



The Discrepancies between American English and British English

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Abstract

The current study investigates the peculiarities related to the American English variety and the British English variety. It pinpoints the main the distinctions in terms of pronunciation, spelling, stress, intonation and the syntax. The study only gives main hints in each subsection as a way to prove that the main difference between both varieties returns mainly back to the concept of simplification, and, as a contribution of the researcher, it goes in conformity with the economy condition (Chomsky 1995). It doesn't only highlight the main distinctions between the two varieties, it also pinpoints that these distinctions are related to one degree or another because of some specific backgrounds. The study refers to the American variety as Americanism, and to the British variety as Briticism (Wiener 1958).

Key Words: Americanism, Briticism, Peculiarities, Pronunciation, Syntax, Vocabulary, Stress, Intonation, Economy.

المخلص

تتمحور فكرة البحث حول الاختلاف بين اللكنة الأمريكية واللكنة البريطانية، حيث أنها يعتبران لهجتان مختلفتان من اللغة الإنجليزية وذلك لأسباب عدة تشمل الأبعاد السياسية والدينية والإقتصادية. يحاول البحث إثبات فكرة أن الاختلاف لا يشمل أي عدم تواصل بين الشعبين، على العكس، فالإختلافات بين اللهجتين تعود في الأصل إلى قاعدة وهي "وجود التقاء بين المختلفين في نقطة"، فإن من إسهامات البحث إثبات أن الشئيين المتخلفين يوجد بينهما ترابط لغوي، وأن اللهجة الأمريكية هي أصل اللغة الإنجليزية حيث أن الشعب البريطاني هو من أدخل التعديلات على اللغة لإستقلالهم الاجتماعي عن مستعمراتهم، غير أن اللهجة الأمريكية تتلاقى مع القواعد السليمة للبنية التركيبية اللغوية.



Introduction

This study hypnotizes that the main difference between AE, or as known General American, and the BE, or as known Received Pronunciation (Janicki 1977), depends mainly on the Economy Condition by Chomsky (1995) which states that the language behaves as economic as possible. The contribution of the study highlights this notion and assumes that the GA variety is more economic than the RP. The study provides some basic backgrounds of the origin of the GA. Because the British considered themselves more elite than the American, they wanted to have an upper-class language than their colony and invented more in their language leading to these discrepancies. As a result, the chasm appears.

The State of the Problem and its Significance

The importance of this study relies on the notion of preference. The discrepancies mentioned in this study are favored by some native speakers and disliked by others, for both GA and RP. The study suggests that the GA tends to be more economic in the way by which it behaves. However, the conceptual structure is intact and the meaning is already clear.

Aim of the Study

This study aims at clarifying mainly the differences between the accents of American English and British English. The study highlights some reasons for those distinctive features between AE and BE. They include some cultural, economic, and political reasons which led to the chasm that has been in this language. It also pinpoints that most of the differences depend on the preference of the speakers themselves; however, the contribution of the researcher is to state that the reason behind these differences is mainly concerned with the economy condition by Chomsky (1995) in his Principles and Parameters Theory (1982) and the Minimalist Program (1995).

The Value of the Study

The study gives real clues that this chasm never causes misunderstanding. AE or (GA) is a dialect of English language that is used in the United States. While, BE or (RP) is a dialect of English that is used in the United Kingdom. It proves that the differences are natural and more or less related to each other. Besides, it proves that the distinctive features between both varieties are economic to one degree or another.

Literature Review

Karol Janicki (1977) follows the approach of depicting the differences between Americanism and Briticism (Wiener 1958). He states that the differences between both are not restricted to one variety and it depends on the preference of the speaker and stated the main reasons for the emergence of GA.

Background of Discrepancies

This subsection refers to some reasons of the differences and the chasm of this language. They include a vast knowledge of cultural, economic, and political background for the chasm that has been in this language.

Political Background

This background dates back to the time of the first colonist arrival in America. They had a real influence over the American society and the common language used there. This group was Led by Captain John Smith and other English-speaking people in 1607 (Janicki 1977, P.13). America was called the “Promised land”. They used to adjust themselves to this new environment creating a real society. This New Land could provide food and refuges for all those who suffered in their own homeland. Accordingly, many people fled from their home seeking a better chance in New America, and



beyond question, they came into one ground to communicate with a language (Janicki 1977, P.13-14).

Religious Background

There has been a religious persecution caused lots of people to flee across the ocean. They followed the first voyage who called themselves 'Pilgrims'. Thus, many people kept fleeing and this required the establishment of authorities and institutions to keep the society running smoothly. They needed to set up a number of laws to operate this country (Janicki 1977, P. 14). This caused lots of people to communicate and to affect the language used there.

