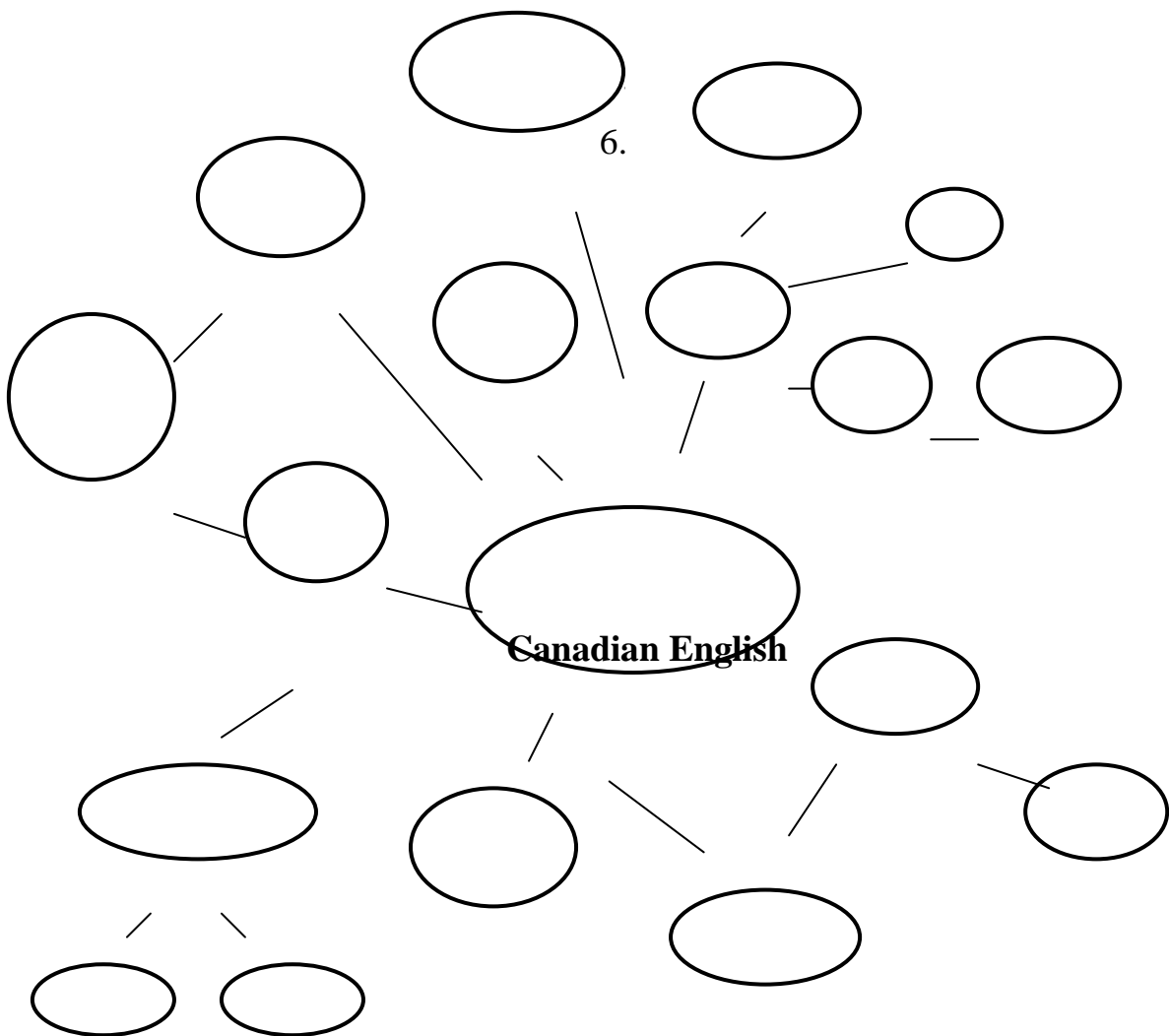
These specific characteristics of Canadian English pronunciation, its mixed character, suggest that it is possible to nomenclate it as a national variety of the English language. Moreover, we may postulate that Canadian English pronunciation is on its way of stabilizing and standardizing.

This analysis is only a minor attempt to throw light on Canadian English pronunciation, for it still awaits extensive scientific investigation.

