Modern Germanic Languages: The Place of English in the Germanic Language Group

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Abstract

The similarity between the languages is explained by their origin from the same proto-language. The aim of this study was to analyze the existing linguistics approaches to the classification of Germanic languages, in particular, varieties of the English language, using the genealogical approach that underlies the classification of related languages. The research methods were comparative-historical method and classification method. In the course of the study, a comparative historical analysis of the English language was carried out and its etymology was established starting from the moment of its inception and ending with its modern state. It has been found that modern English has a very complex phonetic and grammatical structure which is the result of the fusion, struggle, one-sidedness or spread of at least twelve languages. The practical significance of the study is determined by the fact that the compiled classification of dialects can be used in the preparation of educational literature for learning English.

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1. Introduction

According to estimates, there are more than two and a half thousand languages in the world. The difficulty in determining the number of languages is mainly due to the fact that in many cases there is not enough knowledge about whether it is an independent language or a linguistic dialect (Liebert, 2018). The issue of the number of people who speak some particular language does not matter because there are also dialects that are spoken by much more people. Some languages serve a narrow group of users, other languages represent nationalities and nations. There are also international languages in which materials of international associations are published. There are also languages that should be considered dead compared to modern languages, but they are still used under certain conditions (Gandón-Chapela, 2020; Gooskens et al., 2018).

Knowledge of languages and their history is extremely uneven. There are languages the history of which has been known for twenty or thirty centuries due to the presence of written sources and even theoretical descriptions. There are writings in very ancient languages but science received information about these languages only in the XX century (Abramova & Korotaeva, 2019; Alipichev et al., 2017; Lavidas, 2018). For example, the history of the Germanic, Armenian, Georgian, Turkish, and Slavic languages have been known since the IV-X centuries. Meanwhile, despite all the differences between languages, they all have very important things in common. Each language belongs to a certain community and each one expresses the speaker's thoughts with the help of sounds, vowels, and consonants that are present in any language (Wang, 2019). Each language is divided into segments, i.e., it is divided into certain elements (morphemes, words, fixed phrases, etc.) repeated in other combinations with each other as part of other statements. In the dictionary of any language, there are synonyms, homonyms, and antonyms. In all languages, people speak in sentences, and in any language, text can be written on paper using written symbols (Volkova et al., 2019).

English is the language of the Germanic tribes who had conquered Britain in the middle of the 5th century, conquered the local Celts, and drove them west and north. Initially, the language spread first from Britain to Ireland, and then, in the process of colonization and development of the British Empire, to all parts of the world (Culpeper, 2018; Ismagilova et al., 2020). Over the 15 centuries of its existence, English, like any other language, has undergone a number of changes. Currently, English is one of the most spoken languages in the world and the second one of the most spoken languages after Chinese. It is used by 400 million people, which is two and a half times more than the number of people speaking other Germanic languages. English is second to none as the language of international communication. More than half of the world's scientific literature is published in English. With the advancement of technology, English plays an important role in many areas of human activity, including education, technology, medicine, etc. (Lawrence, 2020).

The purpose of this article was to analyze the existing approaches to the classification of Germanic languages in linguistics, in particular, varieties of the English language, using the genealogical approach that underlies the classification of related languages.

2. Literature Review

Modern linguistics distinguishes variants of the national language and its territorial dialects. Having spread on the territory of another state, speech acquires specific phonetic, lexical, and grammatical features and becomes a separate species. In modern linguistics, such varieties of literary languages are usually called language variants (or national language variants). The term 'variant' denotes the state of difference, i.e., non-identity, of the literary language at the national level. National variants were studied by Abramova and Korotaeva (2019) and Gandón-Chapela (2020). National variants become adapted types of literary language which have changed taking into account the needs, traditions, and conditions of a particular nation. Standard English is the language taught in schools and universities, used by the media, and spoken by educated people; it is a form of English that is modern and literary, in fact, is unified and generally accepted, wherever it is used.

Wang (2019) distinguished the term 'sociolect' and compared it with the term 'dialect'. The dialect, in contrast to the literary language, is

used in a certain limited area/region. The literary language has a supraterritorial character since it is used in many regions. A dialect is parlance, a language in which a certain group of people, interconnected by territory, professional or social community, communicate with each other. Therefore, territorial and social varieties of dialects are distinguished. Most often, the term 'dialect' is used in the meaning of a territorial dialect, while the term 'sociolect' is used to define a social dialect. The term 'territorial dialect' is used as a means of direct communication in a community located in a certain limited area. A characteristic feature of the territorial dialect is relative structural proximity, this kind of national language is a means of communication between people united by a common territory, material and spiritual culture, and historical and cultural traditions. In addition to vocabulary and grammar, linguists refer to the specific features of the dialect as an accent.