Economic Background

The British people considered themselves as the elite class having the upper hand who considered America just a colony. Accordingly, they considered the new country as the source of the raw material. However, on the contrary of the British colony desire, the American people started their own manufacturing as they are separated country from Britain. However, the British troops had been sent to the new country to protect the colonist, (Janicki 1977). But as a matter of fact, they wanted to prevent the American's progress. Therefore, there has been a change in the language that is used. Janicki (1977) states that:

"The divergence of linguistic forms between the English spoken in America and that spoken in Britain, was initiated as a natural result of the language being spoken by the two distant groups of people whose language operated in different social conditions." P. 16

Previous Studies

Janicki states that it is a fact that American variety of English preserves the older linguistic forms which Britain transformed to others (Janicki, 1977). This difference not only happens in pronunciation but also in the vocabulary as well, for example, (fall) is an American variety and (autumn) is a British

variety. Some features of AE can be found in some dialects spoken by British Isles and certain features of BE can be found in AE (Janicki 1977, P. 25).

Abderrahim mentions that there are different manifestations of different varieties of the languages, (Abderrahim2015). These differences are reflected by the dialect, register and accent.

Discrepancies in American English and British English

This section highlights the main differences between GA and RP broadly in terms of pronunciation, spelling, vocabulary and syntax.

Pronunciation Distinction

Pronunciation is the way of uttering sounds by human being as a way of communication. As long as the utterance of sounds deals with the human-being language, it should be controlled by Linguistics. The two branches of linguistics that control the human being pronunciation are ***Phonetics*** and ***Phonology***(Kortman, 2004). The first studies the description of the physical aspect of the speech sounds dealing with phones. Phonetics deals with how the sounds are made by human, Yule (2006). Therefore, there is more than one classification to describe these sounds. They include the place of articulation (i.e. at which place the sounds are produced), the manner of articulation (i.e. how these sounds are produced), and voicing (i.e. whether the sound is voiced or voiceless). On the other hand, the latter studies the abstract aspect of sounds dealing with phoneme. Phonology deals with how the sounds are used, (Yule 2006, Kortman, 2004).

Vowel Differences

Vowels in English are described as the sounds that are produced without any obstruction and they are classified according to three categories: the Height of the Tongue (i.e. whether the tongue is high, mid, or low) as represented in Figure (1a/b) below, the Backness of the Tongue (i.e. whether the tongue is back, central or front) as represented in Figure (2) below and the Roundedness of the Lips (i.e. whether the lips are rounds, neutral, or spread) as represented in Figure (3) below, Roach(2009). They are also described as short vowels and long vowels depending on the Vowel Length. Yet, while consonants have voicing features (i.e. whether the sound is voiced or voiceless), the vowels are always voiced (Kortman, 2004).

1. The Height of the Tongue Figure

a.

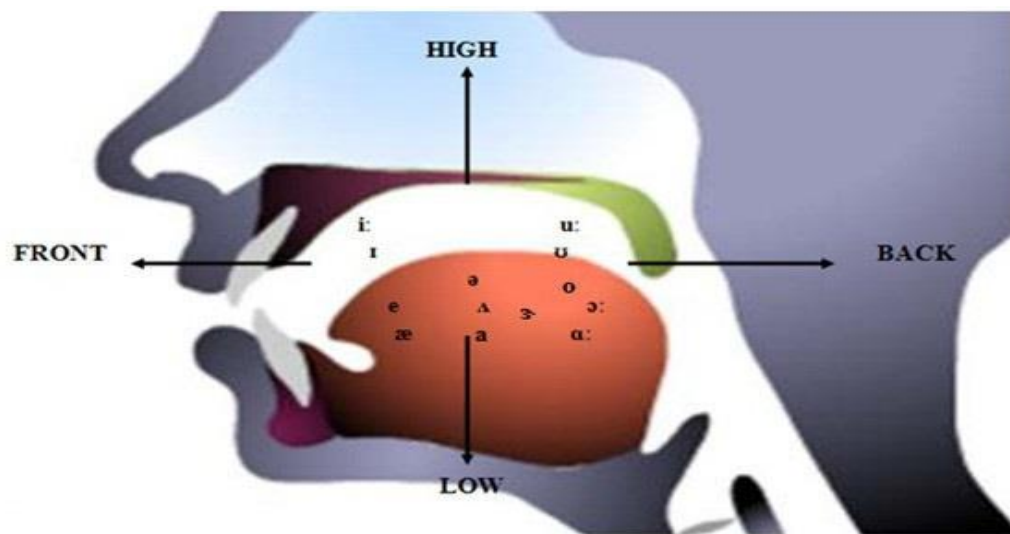


Figure (1a)

b.

