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Sociolinguistic Conditions of Functioning of the Welsh Variant of English (Wenglish)

Abstract

Geographical differences in the usage of the Welsh dialect of English (Wenglish) and its relationship to Standard English are examined in this article. The author examines two distinct trends that contribute to the shifts in Standard English and the dialect. Following the identification of several Wenglish-speaking regions, comparative analysis is used to look at the geographical variations in Wenglish based on the region of Wales. Based on a speaker's age and place of residence, usage by Welsh and Wenglish speakers is examined. It is observed that younger Wenglish speakers are moving away from the traditional dialect due to pressure from contemporary society, fashion, and globalization, while elder speakers of the language tend to employ a more conservative variation. From a historical, cultural, and linguistic perspective, comparisons to different forms of English are made. Given the regional differences in Wenglish, the author concludes that Wenglish is a distinct language phenomena and poses the question of which forms might be regarded as the standard. All forms are said to be legitimate, but some are so widely accepted that they are used more frequently than the others and are thus advised to be "correct."

Keywords: *Wenglish, Welsh English, English, borrowings, variability*

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Uels varianti ingilis dilinin fəaliyyətinin sosiolinqvistik şərtləri (ingilis dili)

Xülasə

Məqalədə ingilis dilinin (Wenglish) Uels müxtəlifliyinin istifadəsində coğrafi variativlik və onun standart ingilis dili ilə əlaqəsi nəzərdən keçirilir. Müəllif həm dialektdə, həm də standart ingilis dilində dəyişikliklərə əlavə olunan iki tamamilə fərqli tendensiyanı təhlil edir. Uels dilində danışanların ayrı-ayrı ərazilərini müəyyən etdikdən sonra, Uelsin ərazisindən asılı olaraq mövcud dildəki ərazi fərqləri müqayisəli təhlil yolu ilə araşdırılır. Danışanların yaşı və yaşayış ərazisindən asılı olaraq, Uels dili və Wenglish müzakirə edilir. Qeyd olunur ki, yaşlı vengdilli insanlar daha mühafizəkar dil müxtəlifliyindən istifadə edirlər, gənc danışanlar isə müasir cəmiyyət, moda və qloballaşmanın təzyiqi altında ənənəvi dialektdən üz döndərirlər. Tarixi, mədəni və linqvistik nöqteyi-nəzərdən ingilis dilinin müxtəlif formaları ilə müqayisələr aparılır. Müəllif Wenglish dilinin unikal bir dil hadisəsi olduğu qənaətinə gəlir və Wenglish dilində regional variasiyaları nəzərə alaraq hansı formaların norma hesab oluna biləcəyi sualını qaldırır. Bütün formaların etibarlı olması təklif edilir, lakin bəziləri o qədər köklüdür ki, digərlərindən daha tez-tez istifadə olunur və buna görə də "düzgün" kimi tövsiyə olunur.

Açar sözlər: *Uels ingilis dili, ingilis dili, alınma sözlər, variativlik*

Introduction

In 1980, John Edwards published the world-famous book "Talk Tidy" (Edwards, 2003) where the term Wenglish (Welsh English) was first used.

Edwards described the distinctive features of the dialect of English spoken in the South Wales

valleys. Welsh English is described by him as a unique combination of residual Welsh and special structures (models) of spoken English. This is the authentic speech of a Welsh speaker living in Gwent, Central and Western Glamorgan and speaking English, it is their kind of oral identification symbol and an important element of social heritage».

