

A Brief Analysis of the Changes of Pronunciation and Vocabulary in English Linguistics

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Abstract

The subject of English linguistics has been the subject of important research for a long time because of its rich phonetic and lexical structure. With the rapid expansion of the social economy and the relentless march of time, all kinds of new things continue to emerge. The pronunciation and vocabulary of English linguistics have also undergone significant modifications. Based on this, this paper will investigate the specific changes in pronunciation and vocabulary in English linguistics from an English linguistics perspective. The goal is to assist people better comprehend and master changes in pronunciation and vocabulary in English linguistics, as well as to have a comprehensive understanding of the development and evolution of English linguistics, in order to create high English literacy and learning and application capacity.

Keywords

English linguistics; Pronunciation; Vocabulary.

1. Introduction

With the acceleration of economic globalization, various changes in people's requirements for the use of the English language have occurred, necessitating the adjustment of some English linguistics content to meet the actual demand. The most noticeable difference is in the pronunciation and vocabulary. We can only stay up with the advancement of the times in the process of definite use if we enhance our research on it.

In English linguistics, phonetic and lexical changes are not simple and arbitrary, but occur throughout time in response to the need for human expression, cultural development legislation, social development trend, and so on. To fully comprehend the law of phonetic and lexical changes in the English language, a thorough and in-depth examination of the development and evolution of pronunciation and vocabulary in English linguistics is required. This paper examines changes in English pronunciation and vocabulary from a linguistics perspective, allowing us to gain a more systematic and comprehensive understanding of the changing rules and connotations of English pronunciation and vocabulary in order to develop good English literacy, learning, and application abilities.

2. An Overview of the Development of English Linguistics

English linguistics is an important branch and component of modern linguistics. The history of English linguistics can be traced back to the Renaissance in the 17th century, during which time English linguistics spread and developed rapidly. Many individuals and intellectuals participated in efforts to resurrect old Roman and Greek culture. During this time, a number of prominent personalities in the field of language emerged, each with a high level of achievement and influence. A typical representative of a great master of literature is, for example, the famous poet Shakespeare, a prominent and emblematic figure in the Renaissance. People throughout

Europe revere Shakespeare, and many of his poems, plays, and other works have had a profound influence on them. Shakespeare pondered and considered the use of English vocabulary, English pronunciation, and even sentence patterns in the construction of plays, enriching the language and literature of the time and opening a new chapter in the development of English linguistics. During the Renaissance, literary innovation flourished, resulting in significant changes in word formation, pronunciation, and structure of the English language, which made significant development. At that time, literature and art flourished at a tremendous pace. It is the rapid development and prosperity of literature and art during the Renaissance that makes the study of English linguistics rapidly rise and develop.

When Britain was a colonial power, its economic advancement had an incalculable impact on the global economy, leading to a huge number of countries adopting English as a second language in addition to their home tongue and as a language tool. It is progressively spreading as a global lingua franca and gaining more and more influence over the world.

The English language's status improved substantially in the twentieth century, and English has steadily become the second language or mother tongue of numerous countries, as well as the range and depth of scholarly research on English linguistics. There are two types of linguistics in English: diachronic linguistics and synchronic linguistics. Diachronic linguistics focuses on the changes in English linguistics that have occurred over time, promoting the establishment and development of modern English linguistics. Synchronic linguistics mainly studies the actual development and characteristics of English linguistics in the same period. Since then, more and more scholars have participated in the research of English linguistics and achieved good results. Chomsky has studied the syntactic structure of English linguistics, which provides a better research idea and direction for the majority of English linguistics researchers. Chomsky's research into the English syntactic structure will allow people to not only comprehend and study the characteristics and applications of English linguistics, but also to examine and research various non-English language aspects. It makes the study of English linguistics, such as pronunciation, syntax, word creation, and structure, more in-depth and thorough, and encourages English linguistics research to become more extensive. It improves the scientific, theoretical, systematic, and modern nature of English linguistics research.