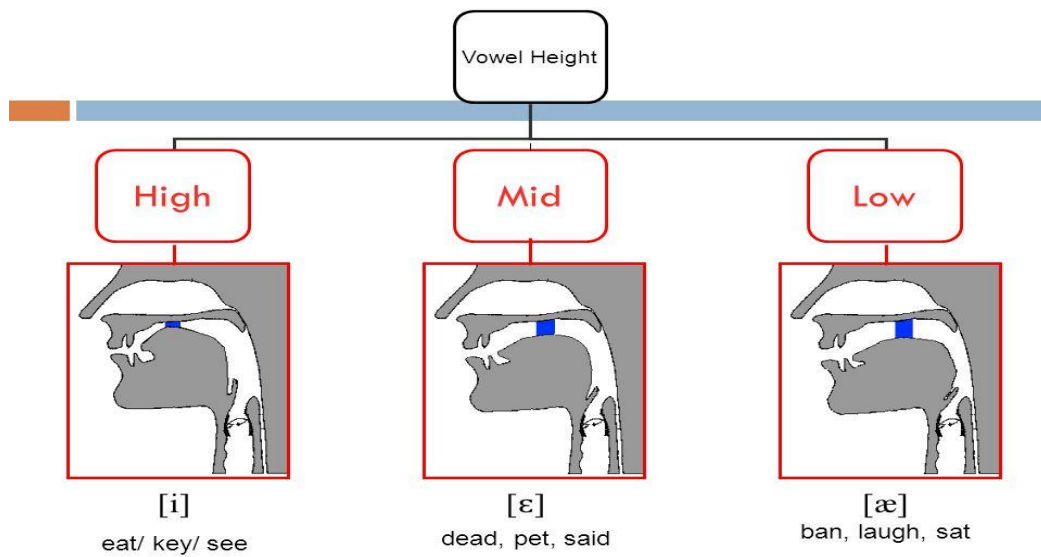


Figure (1b)

2. The Backness of the Tongue

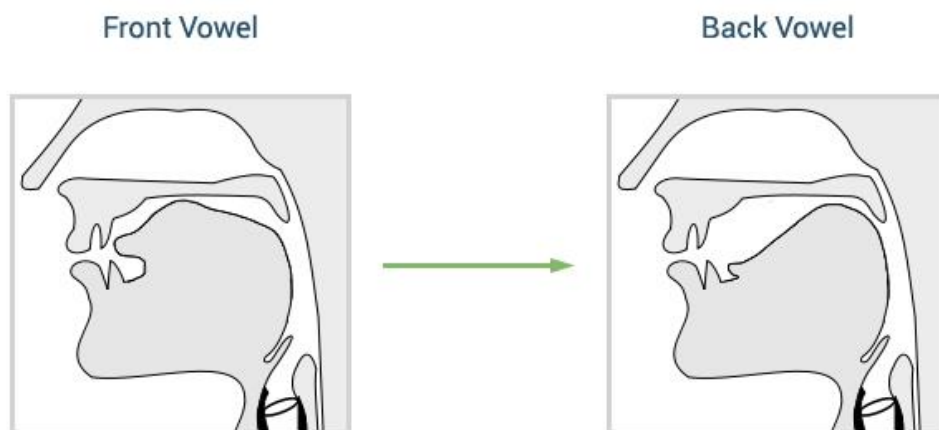


Figure (2)

3. The Roundedness of the Lips



Figure (3)



The vowel differences between Americanism and British English are exhibited mainly in the distribution of the vowels. In (4) below, Figure (4a) represents the phonetic symbols of GA while Figure (4b) represents the phonetic symbols of RP, respectively:

