

SECTION 13.

PHILOLOGY AND JOURNALISM

Tsyhanok Anna

Faculty of Trade and Marketing
IV year of studying, group 2, specialty «Philology»
State University of Trade and Economics, Ukraine

Sidorova Diana

Faculty of Trade and Marketing
IV year of studying, group 2, specialty «Philology»
State University of Trade and Economics, Ukraine

Marchynska Valeriia

Faculty of Trade and Marketing
IV year of studying, group 2, specialty «Philology»
State University of Trade and Economics, Ukraine

Scientific supervisor: Soshko Oksana

PhD in Philology, Associate Professor of the Department
of Foreign Philology and Translation
State University of Trade and Economics, Ukraine

CHANGES IN GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY OF MODERN ENGLISH

Language is a dynamic system that evolves under the influence of social, cultural, and technological factors. English, as a global lingua franca, is particularly affected by these changes, influencing grammar, vocabulary, and usage patterns [1].

In the 21st century, English has become the dominant language for international communication, science, business, and digital interaction. Its evolution is accelerated by globalization, technology, social media, and intercultural communication. As a result, the language exhibits simplification of structures, the creation of new words, semantic shifts, and hybrid forms between spoken and written English [6].

Understanding these changes is essential for linguists, educators, and learners. It provides insight into how English adapts to new realities and how communication evolves in modern societies. This article examines the most significant changes in grammar and vocabulary, explores their causes, and discusses their implications for contemporary communication.

SIMPLIFICATION OF GRAMMATICAL STRUCTURES

One of the most prominent tendencies in modern English is grammatical simplification. Speakers increasingly prefer shorter, more direct forms, especially in informal contexts [4]. For example, the Present Perfect is often replaced by the Past Simple, e.g., “*I already ate*” instead of “*I have already eaten.*”

Questions are also simplified: “*You coming?*” replaces “*Are you coming?*” Contractions like “*I’m,*” “*don’t,*” “*they’re*” are standard not only in spoken English but also in informal writing [1].

In addition, prepositions and articles are sometimes omitted in casual digital communication: “*Going store, need milk*” instead of “*I am going to the store because I need milk.*” These changes make communication faster and more efficient, especially in texting or online chats.

However, simplification can blur the boundaries between formal and informal registers, creating challenges in academic, professional, and cross-cultural communication. Linguists note that this trend reflects a global preference for efficiency and clarity in everyday communication [4].

INFLUENCE OF DIGITAL COMMUNICATION ON LANGUAGE

Digital technologies have dramatically shaped modern English. Social media platforms, instant messaging, and online forums create new modes of communication [2].

Brevity is a defining feature. Abbreviations and acronyms such as “*LOL*” (*laughing out loud*), “*OMG*” (*oh my God*), “*BRB*” (*be right back*), “*IDK*” (*I don’t know*) are widely used. Hashtags, such as #*Selfie* or #*ThrowbackThursday*, organize and emphasize content. Emojis and GIFs are now integral to communication, sometimes replacing whole sentences. For instance, 😄 conveys amusement without words.

Online communication also encourages creative manipulation of spelling, punctuation, and capitalization: “*soooo happy!!!*” or “*okkkkk*”. These forms express tone, emphasis, or emotion, making messages more expressive than traditional writing.

Digital communication blurs the boundary between spoken and written English. Written messages resemble spoken conversation, often featuring short sentences, colloquial vocabulary, and informal grammar. Studies show that over 70% of teenagers in English-speaking countries use internet abbreviations daily, demonstrating the significant influence of digital media on language evolution [2].

The influence of technology extends beyond informal contexts. Social media, blogs, and online journalism incorporate casual expressions, emoji, and hybrid structures into semi-formal and even educational content, illustrating the pervasive

nature of digital communication.

EXPANSION OF VOCABULARY THROUGH BORROWING AND NEOLOGISMS

Modern English vocabulary grows rapidly due to globalization, technological innovation, and cultural exchange [6]. Borrowed words, such as “*karaoke*,” “*sushi*,” “*emoji*,” and “*yoga*,” enrich English, often retaining their original pronunciation and spelling.

Neologisms arise to describe new social and technological realities: “*selfie*,” “*influencer*,” “*vlog*,” “*streaming*,” “*metaverse*,” and “*fintech*” are just a few examples [5]. Word-formation processes, including blending (“*brunch*” = breakfast + lunch), compounding (“*smartphone*”), and conversion (“*to Google*”), continue to be productive [1].

Informal expressions and slang spread rapidly via social media. For example, “*ghosting*” (ignoring someone online) and “*flexing*” (showing off) quickly enter everyday speech. This demonstrates both the adaptability of English and the influence of culture and technology on vocabulary.

The continuous expansion of vocabulary enhances expressiveness but creates challenges for language learners and educators, particularly when teaching standardized or formal English.

CHANGES IN MEANING AND SEMANTIC SHIFT

Semantic change is another major feature of modern English. Words frequently broaden, narrow, or shift meaning [4].

Broadening occurs when a word acquires a more general sense. For example, “*platform*” refers to both a physical structure and digital spaces like social media sites. Narrowing occurs when a word becomes more specific: “*mouse*” now commonly denotes a computer device.

Metaphorical extension is prominent in technological vocabulary: “*cloud*” for online storage, “*virus*” for computer malware, “*wall*” for social media profiles. Semantic weakening or intensification also occurs: “*literally*” is often used figuratively, while “*amazing*” now expresses general approval rather than genuine astonishment [7].

These shifts reflect technological, cultural, and social transformations, but they can create ambiguity, especially in intercultural or intergenerational communication. Awareness of semantic change is essential for effective comprehension in modern English contexts.

THE ROLE OF GLOBALIZATION IN ENGLISH DEVELOPMENT

Globalization standardizes and diversifies English simultaneously [6]. As a global lingua franca, English adapts for international comprehension, promoting

simplified grammar, clear syntax, and shared vocabulary.

At the same time, English evolves locally. Regional varieties—Indian English, Nigerian English, Singaporean English—develop unique grammar, pronunciation, and vocabulary features. These reflect cultural identity while remaining intelligible globally.

This dual process demonstrates the resilience and flexibility of English, illustrating how global communication fosters both unity and diversity in language usage. Linguists note that exposure to multiple varieties encourages speakers to adopt flexible communicative strategies.

CONCLUSION

Modern English is evolving rapidly due to social, technological, and cultural influences. Simplification of grammar, the influence of digital communication, vocabulary expansion, semantic shifts, and globalization shape English into a dynamic and flexible language.

These changes make English more efficient, expressive, and accessible. However, they also challenge traditional norms and require adaptation from speakers, learners, and educators. Understanding these processes is crucial for linguists, educators, and anyone engaged in modern English communication. English today is a living, evolving system that mirrors the complexities of the 21st century.

References:

1. Crystal, D. *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019.
2. Crystal, D. *Language and the Internet*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011.
3. McWhorter, J. *Our Magnificent Bastard Tongue*. New York: Gotham Books, 2008.
4. Aitchison, J. *Language Change: Progress or Decay?* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013.
5. Oxford English Dictionary (OED). Available at: <https://www.oed.com>
6. Crystal, D. *English as a Global Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
7. Tagliamonte, S. *Teen Talk*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016.