Research

The main areas of Welsh English use are the South Wales Valleys (also the Coal Basin of South Wales), which are home to over 1 million people. These territories include (from west to east):

- 1) Gwendreth valley;
- 2) Hallenli and the eastern Carmarthenshire;
- 3) Ammanford and Amman Valley;
- 4) Swansea valley, including small valleys on the west coast of the Tawe river (Turkch, Llynvel, Luzr and Llive);
- 5) Swansea;
- 6) Nit and the valley of Nithiah;
- 7) The port of Tellby and the valley of Athens;
- 8) Brigend and Llynfi, Gar and the Ogmar valley;
- 9) Eli Valley;
- 10) Rhonda Valley;
- 11) The valley of Sinai;
- 12) Pontypridh, Mertir Tidphil and Taff;
- 13) Rhimni valley;
- 14) Eastern valleys of Monmouthshire (Sirhovi, Ebbu);
- 15) Eastern Monmouthshire Valleys (Lewis, 2008, p. 19).

The first eight valleys are a group of western areas where Welsh English is spoken. The first four are mostly spoken in Welsh, so the impact of Welsh on Welsh English is huge. These four valleys are called the extreme western part of the main areas of the Welsh language. The Valley of Eli and Rimni are the central part. The western and eastern valleys of Montserrat make up the eastern part of Welsh English. These differences are not definitive but very useful in describing the Welsh English versions, which are characterized by oral speech in these geographical areas.

All the territory is connected by a centuries-old history of industrial development, in which the coal mining industry was at the center. Other heavy industry, such as iron and other metals, has also been a link in these areas. The rapid development of industry in the XIX century. led to an influx of large numbers of workers from other parts of Wales, the British Isles and the most remote corners of the country.

Welsh English versions. Although Welsh English has a certain range of usage, there are some geographical variations.

In the western region (from the Gwendreth valley to the Brigent, Linfoys, Garou and Ogmore valleys) there are more Welsh words left than in the central and western regions. Generally, the more west the area, the more likely you are to hear words borrowed from Welsh and preserved in Welsh English. It should be remembered that the Welsh language is still an important and natural means of communication in eastern Carmarthenshire, including the Gwendred valleys, the towns of Llanelli and Ammanford, the Amman Valley and the Swansea. It is clear, therefore, why the borrowings from the Welsh language are prevalent in Welsh English in the westernmost areas.

There is a tendency to use very many terms in these areas. Although both languages have many points, words are interchangeable. Thus, Welsh continues to be an active «supplier» of lexical units in Welsh English, which is not true for the central and eastern regions of Welsh English. Speakers, moreover, use two languages: English (i.e. Welsh English) and Welsh (spoken Welsh South Wales). Welsh English often contains loan words and expressions from Welsh, while Welsh has many words and expressions from English, especially technical terms. Although the two languages have many points of contact, syntax and sentence structure, as well as the 'predominant vocabulary', help to identify which language is being used. The tendency to mix languages can make it very difficult for foreigners to determine which language is being spoken.

Western regions have another distinguishing feature: the present tense of verbs formed by the verb *loyo* (for example, I do go, we do play) is very rarely used. No such cases were reported in the westernmost areas.

Welsh English Western is thus distinguished from Welsh English Central and Eastern by the frequent use of words borrowed from Welsh, as well as by the repetition of rhythmic and intonative patterns. But this does not mean a complete absence of these elements in the Welsh English Central and Eastern regions (Office for National Statistics; Fedotova, 2011, pp. 233-244). In these areas, the current verbs generated by the verb *loyo* (e.g., I do go, we do play) are often used.

The proximity to Cardiff and the fact that thousands of people come here every day for work, opens up more opportunities for the speech forms common in the capital. As a result, there is a tendency to the diphthongization of certain sounds among the speaking series, but it is still early to say that this phenomenon is widespread in the central areas.

The people of the central regions use words and expressions that are unknown to the people of the western regions, such as *craxy* (dissatisfied, annoyed, irritated), *wanged out* (exhausted, worn out, dejected), *moithered* (confused, puzzled, stumped), *bosh* (sink). These words are derived from English dialects or English colloquialisms and are not related to Welsh.

The speech of the eastern districts (western and eastern valleys of Montautshir) is not abundant in borrowings from the Welsh language, there is a tendency to the diphthongization of certain vowel sounds in some speakers. However, as in the central areas, these are common use cases. In the eastern regions, there are many borrowings from English dialects (e.g., Gloucestershire, Central England), which is related to migration processes that occurred in the past and relative proximity to the above areas.