4. The Phonetic Alphabet

a. GA

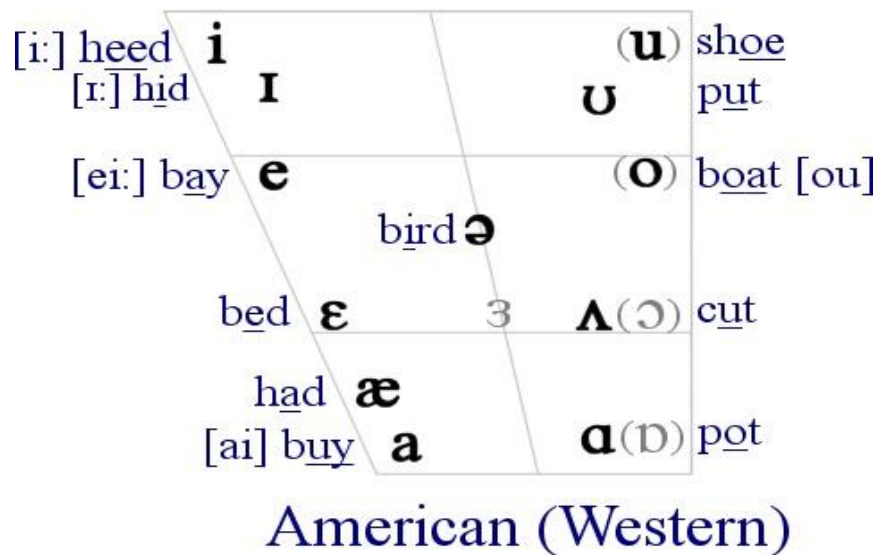


Figure (4)

b. RP

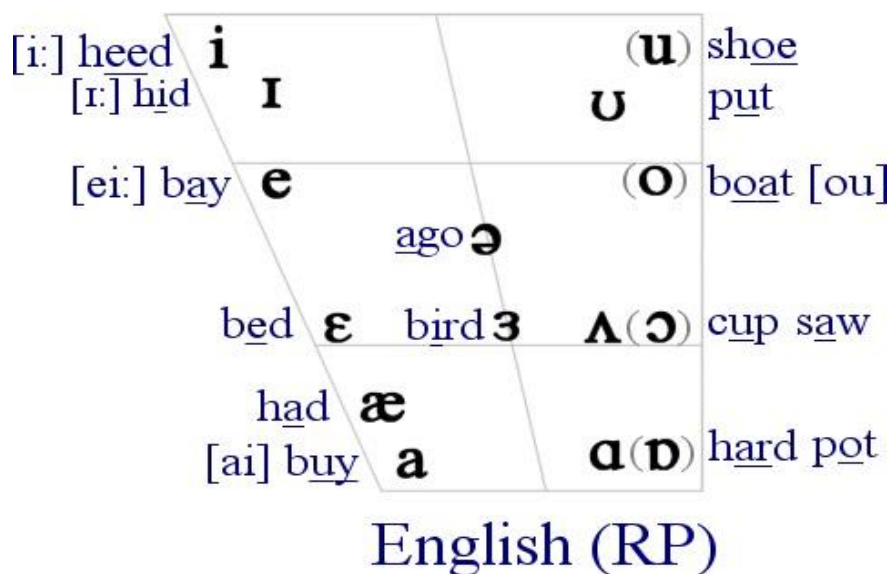


Figure (4b)

Although it seems that the RP behaves similarly to GA, there are discrepancies in terms of certain vowels exist in both languages.

The first exception deals with the low front /æ/ sound in the American variety most probably exhibits before /f/ as in *half* = /hæf/, /s/ as in *pass* = /pæs/, /θ/ as in *bath* = /bæθ/ and /n/ as in *answer* = /ænsr/. This sound is pervasive in GA; however, the RP substitute the /æ/ in the abovementioned environment with the low back /ɑ/ sound as in /ha:f/, /pa:s/, /ba:θ/ and /a:nsə/, respectively.

The second exception deals with the /ɑ/ in the British variety. This sound is pervasive in RP as aforementioned and in other environment as in *God* = /gɑ:d/, *stop* = /sta:p/ and *shot* = /ʃɑ:t/, with the alternative the low back /ɒ/ sound in GA as /gɒd/, /stɒp/ and /ʃɒt/, respectively.



The third exception deals with the mid back /ɔ/ sound in British variety as in *car* = /kɔ:/ and *father* = /fɑ:ðə/ while the American variety adopts the low back /ɑ/ sound for the same words as in /kɑ:r/ and /fa:ðər/, respectively. Although the /ɔ:/ sound occurs in both varieties as in *fall* = /fɔ:l/, *tall* = /tɔ:l/ and *all* /ɔ:l/, the tongue in the RP is raised and the lips are more rounded and sometimes it is transcribed as a low back /ɑ/ sound in GA.

The fourth exception deals with the sounds /e/ and /ɛ/ when they occur before a /r/ sound. The American sounds are always r-coloured (i.e. giving a retroflex /r/) as in *learn* = /lɛrn/ and *burn* = /bɛrn/.



The fifth exception has to do with the central mid /ʌ/ sound in the British words as *worry* = /wʌri/, *hurry* = /hʌri/ and *courage* = /kʌrɪdʒ/, these words exhibit the front mid /ɛ/ sound in the American variety as in /wɛri/, /hɛri/ and /kɛrɪdʒ/, respectively.

The GA distinctive feature added to the vowels is the nasalization feature. The nasalized vowels are pervasive in a very limited environment where it is followed by a nasal vowel /n/, /m/, /ŋ/ as in *man* = /mæn/, *ramp* = /ræmp/ and *long* = /lɑ:ŋ/, respectively.