In the 1990s, many scholars steadily extended the study of English linguistics for English teaching, promoting the better integration of English teaching and English linguistics, and playing a very critical role and significance in promoting and improving the teaching effect and level of English linguistics. To help more people understand English, several experts have organized the contents of English linguistics into books, which has aided the rapid development of English linguistics to some extent. It gives increased incentive and support for the study of English linguistics, provides a more open and free research place and space, and accelerates the development of English linguistics through the development of English language teaching activities. Furthermore, English is now an official language around the world. Many nations or countries around the world utilize English, and some countries use it as their primary language for teaching and research. English linguistics, on the other hand, has spawned various branches due to the diversity of ethnicities, regions, and cultural development conditions. Many countries or regions have skilfully integrated English linguistics with their mother tongue and local dialects, and English linguistics in each region will be more or less derive or derive more categories of English linguistics. It has also developed and derived more vocabulary and pronunciation, giving English linguistics a strong regional, distinctive, and extended character, as well as promoting the language's continual development and evolution.

3. The Changing Connotation of Pronunciation and Vocabulary in English Linguistics

The law of phonetic generation and development in the English language, which is consistent with the actual needs of social development, and is the change of phonetic direction according to the changes in the needs of language communication, governs the phonetic change in the field of English linguistics. The essence of the evolution and change of pronunciation in English linguistics is the so-called joint pronunciation change, which occurs when the pronunciation of two words is tightly linked, the specific pronunciation speed is faster, and it is difficult to discern. This is to meet the requirements of efficiency and speed of language communication. Simultaneously, there are distinct pronunciation differences between vowels and consonants, i.e., vowels are frequently not uttered due to the impact of previous vowels in words, in order to ensure pronunciation unity. This is required to promote cross-national learning and communication. In addition, due to the pronunciation habit, a series of auxiliary pronunciations will be added to the English language, which will primarily serve to make the pronunciation more fluent or aesthetic, while also assisting in the advancement of English linguistics.

3.1. Development and Changes of Pronunciation in English Linguistics

The phonetic variety in English linguistics has benefited from the growth of English linguistics. At the same time, phonetic diversity exists in English linguistics at all phases of the phonological linguistics development. People in different regions have varied accents and pronunciations due to variances in culture and living habits. Furthermore, age and cultural variables have an impact on people's accents and pronunciation. The speed and intensity of phonetic changes are relatively fast, and the pronunciation of English linguistics has varied changes in vowels, pronunciation, and sounds, due to the constant development and change of English linguistics in society and times.

The change of phonetics is a significant feature of the English language. The form of expression, the evolution of structure and the change of pronunciation of language will change with the development of the social environment. The Germanic language family gave birth to English. We may discern three phases in the history of English linguistics: Old English, Middle English, and Modern English, from the time of the formation of English linguistics.

3.1.1. Changes of Vowels

Vowels, also known as vowels, are sounds in phonemes that are opposite consonants. In the process of pronouncing vowels, the airflow through the mouth is not hindered, and the sound produced is the vowel.

With the continuing expansion of English linguistics with the development of the times, its area of usage is becoming increasingly broad, and various modifications in English pronunciation, particularly vowels, have occurred. Depending on the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, English vowels began to change roughly from 1500 AD. The core content of the reform is that the opening degree of English vowels is reduced and the sound is improved when pronouncing English vowels. For example, if the opening of the vowel [a] decreases, the pronunciation of [e] will move forward, and the sound produced by the smaller mouth shape is similar to that of [I], where [I] is the highest phoneme in the vowel, therefore other phonemes must be introduced before [I] to restore the vowel [a] pronunciation. As a result, we may conclude that the most noticeable shift is in the pronunciation of single vowels and post-vowels, while the pronunciation of double vowels has remained relatively unchanged. The change in the pronunciation of English vowels is mainly reflected in the change of the position of the tongue during pronunciation. The tongue position of vowels in English pronunciation is much higher, and the opening degree of vowels is gradually decreasing in the process of pronunciation.

3.1.2. Changes of Pronunciation

Compared with Old English, there are many reasons for the changes in pronunciation in modern English linguistics. First of all, there will be the loss of pronunciation and the shedding of English factors. If some vowels are followed by a vowel, the subsequent vowel may be skipped; if polysyllabic syllables have two consonants and the vowels in these two consonants, vowels may be skipped when pronouncing. Secondly, there will be the phenomenon of pronouncing double vowels into unitary vowels. The phonation principle of double vowels is that the former vowel is stressed and the other vowel is lightly stressed. However, in the actual vocal process, many people will directly ignore the latter vowel and only the first vowel, so that the double vowel will be changed into a unit vowel. In addition, in the process of pronunciation, there will be the accent phenomenon of adding vowels or consonants to the word, which improves the fluency of the word expression. In addition to the sound enhancement phenomenon, there will also be the phenomenon of pronunciation transposition, that is, in the process of pronunciation, continuous sound fragments are exchanged in position. Finally, for unit vowels, there will also be a certain degree of phonetic change. With the continuous development of English linguistics, many changes have taken place in the pronunciation of unit vowels in English.