It should be noted that certain words and expressions in Welsh English are only for the inhabitants of one valley or community and may be unfamiliar to residents of neighbouring towns and villages.

There is an age-specific speech variant. The speech of the older generation is more conservative, so they speak in a version of Welsh English, close to what they used to communicate in the «classical» period.

The younger generation (regardless of language) uses a different vocabulary reflecting their interests (pop music, computers, etc.). Other categories of speakers may be unfamiliar with this vocabulary, as their interests do not coincide. Young people are more likely to be influenced by external factors, as well as social and peer pressure: if it is considered fashionable to pronounce a word in a certain way, they will do so. The rapid spread of processes of diphthongization and gluttalization is related to this. The youth consider the speech of previous generations to be outdated, unfashionable, so they avoid using what is characteristic for other versions of the English language, such as cockney (Ignatov, Mitchell, 2013).

People who speak several dialects also sometimes have difficulties, especially when they are hired because they give «wrong signals». The employer may take him for a fool or a person who cannot express a thought appropriately in literary English. Here another important factor against the preservation of dialects in the UK as a whole is starting to work.

Another variety of Welsh English is related to socio-economic and educational levels. While Welsh English is rooted in the everyday speech of ordinary workers, its use today is not limited to one social group. However, certain features of the use of modern Welsh English predominate among disadvantaged social groups (for example, the verb abbreviations *I in't goin'* instead of *I'm not going* и *'e doh wannw go* instead of *he doesn't want to go*, and also pronounce *t* as vibrating *r* *she gorrrw go* instead of the colloquially English literary form *she has got to go*).

It should be noted that this is becoming increasingly common even among educated social groups (high social status). This is a completely new phenomenon, unheard of in the «classical» period of the development of Welsh English. In general, it can be said that the educated population is reluctant to use these forms. They will most likely use the appropriate forms of literary English and translate them into their Welsh English. However, many Welsh-speakers are university graduates.

Historically there has been a disapproval of the use of non-standard forms of English. They were considered the prerogative of lower classes. Perhaps the situation would not be so dire today if it were not for prejudices and stereotypes. This confirms the fact that the UK government is focused only on London's problems and the establishment of political and economic control over other states.

The use of dialectal forms is not a manifestation of ignorance. In Switzerland, for example, Swiss German is part of national identity. In Norway and Luxembourg, the dialects are also given a high status.

As noted above, Welsh English owes its origin to workers who have come from all parts of the British Isles in search of employment in the industrial enterprises of the South Wales Valleys. As a result, Welsh English absorbed warmth, humor, and the directness of other dialects such as Geordie (Northumberland County, especially Tyneside) and Bru(a)mymk (Birmingham County).

Scope of Welsh English. No one would deny that a good knowledge of the literary language is necessary for international cooperation in today's world. However, this does not mean that regional forms of communication, including Welsh English, are being neglected. In the home, for example, Welsh English has a wider range of expression than literary English. For example, the expression in Welsh English "Come by 'ere an' 'ave a cwtch with Mam" is overloaded with emotional connotations (meanings) and it is very difficult to translate into literary English.

Welsh English is the perfect medium for discussing important everyday issues. The vitality of this spoken language is great, this feature gives it openness, soul and strength – something that literary English cannot boast.

It can also be noted that the dialects lack precision of expression. Perhaps there is some truth in this, at least in some areas of activity. Robert Lewis, for example, questions whether Welsh English can be applied to technical or scientific texts: it has never been used there (unlike literary English).

Lexical composition of Welsh English, as well as other dialects. For example, instead of the word *ts*, limited in comparison with literary English. The origin of Welsh English allows it to be used mainly in everyday life. In Welsh English are prevalent simple, precise expressions, almost no Latin borrowing, for example instead of the word *disappointment* is used *flat shot*, instead nutritious said feeding.