Consonant Differences

Generally, the consonants in English both in GA and RP are classified in terms of three categories: the place of articulation, the manner of articulation and voicing as represented in the Fig. in(5) below.

5. The Vowel Chart Figure

PVM Chart: English			PLACE								
			LABIAL		CORONAL				DORSAL		
			Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal	
OBSTRUENTS	MANNER	VOICING									
		Stop	Voiceless	p			t			k	ʔ
		Voiced	b			d			g		
	Fricative	Voiceless		f	θ	s	ʃ			h	
		Voiced		v	ð	z	ʒ				
	Affricate	Voiceless					tʃ				
Voiced						dʒ					
SONORANTS	LIQUID	Nasal	Voiced	m			n			ŋ	
		Lateral	Voiced				l				
		Rhotic	Voiced					ɹ			
	Glide	Voiced	w						j	w	

More or less, RP and GA behave similarly in terms of dealing with consonants with few exceptions.

The first exception deals with the **Stop** classification. This category includes the sounds that are produced with a complete stoppage of the air somewhere inside the oral cavity (Yule, 2006). The exception to these is /t/ in the Americanism. The American /t/ is pronounced as a flap /ɾ/ in certain environments as represented in (6) below:

6. Flap /t/:

a. Before an unstressed vowel → *butter* = /bʌtər/, *water* = /wɒtər/ and *better* = /betər/.

b. Before a syllabic /l/ → *little* = /lɪl/ and *bottle* = /bɒl/.

(I.e. Syllabic consonant is phonologically interpreted as ‘schwa + non-syllabic consonant’. Besides, the syllabic /l/ occurs in word-final position (P. 153 Leeds)).

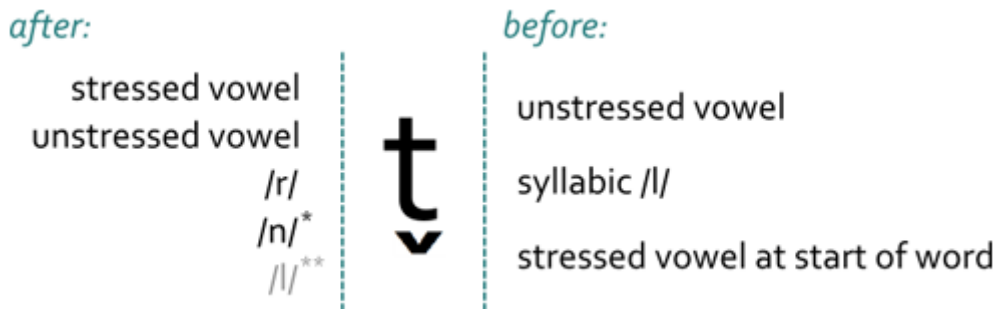
c. Between /n/ or /r/ and unstressed vowel → *twenty* = /twenti/, *wanted* = /wɒntəd/, *party* = /pa:rti/ and *forty* = /fɔ:rti/.

d. Between unaccented vowels → *it is* = /ɪtɪz/ and *at about* = /ətəbaʊt/

The Figures in (7) below represent the condition of the flap /t/ above:

7.

a.



b.

	before unstressed vowel	before syllabic /l/	before stressed vowel at start of word
after stressed vowel	wáter, debáting, pick it úp, who to bláme	fátal	méet Alex, nóť over, béat áll (but not: bé táll)
after unstressed vowel	rélatíve, metábolic, pláy it agáin, háppy togethéer	hóspítal	ríot áct, knów it áll (but not: knów a táll)
after /r/	dirty, artificial, cómforting, expert advice, éager to hélp	túrtle	sórt out, désert eagle
after /n/ pronounced as merged [nt] or [n] alone (more)	cénter, wárranted, the póint of, séen togethéer	incidéntal	went off, fréquent issue
after /l/ careless – not recommended	insúlted, fáculity, difficúlt idéa	gúiltily	spóilt ápples, áspphalt industry



The second exception deals with the **Liquid** sounds. Firstly the lateral /l/ is classified as a liquid sound because it is produced by the tip of the tongue touching the alveolar ridge letting the airstream flow around the sides of the tongue (Fromkin, Rodman et Hyams, 2011). The /l/ sound is classified as a clear /l/ or a dark /l/ depending on its distribution. Regarding the Britishism, dark /l/ occurs in the following environment represented in (8) below:

8. British dark /l/:

- a. In a word-final position after vowels → *bill* = /bɪl/, *call* = /kɒ:l/ and *deal* = /di:l/.
- b. Between a vowel and a consonant → *rolled* = /rɒlɪd/, *cold* = /kəʊld/ and *help* = /helɪp/.