**Questions for discussion**

1. Speak about the history of Canadian English pronunciation.
2. Which countries had influenced on the development of Canadian pronunciation and why?
3. Discuss bilingualism in Canada and its reasons.
4. Characterize the system of Canadian English sounds.
5. What are the differences between Canadian, American and British standard pronunciation?

**Work with cluster**





**THEME 5**  
**SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES OF ALL TYPES OF ENGLISH**  
**PRONUNCIATION**

In considering the history and development of the English language we may maintain that owing to interactions of linguistic and extra linguistic factors the present-day pronunciation of the English language comprises such national varieties as British English, American English, Australian English, Canadian English.

Owing to specific ways of development, every national variety is characterized by a set of features identical to all the varieties of English and also by tendencies pertaining to only one given variety of English.

The comparative analysis of the ways in which national varieties converge and diverge, and at the same time the principal developments which each national variety underwent, give grounds to maintain that today every national variety of English pronunciation follows a pattern of its own.

Thus, in the United Kingdom RP is a unique national standard. The regional standards which are quite a few in the country - Scottish, Irish, Welsh, Northern, etc. - do not employ the status adequately equal with RP.

About fifty or so years ago along With regional types dozens upon dozens of rural dialects co-existed side by side in the country. The situation has greatly changed since and specifically after the Second World War. Dialects survive for the most part in rural districts and England, in particular, is a highly urbanized country and has very few areas that are remote or difficult to access. Much of the regional variation in pronunciation (nearly all phonetic rather than phonological) currently to be found in the country is gradually being lost. On the other hand, it is important to note that urban dialects are undergoing developments of a new type, and the phonetic differences between urban varieties seem to be on the increase.

The BBC now permits a wider range of regional "accents" from its announcers than was previously the case.

Unlike many other countries (English-speaking countries including) the United Kingdom' is, perhaps, especially particular about accents, in the sense that here attitudes and prejudices many people hold towards nonstandard pronunciations are still very strong. Therefore RP has always been and still is the "prestigious" national standard pronunciation, the so called implicitly accepted social standard. In spite of the fact that RP speakers form a very small percentage of the British population, it has the highest status of British English pronunciation and is genuinely regionless. It should be noted, however, that present-day RP is not homogeneous and falls into three distinguishable pronunciation types: conservative, general and advanced, the typification of which depends on the age, type of schooling, profession, social background, etc. of the speaker.

American English pronunciation is characterized by a greater variety of standard forms than British English. In the United States there is no unique standard. There exist both a national standard (General American) and two major regional standards (Eastern American and Southern American), whose norms, practically, do not conflict with each other.

General American is the least regional in character and the most widespread type of American standard pronunciation. Owing to the American media, especially in television broadcasting and specifically in the networks' nationwide newscasts General American has gained the status of a "neutral" standard.

Phonetic and phonological differences from a pronunciation norm are not the social markers in the United States that they are in Great Britain. No American "accent" has the prestige of RP. The three major types of American standard pronunciation may be described as systems in which common features prevail over divergences.

In Australia the situation is incomparable, perhaps, to any other national varieties of English pronunciation. There are no regional standards or local dialects in Australia. In other words, differences in pronunciation are not distributed regionally but rather in terms of social and personal features (age, sex, education, etc.). As a result of the generalizing

and leveling tendencies Australian pronunciation has become remarkably uniform all over the country.

The phonetic system of Australian English comprises two major standard norms - Cultivated Australian, which is, in fact the closest to RP and is a "minority form" of speech largely determined by the speaker's educational level, and General Australian, the most characteristic and widespread type of Australian pronunciation.

In the national context Canadian English pronunciation is, so to speak, on the way to standardization. It may, so far, be classified as a specific variant of standard English pronunciation which occupies an intermediate standing between General American and RP with a more domineering presence from General American.

There remains one more important aspect to be noted concerning the history and development of the national varieties of English pronunciation, and that is the way in which they have and do influence each other.

These interactions may be classified into three periods. The first period during which the pronunciations of American, Canadian and Australian English were, so to speak, "colonial" in status and British English was dominant. In other words, the influence and the flow of development came from British English.