Alam and Yao (2019) studied the concept of 'accent'. This term is used not only to denote stress in a word or phrase but also to describe the peculiarities of pronunciation of speech sounds by a person who does not have the generally accepted pronounced norm of a particular language. In this case, the accent shows not only regional or social identity but also a personal, specific, and characteristic phonetic feature of pronunciation for a particular speaker. The term 'local accent' is used by linguists to characterize dialectal speech that is different from the literary speech norm of a particular language (Alam & Yao, 2019). However, the term 'dialect', in contrast to the term 'accent', is broader and is not limited only to the phonetic aspect of the language, but also includes lexical and grammatical aspects.

3. Methodology

To study the etymology of the English language and its emergence as a separate language in the group of Germanic languages, the comparative historical method was used. The comparative-historical method (comparative, linguogenetic) is a set of techniques and procedures for the historical and genetic study of language families and groups as well as individual languages to establish the patterns of their development. This method is based on scientific methods of reproducing (reconstructing) linguistic facts

that had not been recorded in writing in the past by systematically comparing the corresponding late facts of two or more specific languages, known from written memos or directly from their application in speech. As the term itself shows, the technique of the comparative-historical method consists of two parallel procedures which are the comparison of linguistic phenomena (only related languages are involved) and their consideration in the historical aspect (Alam & Yao, 2019).

The main goal of the comparative-historical method is to discover the laws by which languages have developed in the past. To achieve this goal, the following specific tasks are set: reproduction of the proto-language model, disclosure of the history of its further division into separate languages, and the subsequent development of languages derived from the proto-language. The main techniques of the comparative-historical method are reduced to the following:

‒ determining the genetic affiliation of linguistic phenomena,
‒ establishing a system of correspondences and deviations from them at different levels,
‒ modelling the output protoforms (archetypes), chronological and spatial localization of linguistic phenomena,
‒ and implementing the genealogical classification of languages on this basis, which was done at the first stage of this study.

To study and classify the dialects that existed and exist in the English language at the moment, the method of classification and typology was used. Classification is the distribution of the objects and phenomena under study into classes (groups, populations) that differ from each other in certain characteristics. In this method, objects are combined into classes (grouped) based on similarity. By grouping the data of the perception of reality into classes, there is a process of transforming a large amount of relevant information into a structure that is visible and convenient for further generalizations, conclusions, and predictions. As many researchers had noted, in comparison with the related concept of Typologizationtypologization, the classification reflects mainly the quantitative differences of the grouped objects

and phenomena (Meldianova, 2018; Rodríguez-Puente, 2020; Stratton, 2020). Typologization is built based on taking into account their qualitative features and differences. This suggests that the classification is carried out primarily based on the quantitative measurement of the underlying features.

The distribution of the objects of the sets into classes (subsets) is carried out in accordance with the selected criterion according to the classification criteria. To assign an object to a certain group (class), it is necessary and sufficient for it to have a certain set of features. Classification can be of two types:

1) hierarchical – the sequential distribution of a large number of objects into subordinate classification groupings (the characteristic feature of this method lies in the close relationship between individual classification groupings, which manifests itself through the commonality and difference of the main features),
2) faceted – the parallel distribution of a large number of objects into independent classification groupings by one of the signs in each group.

From the formal logic viewpoint (the unity of deduction and induction in scientific research), the best results of object classification are obtained when both approaches are applied in dialectical unity, therefore, a mixed classification method was used in this study.