Regarding the Americanism, dark /l/ occurs only in a word-initial position as in *look* = /lʊk/, *lend* = /lend/ and *lamp* = /lɛmp/

Secondly, the frictionless continuant /r/ is an exception and described as post alveolar sound. Regarding Americanism, the /r/ is a retroflex sound which means that the tongue curled back towards the alveolar ridge in a word-final position as in *father* = /fɑ:ðər/ and *water* = /wɔ:tər/, in an initial-word position as in *rear* = /rɪər/ and *rock* = /rɒk/ or in a word-medial position as in *lurk* = /lɜ:k/ and *dirt* = /dɜ:t/. American fricative /r/ occurs only after /t/ or /d/ as in *try* = /traɪ/ and *dry* = /draɪ/, respectively.

On the other hand, the /r/ in BE is dropped in a word-final position as in *father* = /fɑ:ðə/ and *water* = /wɔ:tə/, or preconsonantal as in *dirt* = /dɜ:t/ and *lurk* = /lɜ:k/ and it is only pronounced if it is followed by another vowel as in *my brother and* = /maɪbrədərənd/. Therefore, the British /r/ is described as:

- a. Fricative /r/ when it occurs after a stop sound as in *prize* = /praɪz/ and *truth* = /tru:θ/.
- b. Flap /r/ or frictionless retroflexed when it occurs between two vowels (i.e. intervocalic) as in *sorry* = /sɔ:ri/ and *marry* = /meri/ or when it follows

the /θ/ or /ð/ as in *three* =/θri/ or *with respect*=/wɪð rɪspekt/, respectively.

Diphthong Differences

Diphthong is a combined sound of two vowels. They start with a vowel and end with a glide as represented in Fig. (9) below:

9.

/eɪ/	as in <u>d</u> ay	/əʊ/	as in n <u>o</u> se
/aɪ/	as in <u>e</u> ve	/ɪə/	as in <u>e</u> ar
/ɔɪ/	as in b <u>o</u> y	/eə/	as in h <u>a</u> ir
/aʊ/	as in m <u>o</u> uth	/ʊə/	as in p <u>u</u> re

Figure (9)

The first exception and difference between RP and GA is the /əʊ/ to be /oʊ/ respectively as in *go* RP=/gəʊ/ GA=/goʊ/, *no* RP=/nəʊ/ GA=/noʊ/ and *component* RP=/kəmpəʊnənt/ GA=/kəmpoʊnənt/.

The second exception deals with the vowel /ɪ/ or /ə/ in GA which is substituted with diphthong /aɪ/ in RP as in *specialization* =/speʃəlaɪzɪʃən/, *generalization* =/dʒenəɹəlaɪzɪʃən/, *civilization* =/sɪvəlaɪzɪʃən/, *mobile* =/məʊbaɪl/ and *either* =/aɪðə/. However, it is not a rule, as the reverse phenomenon can be observed as in the following table in (10):

10.

	GA /aɪ/	RP /e/, /ɪ/
Candidate	/kændɪdaɪt/	/kændɪdɪt/
Simultaneously	/saɪmʰlteɪniəsli/	/sɪmʰlteɪniəsli/
Anti-	/æntaɪ/	/æntɪ/

Table (10)



The third exception deals with Yod-dropping after /d/, /t/, /n/ and /z/ in GA as in *due* = /du:/, *duty* = /du:ti/, *new* = /nu:/, *student* = /stu:dnt/ and *Tuesday* = /tu:zdei/, respectively.

Differences of Placing the Stress

The stress in English is phonemic. This means that placing the stress on different syllable in a word may cause a change of meaning (Janicki 1977, P. 41). The shifting of the stress on a certain word causes the difference in pronunciation as reducing the GA /ɔ/ to the RP /ə/ in the word *dormitory* = /dɔ:rmətɔ:ri/, /dɔ:mtəri/, respectively, and in reducing GA /e/ to the RP /ə/ as in *dictionary* = /dikʃəneri/, /dikʃnəri/, *military* = /miltəri/, /miltəri/, *temporary* = /tempəreri/, /tempəri/ and *necessary* = /nesəseri/, /nesəsəri/, respectively.

Another distinction can be drawn between AE and BR in terms of that AE in table (11) below has the stress on the first syllable rather than the second on as in BR, (Gimson 1962).

11.