*Relationship between Welsh English and literary English. Of course, Welsh English is not as different from literary English as, for example, Swiss German or Bavarian from literary German. However, the differences cover grammar, vocabulary, syntax and phonetics. Welsh English is not a completely different language from literary English. However, the differences are so significant that it can be called a dialect of English. Wallish speakers have no difficulty understanding literary English or other English variations such as cocknies that can be heard on television, in movies or on the radio. Although grammar and syntax are different from literary English, these factors do not present difficulties for understanding literary English-speaking, unlike English versions such as Chinglish (Mitchell, Zarubin, 2013). However, this is not the case with the vocabulary and phraseology of Welsh English. For example, speaking in literary English are not familiar words such as *clecs* (gossip), *cwtch* (place/spot, 2. cuddle/ hug), *didoreth* (slovenly in housekeeping, denoting strong disapproval – untidy (about work done), *ware teg* (fair play), *mitching* (playing truant) and etc.*

The relationship between dialect and literary language is always of great interest. There are now two very opposite trends that bring changes in the dialect and (sometimes) in literary language.

The first tendency is that the dialect copies or borrows certain features of literary language; Often this is influenced by the media. As a result, the dialect loses some distinctive features. This trend can be traced in Welsh English by the example of a process of diphthongization that led to the change of the sound of some vowels.

The second trend is that dialects generate new linguistic forms. For example, in Welsh English the already shortened verb forms are reduced and/or negation is transferred differently: *I an' seen*, or *I never seen*, while literary English requires *I haven't seen*. In general, the media influenced Welsh English more borrowed from literary English.

The question of the gradation «dialect – standard language» also requires special consideration. Some speakers use the typical ones who use these forms very rarely.

Of all the linguistic aspects, the most easy way to move from literary to dialectal is to use a vocabulary. There are several reasons for this:

1) The vocabulary of the dialect is smaller, so that does not arise semantic differences, sometimes have to borrow some words from literary language (for example, this concerns mechanics);

2) Compared to grammatical structures or idioms, the vocabulary does not differ in the depth of expression, so standard vocabulary becomes sub-standard.

The ratio of Welsh English to other South Wales speech forms. Welsh English is probably the most well-known and different form of spoken word. Although this is a caveat: all the spoken forms of English in South Wales have much in common and Welsh English - not the exception (due to its spread in the central areas, it also has features in common with all border forms).

We have already established that the central area of distribution of Welsh English coincides with the valleys of South Wales – from the Gwaïne River Valley in the west to the East Montmorency Valley in the east (Anderson, Peggy, 1997).

The language of the three neighbouring territories, namely West Carmarthenshire, Gower and Glampingan Valley, has much in common with Welsh English, so it can rightly be called Extended Welsh English (Eh epeb HUepdNzb). In these territories live about 200 thousand. people. This brings the total number of Welsh English speakers in the central areas to 1.2 million.

The language of West Carmarthen, including Carmarthen and Tiwi Valley, is almost identical to that of the extended western central areas. However, the Welsh accent is more pronounced here, and borrowed Welsh units are used much more often. However, some «urban slang» characteristic of the central and eastern zones of the main area (Sep1gal apb Yeazp Raizz o HUepdNB Sogeagea) of the Welsh English language distribution may be unknown in the western border area.

These «urban slogans» include thematic expressions related to both the industrial sphere (coal mining industry) and the everyday, especially with regard to living in houses of belt development. For example, butty (co-worker, partner), dram (coal-bed transport trolley), tommy-box (miner's food container), gwli (road behind the houses of a strip development in the valleys of South Wales), bosh (shell in the kitchen).

The language of Gower, at least the native inhabitants of the peninsula who do not claim to be related to so-called near counties, i.e. counties surrounding London, is also little different from the central part of the western territories. The emphasis here is less noticeable, there are signs of diphthongization, some «urban slang», typical for central and eastern parts of the main territory of the distribution of Welsh English, unknown to residents of other areas.