The concept of Typologization as a method of scientific knowledge is ambiguous in modern science and has several interpretations, as well as lexical naming units – typology, typification, Typologization, etc. In this study, the name 'Typologization' was chosen for this method with the following definition: a method of scientific cognition, due to which, based on an ideal model or type, a certain set of objects is divided into ordered and systematised groups with corresponding properties. Typologization is also considered as a research method, which is based on clarifying the similarities and differences of a set of studied objects, searching for reliable ways of identifying them, stable combinations of properties of the phenomena under study, as well as grouping them using a generalized idealized model. At the same time, Typologization is carried out according to the

selected and conceptually substantiated or empirically and theoretically interpreted criterion, which makes it possible to single out the theoretical and empirical Typologization.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 The History of the Origin of the English Language

English is derived from the Anglo-Frisian dialects, which were part of the West Germanic language groups. The group of Germans who conquered Britain in the V century consisted of three tribes: Angles, Saxons, and Jutes. During this period, Britain was inhabited by Celtic tribes – the British and Gauls, who spoke different Celtic languages: Old Gaul, Old British, Old Irish, Old Scots, Manx (Isle of Man). Long before the invasion of the Germanic tribes, in 55 B.C., the Romans, led by Gaius Julius Caesar, first landed in Great Britain. In 54 B.C. the British were defeated and Caesar reached the banks of the Thames, followed by a major conquest of Great Britain in 43 B.C. Having conquered the British, the Romans founded many military camps, from which later English cities developed, in those years Great Britain was one of the provinces of the Roman Empire. This Roman colonization had a deep and all-encompassing influence on Britain, including cultural. For example, in the cities, Latin was replaced by Celtic dialects. The Romans ruled Britain for almost 4 centuries, and in 410 the Roman legions were called upon to defend Italy from a German attack, and the remnants of the Britons were left to their own forces to fight the threatening Germanic tribes (Birkenes et al., 2020). The internal struggle of the remaining British with the Anglo-Saxon conquerors ended around 600 A.D. in favor of the latter. After the migration of Germanic English, Saxons, and Jutes to Great Britain, their language split from the continental Germanic dialects and developed in different ways.

The history of the English language begins in the 5th century. At that time, Anglo-Saxon Britain was practically cut off from Europe, including Rome. In 597, Pope Gregory II sent missionaries to Britain to spread Christianity among the German conquerors. The consequence of this new attitude towards Roman-Latin culture was the penetration into the language of a new series of Latin words,

directly or indirectly related to the religious and ecclesiastical sphere. Scandinavian raids on Anglo-Saxon Britain began in the 8th century, and at the end of the 9th century, the Scandinavians settled on its territory north of the Thames, by 1012 the whole England had surrendered to the Scandinavian conquerors. The Scandinavian conquest had irreversible consequences for the fate of the English language: the Scandinavian dialects used by the conquerors belonged to the group of North Germanic languages and were very similar to Old English in phonetic structure. This close connection of the English language with the Scandinavian dialects (many roots, but with different endings) made it possible to understand each other without translation, which led to significant use of words from the Scandinavian dialects in the English language used at that time.

In 1066, the conquest of England by the Scandinavian Normans, who settled in Normandy (the modern territory of France), began. 50 years before the invasion of England, they were heavily influenced by French culture and were native speakers of the French language. On October 14, 1066, at the Battle of Hastings, the army of the English king was defeated by the Normans, and for several centuries after the conquest, French was the dominant language, and English was spoken mainly by peasants and artisans. French outpaced English and was the language of the ruling class, while the ruling stratum of the Anglo-Saxon feudal nobility, the main speakers of the English language, practically disappeared: some of them died in battles, some were executed, and the rest emigrated (Boeva-Omelechko et al., 2019).

In the 12th and 13th centuries, none of the other English dialects reached the level of the national language: they were all independent, equivalent dialects. In the 12th-13th centuries. there was a struggle and a strong influence of these two languages on each other, as a result, the struggle ended in favor of the English language. The English language emerged as a result of this struggle in a significantly changed form – its vocabulary was replenished with a large number of French words and pronunciation with pronouns. The struggle was complicated by the fact that Latin existed at the same time as the international language of the church and ecclesiastical science. The French language was supplanted only at the end of the 15th century. At the end of the 14th century, the London dialect began to gain wider influence in other parts of England, this was the rise of London as the economic and political center of the country. Thus, the London dialect, which underlay the national English language, was a complex entity reflecting various influences associated with the social and political life of that era. The events of the 15th century, namely the Wars of Roses, which lasted from 1455 to 1485, played a crucial role in the centralization of the formation of English as a national language. These wars marked the fall of English feudalism and the emergence of a new social stratum with a political and economic center in London (da Milano & Cuzzolin, 2019).