GA	RP
Address /'ædres/	Address /ə'dres/
Cigarette /'sɪgəret/	Cigarette /sɪgər'et/
Donate /'doʊneɪt/	Donate /dəʊ'neɪt/
Inquiry /'ɪŋkwəri/	Inquiry /ɪn'kwɪəri/
Research /'ri:sɜ:tʃ/	Research /rɪ'sɜ:tʃ/
Translate /'trænsleɪt/	Translate /træns'leɪt/

Table (11)

And sometimes the stress on the second syllable in AE while in BR has the first on stressed as represented in table (12) below:

12.

GA	RP
Café /kæf'eɪ/	Café /'kæfeɪ/
Harass /hə'ræs/	Harass /'hærəs/
Complex /kəm'pleks/	Complex /'kɑ:mpleks/

Table (12)

Spelling Differences

Some differences in spelling between GA and RP are detected. It is that the former spells (or) instead of (our) as *in honor, color* and *neighbor*. GA spells (z) instead of the (s) in RP as in *emphasize, organize* and *generalization*. Besides, GA uses (er) in contrast with the (ro) or (re) in RP as in *theater, center, meter* and *fiber*. Nonetheless, RP doubles the consonant before a suffix in unstressed syllable as in *travelled, dialed* and *marvellous* while GA follows the economy approach (i.e. doesn't double the consonant). However, RP pertains the reverse phenomenon as in *fulfil* and *skilful*, while GA doubles the (l) as in *fulfill* and *skillful*. Yet, the economy condition seems to be violated as the word *fulfill* in Americanism has doubled (l). This can be refuted by assuming that the economy condition has to do with the structure and the morpheme themselves. For Example, the morpheme *travel* when added to the suffix (*ed*), only RP doubles the (l). So economy condition is only restricted to morpheme boundaries.

AE has (se) and (i) instead of (ce) and (y) as in *defense* and *tire*, respectively. Regarding foreign words, American tends to follow the economy approach. It represents *dialog, catalog, program, diarrhea* and *mustache* instead of *dialogue, catalogue, programme, diarrhea* and *moustache* in RP, among others. They can even have distinctions in the way of having compounds. It is always hyphenated in RP as in *break-down* and *make-up* while in GA is represented as *breakdown* and *makeup*.

Vocabulary Differences

The chasm is not only shown in terms of spelling, it also has to do with the selection of the vocabulary. The table in (13) below represents these distinctive features:



13.

AE	BE
Apartment	Flat
Bug	Insect
Bus	Coach
Cab	Taxi
Candy	Sweet
Check in/ Check out	Book in/ Leave
Cracker	Biscuit
Corporation	Company
Downtown	Center of the city
Elevator	Lift
French fries	Chips
Game	Match
Gas	Petrol
Lineup	Queueup
Loan	Lend
Movie	Cinema
Pay-roll	Wage-sheet
Railroad	Railway
Restroom	Lavatory/WC
Schedule	Time-table
Subway	Underground
Truck	Lorry
Vacation	Holiday
Throw up	Besick

Table (13)

Another field that highlights the peculiarities between both varieties in represented in the phrasal verbs in (14) below:

14.

<i>Meaning</i>	<i>AE</i>	<i>BE</i>
<i>To be fed up</i>	To be ticked off	To be cheesed off
<i>To get stuck</i>	To fall between the cracks	To fall between the stools
<i>To be in a bad mood</i>	To be up on the wrong side	To get out of bed the wrong side
<i>I don't care at all</i>	I don't give a hoot	I don't care a hoot
<i>Very hard</i>	Hard as a rock	Hard as a stone
<i>Hurry up</i>	Hop to it	Jump to it
<i>They don't get involved in other people's affairs</i>	They keep to themselves	They keep themselves to themselves
<i>The most interesting person at a party</i>	The life of the party	The life and soul of the party
<i>To say something briefly</i>	To make a long story short	To cut a long story short
<i>To control feelings</i>	To take oneself in hand	To have oneself in hand
<i>To ask for permission to leave job</i>	-----	To ask for one's cards
<i>To take the responsibilities for others</i>	-----	To carry the can
<i>The less you say the better</i>	-----	Least said, soonest mended
<i>To frighten someone</i>	-----	To put the wind up someone
<i>To gossip</i>	To chew the fat	-----
<i>To make a stupid mistake</i>	To drop the ball	-----
<i>To give someone a hint</i>	To put a bug in someone's ear	-----

Table (14)

Syntactic Differences

The discrepancies between GA and RP strike the syntactic structure. Dealing with futurity, GA speakers prefer using *will* and *would* as in (15a and b) instead of *shall* and *should* (as in 15c and d) which is commonly used in RP as represented in the following example



15.

- a. I will do it if only I can.
- b. Will I see you tomorrow?
- c. I shall do it if only I can.
- d. Shall I see you tomorrow?