The rural Glamarg Valley language, at least for the native inhabitants of the valley who are not native to the remote corners of County Surrei (Sarri), is not very different from neighbouring areas. The accent is less pronounced here, there is a diphthongization of some pure vowels of Welsh English. «Urban slang» of the central and eastern parts of the main territory of the Welsh English language is not used.

The language of Barry, the largest city in the Glampingan Valley, shares features with the language of rural areas, i.e. Welsh English. The distinctive features are accent and intonation, as well as some mannerism and fluency of speech. Some expressions borrowed from English dialects and colloccialisms of the central and eastern parts of the main territory are common in Barry. Because the area has been influenced by English for many years, borrowings from Welsh are rare. The speech of the city residents is much in common with the speech of a larger neighbor - Cardiff. Increasingly, the speech of young Barry residents is characterized by diphthongization and a hard attack of the letter I at the end of some words. Robert Lewis's inclusion of the city of Barry and rural areas of the Glumargan Valley in the expanded Welsh English distribution zone is a controversial issue. The author explains this only by the fact that his grandfather's two sisters lived there and they naturally spoke excellent Welsh English. The other forms of speech, namely those used in Cardiff, Newport, rural Montserrat, Carmarthen, northern and southern Pembrokeshire and

Breconshire, have similarities with Welsh English but not to the extent that they do in the extended area described above.

Cardiff's language has traditionally differed from the dialects of the South Wales Valleys (the proverbial expression "Pint of Dairk in Cardiff Airms Paik", in which the Welsh vowel [ɛə] is used. For centuries, Cardiff was a huge «Lava Cauldron» and formed as a capital language under the influence of various aspects. Here we note the accent, close to English, and the vowel system is very different from vowel valleys a pronounced as in tague [e], while in Welsh English there would be long sound a). The speech of the inhabitants of Cardiff is not only a diphthong, but also trifthongs in those positions where simple, pure vowels remain in Welsh English. The process of education of a solid attack has firmly established itself in the speech of young residents of the capital.

Despite the above differences, the language of Cardiff has several points of contact with Welsh English: some common English phrases, Welsh borrowings (for example, gibbons (English: (spring onions)), a slightly noticeable Welsh accent.

The Newport language, like Cardiff and Barry, has English dialects, colloquial phrases and background intonation of East Welsh English. However, there is a clear tendency to diphthongize and a different vowel system. There are similarities with the speech of the inhabitants of rural Montchoueur.

The rural speakers of Montchoueur are in Welsh and some features of the English dialect of Gloucestershire and the eastern regions. Diffused, the comparison of vowels is quite complex for the pro-expression of sounds.

In the west, in rural Carmarthenshire, there is no resemblance to West Welsh English, but so-called urban expressions have not taken hold. The territory is dominated by Welsh, so the intonation is preserved.

The speech of the people of northern Pembrokeshire is much like that of the rural inhabitants of Carmarthenshire, but with a different accent.

Accent is a feature of the speech and residents of southern Peemb-Rukshira. Diphthongization is widespread. It should be noted that the many spoken models of southern Pembrokeshire are rooted in the speech of Flemish settlers who came here in the Middle Ages. Therefore, the language of southern Pembrokeshire has many expressions that are not registered in Welsh English.

In the north, in Breconshire, intonation and lexical composition are based on Welsh English, but «urban expressions» are not accepted here. Further east, you can hear an accent that is somewhat of a Hereford Road (a painted pronunciation of the sound [g] in northern England).

Conclusion

Welsh version of the English language – unique linguistic English, the question arises: what forms to consider the nohr stylistic phenomenon (Lewis, 2008; Yemel'yanova, 2012): literary Welsh English does not exist, but since it is possible to talk about variability within mine? All forms of Welsh English are common, but some have become firmly established in the minds of Welsh people and are used more than others. These forms are recommended as more «correct».

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