In Europe, the 15th century was marked by a cultural movement known as the Renaissance, which began in cultural centers such as Oxford and Canterbury, and eventually spread throughout the country. At the same time, from the end of the 15th century, another revolution took place in the entire cultural idea of that era, the great geographical discoveries radically change the map of the world (Columbus, Vasco da Gama). All these new aspects of life during the Renaissance were reflected in the vocabulary of the English language. The implementation of relations with the developed countries of that era, especially with Italy, making connections with the New World, the appearance of previously unknown goods caused an influx of words borrowed from such languages as Italian and Spanish, and then from the languages of the American Indians into English. Words from the latter category entered English through Portuguese and Spanish. The flourishing of classical philology, the mass study of Latin and Greek authors and the widespread use of Latin as an international scientific language gave the English language many words borrowed from the most ancient languages.

The 17th and 18th centuries are times of great socio-economic changes that have had a strong impact on the development of language, fluctuations in language tastes, and the dominance of language norms. The main events of this era were the bourgeois revolutions of the 17th century, the restoration of 1660, and the industrial revolution of the 18th century. But

even before the beginning of the English bourgeois revolution, an important event took place in the history of the language – English went beyond the borders of England. In 1620, off the coast of North America in the area of modern Massachusetts, the first ship "Mayflower" with English immigrants had landed. The internal strife in England turned into a civil war that led to the victory of the Puritans and the proclamation of a republic in 1649, which led to a strong influence of Puritanism on public life, including the language of that era. The restoration of 1660 – the return of the Stuart dynasty to England in the person of King Charles II to some extent restored the influence on public life and at the same time the influence of the feudal language of the aristocratic culture overthrown by the revolution. Having returned from France, King Charles II and his entourage were carriers of French influence in various spheres of public life, including language (Wolfe, 2019).

In the early 17th century, English moved beyond the European dominions of England and entered New England in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. Together with the English colonists, it spread over most of North America and reached the Pacific Ocean. In the 17th-18th centuries due to the territorial expansion of the British Empire, and due to the acquisition of more and more new lands in different parts of the globe, the scope of the English language has expanded. During the colonization of these vast territories, the English language withstood the struggle with the languages of other colonialists and the languages of the local population (Hawkins, 2019).

In the 19th and 20th centuries, the influx of borrowed words from different languages of the world into English has continued. For example, words related to the life of ancient Russia were borrowed from the Russian language: borzoi, samovar, tsar, verst, knout, and many others, such as sputnik, Bolshevik, etc. The new English language also has a significant layer of international words, i.e., words that exist in approximately the same form in many European languages. The development of the English language led to a gap between pronunciation and orthography and thecharacteristic of the new English language, which led to certain consequences. Some of the words in the book, which are perceived better

visually than aurally, have been changed phonetically to match the spelling. Over the centuries, the English language has undergone significant changes in all its aspects. As a result, the vocabulary of modern English, while retaining the basic root of words in native English, turns out to be very diverse in terms of origin. A significant percentage of these words are from Scandinavian, French, and Latin.

4.2 Classification of English Dialects – The Most Popular Language in the Germanic Group

A dialect is considered a variety of language used in a specific area that differs from the standard version by the presence of certain structural features. This study focuses on the term 'territorial dialect', which is a variety of language characterized by the relative unity of the system (phonetic, grammatical, and lexical) and is used as a means of direct communication in a community located in a certain limited area. The territorial features of the dialect can be characterized by the non-standard pronunciation of sounds, word usage, grammatical forms, and syntactic constructions. The language of Great Britain is very multifaceted and heterogeneous. Modern English literary language consists of the dialects of the territories that are now constituent parts of the United Kingdom. Dialects of the English language are systematized basing on a regional criterion, in accordance with the geographical zones of the south and north, and these, in turn, can be divided into specific subzones. English belongs to the Germanic language group and its West Germanic subgroup. The language is spoken as a native language by over 300 million people, mostly in the British Isles, the United States, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and South Africa. In addition, millions of people around the world use it as a second or foreign language. The British Empire is the main area of the English language, which is spoken by the overwhelming majority of the population. Celtic languages – Gaelic in the highlands of Scotland, Cymric (Welsh) in Wales – have survived only in the north and west. Apart from the United Kingdom and the United States, Ireland, Canada, the Union of South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand are some of the most important regions for English language dissemination. There is also a significant number of English speakers in other countries

for which English is the main language of the majority of the population (for example, India) (Hamoodat et al., 2018).