(Janicki 1977, P 87)

Another difference between both varieties is dealing with the yes-no question formation especially with verb (*have: possess*) as illustrated in paradigm (16) below:

16.

- a. GA: Do you have any brothers?

No I don't.

- b. RP: Have you any brothers?/ Have you got any brothers?

No I haven't.

This also reflects the formation of question tag. GA tends to use the dummy verb (*do*) in the question tag as in (17a) below, while RP tends to use (*have*) as represented in (17b) below:

17.

- a. GA: He has a brother, doesn't he?
- b. RP: He has a brother, hasn't he?

Another exception has to do with the question formation of (*used to*). As RP used to have an inversion with the verb (*have*) itself in example (16b) above, it tends to use an inversion for (*used to*) as represented in (18d) below:

18.

- a. GA: he used to smoke.
- b. GA: Did he use to smoke?
- c. RP: he used to smoke.
- d. RP: Used he to smoke?

The paradigm in (18) above reflects that GA use the dummy (*do*) as the Tense in English is not strong enough to attract the verb itself and results in subject-verb inversion instead of subject-auxiliary inversion in main question (Radford, 2009). RP follows the old-English syntactic system where the Tense was strong to trigger the verb-inversion.

Based on the result of paradigm (18) above, the negative formation for (*he used to smoke*) would be (*he didn't use to smoke*) in GA and (*he used not to smoke*) in RP.

According to the economy principle in grammar, GA tends to follow the economy approach as long as the conceptual structure is intact. This is illustrated by the paradigm in (19) below:

19.

- a. GA: Let's go see him
- b. RP: Let's go to see him/ Let's go and see him.

GA could transfer a sentence like (*I'd like you to go there*) into (*I'd like to have you go there*), however it is incorrect in the GA variety. Another example of economy that GA removes the verbs as in (20) below:

20. The cat wants to go in and She wants to get off

Janicki 1977, P. 89

However, RP doesn't allow removing the verbs in (20) above. In addition, one of the peculiarities between the two varieties has to do with the subjective mood as represented in (21) below:

21. .

- a. GA: I suggest that you go
- b. RP: I suggest that you should go

Janicki 1977, P. 90



Regarding tenses, GA tends to use the *past simple* tense instead of the *present perfect* tense as in (22) or past perfect as in (23) below:

22. He just came

23. After he came home, he ate dinner.

Janicki 1977, P. 101

General Discussion

The terms Americanism and Briticism are adopted by Karol Janicki (1977). Despite the fact that American English has a heavy influence over the British English, the two varieties of English show a considerable number of differences. The difference between the two varieties in terms of pronunciation depends on common features. The vowels or the diphthongs share features in common. For example low front /æ/ substitutes the low back /ɑ/. Both are low sounds as they share one of the features, it becomes natural to substitute each other. Besides, the GA represents the origin usage of language as expressed by using the dummy (*do*) in question formation instead of inverting the verb itself as in RP. It, also, represents the economy condition by Chomsky (1995) in terms of dealing with affixation as illustrated by the verb (*traveled*) in GA and (*travelled*) in RP.

Conclusion

This study represents the main differences between Americanism and Briticism in terms of certain dimensions as pronunciation, syntax and vocabularies, among others. The main objective of this study is to highlight that the distinction between the GA and RP is something depends on the preference of the speakers themselves and this difference never causes misunderstanding. The contribution of the study is that it pinpoints the peculiarities between the two varieties in most cases result from the belongingness to a natural class. The two sounds that substitute each other

must form a natural class (i.e. they share some common features). Besides, it hypothesizes that GA follows an economic approach. The economy condition is related to either constituents boundary or to morphemes boundary as represented in (16 and 18) and in section (3.2.) above, respectively. The examples in (16) above represents that GA is more standard in applying the modern syntactic system as the tense is weak and it can't attract any main-verb inversion in question formation.

List of Phonetic Symbols

Symbol	Meaning	Symbol	Meaning
AE	American English	/ɔ/	Mid back closed vowel
BE	British English	/ɑ/	Low back long vowel
GA	General American	/ɒ/	Low back short vowel
RP	Received Pronunciation	/ð/	A fricative interdental voiced consonant
/i/	High front long vowel	/θ/	A fricative interdental voiceless consonant
/ɪ/	High front short vowel	/ʃ/	A fricative palatal voiceless consonant
/e/	Mid front short vowel	/dʒ/	An affricate palatal voiced consonant
/ɛ/	Mid front long vowel	/ʌ/	Mid central stressed vowel
/æ/	Low front vowel		
/ə/	Schwa		
/ʊ/	High back short vowel		
/u/	High back long vowel		
/o/	Mid back vowel		



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