3.1.3. Changes of Place of Articulation

As a type of language, English plays a significant part in people's daily and interpersonal communication. One of the important manifestations of phonetic changes in the English language and literature is the change of phonetic position. When individuals use English for communication and information transmission, they may add vowels or consonants to some English words to improve the effect of information expression and improve the clarity of expression. In addition, the location of vowel articulation in English linguistics will be altered from time to time to make the expressive process more fluid.

3.2. Development and Changes of Vocabulary in English Linguistics

With the advancement of technology, vocabulary, as a vital component of the language, is also evolving and changing, as is the vocabulary in English linguistics. New words will appear in the language in addition to certain modifications in the lexicon, hence changes in vocabulary account for a substantial amount of the changes in English linguistics. To a large extent, the change of English vocabulary will be influenced by regional cultural differences and people's behavior habits, and some customary words will be relatively fixed in the process of people's language expression. The individual language context and the cultural environment have a lot to do with the changing of vocabulary. When English speakers in different places express themselves in English, they often modify the vocabulary according to the specific circumstances around them and specific language expression habits, and spread in a certain form in the process of long-term use and conversation.

English is now widely used in a wide range of disciplines as a global language tool. To better use and master the English language and improve the efficiency and level of English language application, we should strengthen the cognition of the changes of English vocabulary in English linguistics and better analyze the relevant changes of English vocabulary in the process of social change and development, so that we can better understand and master the application methods of English language and improve the flexibility and efficiency of English application. At the same time, the most active aspect of the change in the English language's process of continual change, development, and change is vocabulary, which is influenced by a variety of causes.

3.2.1. Changes of the Meaning of Words

In the process of the continuous evolution and development of social culture, many modern thoughts and new things continue to emerge and have a significant impact on people's lives. With the emergence and evolution of new things, many new English words have been innovated

and derived. Especially in the current era of the knowledge economy, English vocabulary has increased greatly, and more types and forms of English vocabulary have been innovated, which effectively enriches the form and content of the English vocabulary. At the same time, the birth and innovation of some English words and words will form more English words, and the original meaning of the synthesized English words will also be changed to form new meanings. In addition, with the change of the times, English word-formation methods will also change. Many word-formation methods such as prefixes and suffixes have been better developed, and more English words have been derived, which has promoted the better development of English linguistics.

An increase in the meaning of the word. The phenomenon of word meaning expansion means that the meaning range of the word itself is relatively small, but the word meaning continues to expand as it develops. For example, the word "lady" used to refer only to the hostess, but it now refers to all women; in addition, the word "handsome", which used to refer to the men who have an attractive face with regular features, but it now also refers to the males without such characteristics. Another example is the term "cement", which when used as a noun meaning "a building material consisting of a powder formed of calcined limestone and clay", but when used as a verb in a phrase, "cement" implies "to join or consolidate". "Adolescent" means "teenager", but with the change of vocabulary, "adolescence" refers to "the time between the beginning of puberty and adulthood". "Holiday" in English vocabulary originally refers to "Christmas, Easter and other festivals", but it has now come to refer to all kinds of festivals, with the extensive and universal use. The word "air" originally meant to "air or sky", but in the current era, it is also used to express the meaning of "live broadcast" and "broadcasting".

The reduction of the meaning of the word. The reduction of the meaning of the word means that the original word has a broad meaning, but its scope has gradually narrowed with time. For example, "meat" used to refer to all types of food, but now it only refers to "animal meat"; "deer" originally refers to "wild animals" but now specifically refers to the animal "deer". The original meaning of "hangar" is "the building used for keeping things", but it today has a somewhat narrower definition, referring to "the aircraft hangar".