The second period in the course of which the three varieties of English pronunciation (i. e. AE, CE and Aus E) established for themselves (or were on the way to establish) a character of their own. However they were still regarded as "junior partners" of British English. In the third period, which continues at the present time, AE, CE, and Aus E stand out not only as of equal status and value with British English but in some respects the flow of influence now frequently comes from American English (specifically into British, Canadian and Australian English pronunciation). It is common knowledge that today radio, television, pop culture focused on discs and tape recordings generate abundant fashions in talk and writing. This process occurs in all English-speaking countries throughout the world. However there is a strong tendency for these "fashions", including pronunciation, to flow from American English and to be taken up by other English-speaking countries.

These differences, however, are distributed irregularly and inconsistently not only within the phonetic system of each national variety but also between the national varieties of English pronunciation as well.

There are also variations in the pronunciation of isolated words, for instance a tendency to pronounce fully fledged vowels in unaccented syllables and a tendency for the spelling pronunciation - G Aus.

Variations in pitch contours, sentence stress, tempo and rhythm may be regarded as structural differences. They lead to functional differences, namely, differences in the function of intonation which serves to indicate the speaker's attitude (attitudinal function of intonation). The structural differences for the most part refer to unemphatic types of intonation, which in GA, CE and G Aus is characterized by a mid level or a mid-wavy level pitch contour in the pre-terminal part, a narrower range of the whole utterance and a slower tempo (in contrast to the RP descending stepping sequence in the pre-terminal part, a wider range of the whole utterance and a faster tempo).

In considering rhythm in the national varieties of English it should be pointed out that it is based on identical regular alternations of strong (stressed) and weak (unstressed) syllables. However in RP the tendency of contrasting the stressed and unstressed syllables in an utterance is much more considerable. This results, generally speaking, in a greater degree of qualitative reduction of unstressed vowels. In GA, CE and G Aus an additional lengthening of stressed and unstressed syllables, making them more prominent than in RP, constitutes a more complicated rhythmical structure. Therefore RP intonation is perceived as "clipped" and GA, CE and G Aus intonation as "drawled" and monotonous.

As to emotional speech it is expressed by identical prosodic characteristics and is adequately perceived by hearers irrespective of their belonging to this or that variety of English pronunciation.

The comparative analysis of the national varieties of English pronunciation shows that they have identical as well as divergent features at all levels of the phonetic system of English: the system of vowel and consonant phonemes, the accentual structure of words and intonation. However, the "weight" of the differences varies from one variety to

another. For instance, at the level of speech sounds there are more similarities between RP and Australian English, especially, Cultivated Australian. At the same time Australian English has more resemblance to General American and Canadian English at the level of intonation. The phonetic system of Canadian English corresponds either with RP or with General American.

This may be explained by two general tendencies that govern the pronunciation of the English language: 1) the tendency of convergence which manifests itself in developing similar features pertaining to the phonetic system of English, and 2) the tendency of divergence which manifests itself in developing features unique or different from the other varieties of English pronunciation.

Thus the process of convergence and divergence is manifested in:  
 the diphthongization, at times the triphthongization of short monophthongs;  
 the monophthongization of diphthongs;  
 the diaphonic variations;  
 the length of vowels;  
 the leveling of pitch contours in the pre-terminal part of an utterance;  
 a much greater use of the tertiary stress in polysyllabic words, etc.

In conclusion we may say that the problems of convergence and divergence in the phonetic system of national varieties of English pronunciation open up wide vistas for further investigations.

#### Practice

[1] The radio programme *From Our Reporter in....* features news reports from around the world. Listen to the three items from the US, India and Australia, and make brief notes in the table.

	American	Indian	Australian
Where the			
Main event			
Key			

b) The three reporters spoke American English, Indian English and Australian English. Can you hear any differences between the way they speak and Standard British English?

Oral [2] a) Compare the pronunciation of the phrases below.

" Tick if you can hear the difference. Can you imitate American/Indian/Australian/ pronunciation?

### **British English and American English**

- a) globalization policies
- b) police were on duty
- c) four European finance ministers

### **British English and Indian English**

- a) more than 70 million Hindus
- b) the religious festival
- c) a thirty-square-mile tent city

### **British English and Australian English**

- a) the past fortnight
- b) eight hours
- c) no lives have been lost

**Which accent do you like best? Why?**

### **Questions for discussion**

1. What are the main results of comparative analysis of all types of English pronunciation?
2. What is the best type of pronunciation and where can we hear it?
3. What are the main differences and peculiarities of American type of pronunciation?
4. What are the main differences and peculiarities of Australian type of pronunciation?
5. What are the main differences and peculiarities of Canadian type of pronunciation?

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