

BRITISH ACCENTS AND DIALECTS AS ONE OF THE TRANSLATION PROBLEMS

Modern technologies are becoming more complex every day. At the same time, they make people's life easier in various fields of activity including interlingual communication. Various language tools based on artificial intelligence are emerging and being improved: online translators, online dictionaries, online bilingual concordances, various applications for text translation, spelling and grammar checking, etc. But all of these tools are effective for written translation and are still of little use when it comes to interpreting. This is especially true for the translation of various negotiations, business meetings, workshops and webinars, as well as TV shows, entertainment programs, news, interviews with common eyewitnesses, etc. In this case, the interpreter has to deal with a variety of local dialects and accents of the English language, and ignorance of the peculiarities of them can affect the speed, quality and adequacy of interpretation significantly. When speaking about British accents and dialects the first thing to be clarified is the difference between the former and the latter phenomena. An accent refers to the pronunciation and sounds of the speech. The dialect is the local words and slang terms used only in the specific area [1]. There are more than 37 dialects in the United Kingdom [2]. The main division of accents is done on the basis of north/south approach, but each accent has its own unique features. Let's consider some of them in more detail.

Cockney is an iconic dialect. It originated in London's East End. Its features are: vowel sounds shift (*day* sounds like /die/, *buy* sounds like /boy/); glottal stop of /t/ sound (*better* sounds more like /be`uh/); L-vocalization (*pal* sounds like /pow/); the *th* is pronounced as /f/, /d/ or /v/ (*think* – /fink/, *thing* – /fing/, *that* – /dat/, *mother* – /muhvah/). Some Cockney dialect words are: *apple and pears* = stairs, *bees and honey* = money, *dog and bone* = phone, *tea leaf* = thief (so called “Cockney rhyming slang”, which replaces a word with an unrelated rhyming phrase).

Yorkshire dialect is spoken in Yorkshire county which is the largest one in the UK. This fact explains a lot of variations within the accent. Its main features are: words ending in an /ee/ sound are pronounced /eh/ (*happy* sounds more like /happeh/); the word *the* is often omitted and the word *is* is shortened to *t* /tə/; Some specific words are: *owt* = anything, *nowt* = nothing.

The *Scottish* accent and dialect are very diverse: from soft Edinburg accent to much thicker Glasgow one. Its main features are: the /r/ is pronounced and rolled; elongated vowel sounds (*face* sounds like /fe:s/, *goat* sounds like /go:t/); glottal stop – *t* is cut in between vowels (*pass the water bottle* sounds like *pass the wa'er bo'le*).

The *Geordie* accent can be heard mainly in Newcastle (the West Midlands). Its main features are: /r/ is often not pronounced and replaced with /ah/ (*sugar* becomes /ʃug-ah/, *centre* becomes /sent-ah/); long vowel sounds (the /u:/ sound is over emphasized in words like *school* and *book*; /i:/ sound at the end of copy is extra long). Some specific Geordie words and phrases are: *areet marra* = alright mate (to greet a friend), *canny* = nice or pretty, *gannin' yem* = going home.

The *Welsh* dialect differs greatly too: in Northern Wales the accent is thick and breathy while Southern Welsh accents sound more musical and clipped. Its main features are: rolled /r/ sounds; a light /l/ sound on words like *milk*, *small*, *welcome* (the /l/ sound is released rather than held with the tongue); syllables are evenly stressed making speech sound very melodic; when *i* comes after a vowel, it is replaced by /whe/ (*doing* sounds like /do-when/); dropped *g* at the end of *ing*-verbs (*walking* – /wo:kin/); /ju/ sound changes to a short /u/ (*news* sounds like /nus/, *tune* sounds like /tun/).

The *Suffolk* accent can be heard at the Suffolk coast. Its main features are: *i* can be pronounced as /oi/ (*like* sounds like /loik/, *right* sounds like /roit/); *town* is pronounced like /tawn/. Some specific Suffolk phrases are: *Best I gid gorn* = I think I should leave; *It looks sloightly on th'huh* = It looks skewed, not straight [3]. Thus, awareness of peculiarities of different British territorial dialects and accents is extremely important in interpreter's work as it influences the adequacy and quality of the interpretation directly.

REFERENS:

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