

British English vs. American English: A Comparative Study

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Abstract : It is often believed that British English and American English are the foremost varieties of the English Language serving as reference norms for other varieties; that is the reason why they have obviously been compared and contrasted. Meanwhile, the terms "British English" and "American English" are used differently by different people to refer to: 1) Two national varieties each subsuming regional and other sub-varieties standard and non-standard. 2) Two national standard varieties in which each one is only part of the range of English within its own state, but the most prestigious part. 3) Two international varieties, that is each is more than a national variety of the English Language. 4) Two international standard varieties that may or may not each subsume other standard varieties. Furthermore, each variety serves as a reference norm for users of the language elsewhere. Moreover, without a clear identification, as primarily belonging to one variety or the other, British English (Br.Eng) and American English (Am.Eng) are understood as national or international varieties. British English and American English are both "variants" and "varieties" of the English Language, more similar than different. In brief, the following may justify general categories of difference between Standard American English (S.Am.E) and Standard British English (S.Br.e) each having their own sociolectic value: A difference in pronunciation exists between the two foremost varieties, although it is the same spelling, by contrast, a divergence in spelling may be recognized, even though the same pronunciation. In such case, the same term is different but there is a similarity in spelling and pronunciation. Otherwise, grammar, syntax, and punctuation are distinctively used to distinguish the two varieties of the English Language. Beyond these differences, spelling is noted as one of the chief sources of variation.

Keywords : Greek, Latin, French pronunciation expert, varieties of English language

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