3.2.2. Changes of Sentimental Color

The emotional color varies when employing English words, which is the major reason for the modification of English linguistic vocabulary in the development process. That is, when the same term is used in different contexts in social communication, it will have distinct meanings. Some derogatory words are changed into commendatory words, and some commendatory words are transformed back into derogatory words. For example, the word "shrewd", which we often use, originally meant "treacherous and ill-intentioned" in Old English, but its meaning has now changed to "clever" in Modern English, as has the part of speech. The word "awfully" means "dreadfully", but in practice, it means "excellent", such as the phrase "awfully good". Furthermore, when words with both good and bad connotations are often employed, the negative meaning is more likely to be preserved, while the good meaning will gradually disappear. For example, when "gay" used to mean "happy", but was later given the meaning of "homosexuality", the prior meaning was dropped to avoid confusion.

3.2.3. Emergence of New Words

People's ideas and linguistics have been regularly refreshed due to the rapid growth of modern science and technology, as well as the global economy. New items have never appeared more often in people's lives and workplaces. People should make adaptive changes to their English vocabulary if they want to accurately define and communicate these new entities and situations. Given such a practical requirement, the English language has a plethora of new words to adapt to social changes and progress. The rapid economic development of numerous countries, combined with the rapid development of science and technology and current multimedia

information technology, has greatly aided vocabulary invention, particularly following WWII. Within the realm of English linguistics, the rapid proliferation of new words during the English era mostly meets people's desire for novelty. Of course, the emergence of new words in the English era plays an extremely important role in the international communication of various countries. The rise of English-era neologisms, such as Twitter, Internetplus, culturalgap (cultural gap), TikTok (Douyin), environmentexpert (environmental protection experts), and so on, is an integral aspect of modern life, especially as individuals enter the Internet age.

The emergence of abbreviations. As English linguistics evolves, people will shorten words to make it easier to employ larger English words, resulting in the birth of acronyms. Acronyms can make spelling easier while keeping the original meaning of the word intact. Furthermore, the use of some acronyms is also a convenient way to remember longer English words. For example, we all know what the Global System for Mobile Communications stands for, yet we commonly refer to it by its abbreviation: GSM. There is also the abbreviation MBA, which stands for Master of Business Administration. Small Office Home Office and SOHO, Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and OPEC, and other acronyms abound in English linguistics. The use of acronyms allows for the knowledge and application of a complete vocabulary, making English language learning easier and faster.

The emergence of compound words. Compound words in English vocabulary are created by combining English words that have a certain semantic relationship within the confines of English linguistics to create a new term. The spelling of the original words in the composite vocabulary has not changed, but the meaning of the compound words has altered dramatically, and may even be substantially different from that of the original words. In English, words like chalkboard, watermelon, basketball, schoolmate, aboveground, and airline are frequent.

The emergence of portmanteau words. In English linguistics, portmanteau words exist in addition to compound terms. Within the context of English linguistics, portmanteau words relate to the re-integration of words after extracting part of the contents of some words. What distinguishes the compact word from the composite word is that the original term's spelling has changed. After all, the original two words are cut by the spelling technique, then blended and reorganized by the head and tail of the two words, respectively. For example, the "heliport" is created by cutting "helicopter" and "airport" apart and then reorganizing them; the "smog" is created by selecting a portion of the material of "smoke" and "fog" and then recombining them; the "newscast" is created by combining "news" and "broadcast," and so on.

The emergence of euphemisms. As different countries have diverse cultural customs, each country has its own culture and customs with its own national features, resulting in major variances in the regulation of customs and procedures across different ethnic groups. When interacting with different countries, we must be aware of a variety of taboo topics that some cultures or nations must deal with, which is also one of the key reasons for the development of euphemism. The emergence of euphemism makes people avoid embarrassing situations that may touch each other's taboos in international communication. For example, people rarely use the word "death" to express the meaning of death in the context of English; instead, they employ metaphors such as "pass away," "sleep forever" and other euphemisms to convey the meaning of death.

4. Conclusion

The forms of expression, structural evolution and phonetic changes of phonetics and vocabulary in English linguistics will change with the development of the social environment. Human thoughts, emotions and expressions evolve and change with time. It is mirrored in language not only in the derivation of new word meanings and the restriction of their scope, but also in the fusing of words to add new meaning. The most important thing to remember is

that people's comprehension and cognition of social processes is at the heart of the English language's evolution and change. Phonetics and word meaning in language must change with the development of the social environment. It is the inevitable result of human civilization's progress.

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