In the United States, English is spoken everywhere, except for isolated settlements where Indians and later colonists still use their native language. The English language is heterogeneous in different places of its distribution; in Great Britain, for example, the old territorial dialects, very numerous and diverse, have been partially preserved. These small dialects are usually grouped into the following dialects: Scottish – north of the Tweed; northern – in the north of England between Tweed and Humber; western; central; eastern; southern – south of the Thames. A special position is occupied by the Scottish dialect, which is similar to northern English in many respects but is very different from the dialect of the rest of England. This is due to the fact that until the 16th century, Scotland used its own written literary model based on the local dialect, which was used in literature even at a later time, when the English literary model was dominating in Scotland.

Thus, the Scottish dialect is an independent language that once began to form, reduced to the position of a dialect as a result of the spread on its territory of relatively close English as the state language and literary model. The nationwide literary model actually replaced the old dialects in England but takes on different forms in different parts of the country. Thus, the decrease in dialectal fragmentation is reflected in the regional variations of the spoken national language. These variations of colloquial speech contrast with so-called Standard English – a literary model that does not have a local dialectical connotation and is considered a model of English speech. The literary English sample achieves the greatest consistency in the written form, as the regional variation is mainly manifested in the pronunciation and use of speech patterns that are not usually used in the written sample. The origin of the national literary model is the product of a mixture of different dialects, mainly of the eastern and central Median lands.

English in Ireland is a separate dialect that differs significantly from the dialects of Great Britain. The conversational literary style in Ireland mostly has a noticeable local color. Likewise, English in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa has different characteristics, similar to regional variations in literary patterns (Salvesen, 2019). Moreover, in each of these countries, vocabulary has distinctive characteristics that are determined by specific local living conditions. These features are found partially in the written literary pattern, but for the most part, the literary pattern (Standard English) in different parts of the British Empire is the same as in Great Britain. English in the United States of America has many varieties, but the differences between them are not as significant as those of the old British dialects. These varieties are common in three dialects:

1) The New England dialect extends over a small area northeast of New York, fairly covering the territory of those states that are united under the name of New England;
2) Southern dialect extends south of Pennsylvania and the Ohio River and further west in a wide strip along the Mississippi south of its mouth in Missouri, but does not reach the Mexican border in the southwest;
3) The dialect of the Midwest is common in the rest of the United States. In the east, the dialect extends to the Atlantic Ocean (separating the New England dialect from the south) and includes the city of New York (Rodríguez-Puente, 2020).

In addition to the characteristics of individual dialects (mainly in pronunciation), American dialects have similarities (mainly in vocabulary and idioms) that distinguish them from English in Great Britain as a whole. A number of such features are rooted in the literary pattern of the United States, with which American dialects form a relatively homogeneous whole. The way English is perceived in the United States differs from its perception in Great Britain and its dominions. Thus, the literary pattern in the United States and the literary pattern in Great Britain (with its dominion and colonies) oppose each other as two main varieties of the English language. American English and British English are variants of the same language.

5. Concluding Remarks

A territorial dialect is a type of language used in a territorially limited linguistic area and differs from the standard version of the language by the presence of certain phonological, lexical, and grammatical features. There are many

classifications of territorial dialects of British English. The article analyses the most typical dialects and reveals that they all differ from the orthoepic norm by certain phonological features. Eastern English and Western English dialects are considered the most distant from the literary language. Based on the above, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1) Modern English, influenced by the historical events described above, has a very complex phonetic and grammatical structure, which is the result of the fusion, struggle, one-sidedness, or the diffusion of at least twelve languages.

2) There was not a single historical period in the development of the English language during which its speakers could not influence each other with any other language with such intensity that this could mean either the absorption of one language by another or a strong modification of one language under the influence of another. In this regard, many dialects have appeared in the English language, the number of which continues to increase under the influence of modern linguistic trends and the increase in the territorial distribution of the English language throughout the world.

Nowadays, English is actively expanding its vocabulary through borrowings, mainly from Latin and Greek, and throughout its history, English has undergone some changes in other respects since it was the native language of people in various parts of the world. In the field of morphology, the English language is distinguished by a rapid reduction of inflectional forms:

- the disappearance of the category of gender and randomness in the noun system,
- the simplification of the system of personal endings in conjugation,
- the disappearance of the second person singular pronoun, including the corresponding verb form, etc.

Knowledge of the English language in the modern world is a kind of window to the world. Knowing this language of international communication, it becomes possible to achieve the set goals with the help of new opportunities. Although today there are tens of thousands of different languages in the world, English is considered one of the highest priorities for learning.

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