

## The Language Aspect of the Comic Feature on the Example of American and English Humor

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### Abstract

This article examines humour as a language that acts as a means of interaction between different groups of society. Variability of humour is mainly reflected in national peculiarities of it. It is easy to catch signs of humour of any nation, but to give them an accurate characterization is rather difficult. Each nation over time acquires its unique form of humour, created on the basis of life-historical experience. Humour, from the linguistic point of view, also serves as a means of expressing positive or negative feelings through language. The article provides features of linguistic humour on the example of American and English jokes. The material for research is the humorous fragments from the stories of famous writers and parts of the performances of American comedians of various topics. The relevance of this study is determined by the value worldview expressed in humour, which in its turn is reflected in the American and British linguistic cultures. The received results as theoretical and practical will be useful for further linguistic study of American and British linguocultures.

**Keywords:** Linguistics; Language; American Humour; British; Society.



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### 1. Introduction

Humour is an important means of belonging to a certain group and is considered natural and truly sociological. Humour serves, according to sociologists, not only as markers of boundaries of any class or layer, but also as a means of integration within them and at the same time separating from each other. Humorous effect in texts is achieved by means of certain statistical techniques, such as word play, slang, sarcasm, paradox, repetitions, neologisms and nonce words. From the linguistic point of view, humour is defined as a social tool that allows you to effectively remove psychological stress and improve the relationship between people. Humour is also used by subjects to convey feelings and thoughts, such as joy, but it also conveys a personal relationship that no one openly expresses in society. If the joke is no correspondence between form and meaning in linguistic unity, there is linguistic humour. Classic English and American humour as a phenomenon of linguistics has become the object of study in the writings of such prominent linguists like (Karasik, 2000; Kulinich, 1999) (Abrosimova, 2015). The Russian linguist G. G. Pocheptsov believes that "*the effect of linguistic humour is based not only on the quality of the joke, but also on who says it, how developed his sense of humour, how he presents it, on his attitude to the joke and his mood*".

### 2. Methodology

In order to study the linguocultural features and the originality of the language means of representation of American and British humour, we have analyzed small humorous stories and texts of the performances of comedians. While working on the research we used the methods of textual, contextual, linguistic and linguostylistic analysis of the content of the texts of public speeches of comedians and stories of famous writers (Khakimzyanova and Shamsutdinova, 2016; Suiyerkul *et al.*, 2018).

### 3. Results

Most jokes and humorous stories in any language suggest that there is knowledge about the situation in the country as a whole, if we are talking about politics, and sometimes about the situation of a particular town. As you know British and American humour is very different, despite using the same language. American humour, it is believed, is very free and open, it can be as impudent and witty as kind and subtle humour. No one forbids joking about politicians, the poor, racial and sexual minorities, although the situation is changing now in the 21st century, people are becoming more restrained, because Americans like to settle conflicts through the courts. We want to consider the characteristics of American humour:

1) Integrity, i.e. the lack of the hidden meaning. Communism is such a happy family affair that no Communist wants to stay where this family happiness is practiced. Communism, according to Communists, is perfectly suitable for you, but not for themselves.

2) Detailed explanation or a complete retelling. We were hanging out in the mountains with enough food to feed an army for the duration of the peace conference (Villalobos Antúnez and Bello, 2014).

3) Ridiculing of stupidity, the basest actions. Currently, Mr. Ives is serving the first of four terms of ninety-nine years each, for which he was convicted for various serious crimes. After his release, he is going to devote himself to pedagogy (Rourk, 2015).

4) Bringing the situation to absurdity. It does not take a day for you not to read in the Newspapers the message about the landing of our Marines to prevent one country from shelling the other. And it also happens that we shoot them to prevent them from shooting at each other (Pochepcov, 1982).

5) Exaggeration, game words, ridiculous comparisons. The Consul received our letter of thanks and handed over to the officer on duty for eternal storage in the national archives-in the stove.

6) The presence of ingenuity in American humor. In my opinion, it is necessary to act with anarchists this way: you will catch once – on a gallows. You will catch for the second time in the bath! (Martynova, 2017; Raja and David, 2018).

American humor is distinguished by its diversity due to the fact that since the founding of the state, there live people of different nationalities in America and this affected the humor and the language as a whole. Now turn to the British humor, which is considered to be subtle and exemplary. The British - educated nation and the meaning of their jokes is to play on words or innuendo. The British laugh at anything: the government, the weather, their behavior, their traditions, excessive prudence, historical facts. The Englishman can make a joke only by intonation, by a special facial expression. Basically, English humor low-key, invisible, based on subtle irony, is the pursed lips, barely noticeable smile - and not said-misty American or Russian laughter. The Englishman, unlike the American or Russian, will joke so that you will not always notice. English humor has its own varieties. Especially silly jokes are called - elephant jokes. Other varieties of English humor: dry humor – an irony, humor with a banana peel is a simple prank, when someone slips on a banana peel and everybody laughs, shaggy-dog stories - jokes that are funny based on illogical statements. As already mentioned, English jokes are based on the play of words, so to understand them you need to know your native as well as foreign languages. Let us study a few examples:

Do not steal, the Government hates competition. an example of a political joke;

A policeman pulled over a speeding motorist and asked, do you have any ID? The motorist replied, about what? - Humor is in the accordance of the words ID and idea;

Teach your wife how to be a widow. Black humor also takes place;

Teacher: Tom, what is the 3rd form of the verb to write?

Boy: What do you think it is, Mr. Norton?

Teacher: I do not think, I KNOW!

Boy: I do not think I know either, Sir.

From these examples we can clearly see English humour - verbal humour. Without knowing the language it is impossible to understand the joke in a foreign language. Of course, in addition to the language, you need to understand the context, i.e. the situation occurring in the place you live. Every year the mentality and understanding of comic effect change, its forms and means alter as well. For instance, that was ridiculous to last generation, at present it does not cause the necessary reaction of laugh. There are used special techniques and ways of expression comic, which is why the style and language are unique and inimitable (Takhtarova and Sabirova, 2016).

## 4. Discussion

Usually successfully invented joke relieves tension, depression or fear. But, if the joke is told to a person, it can have the purpose to bring not only joy, but also to be an act of anger, as a person can see it in malicious resentment and disgrace. That is why jokes are usually allowed only in relation to well-known people who perceive humour as an act of demonstrating confidence to them personally, giving the opportunity to look at themselves from the outside in a critical view. In this case, people's relations are strengthened even more. Otherwise, the joke, in particular, talked in public, is perceived as a personal insult and contributes to the emergence of hostile emotions. Not all, the value of which is belittled - it seems ridiculous as a sense of humour can come into conflict with the other senses. For example, each person or national group of people has valuable and sacred things and objects, jokes on which are treated as a hostile manifestation, as they are aimed at important objects of their pride. In such a case, the pleasure of laughing outweighed uncomfortable feeling and vulnerable pride. Another example is a situation where a joke is too cruel and directed against an obviously weak and defenseless creature that does not pose a threat to anyone. Such joke causes exclusively pity for the object of humiliation from people around, as well as an aversion to the jester. For the aforementioned reasons, laughter can have both evil and good colour. The same is true about the author of the joke (Dmitriev, 1996).

## 5. Summary

The comic element can appear unintentionally, naively, when the speaker did not intend to joke, but in the end made a similar pun and laugh own interlocutor, sometimes unwittingly. Witty remark which is comical only for the listener, and not for the speaker (unconscious error, ignorance, etc.), occurs in the speech of children, foreigners, people with a level of education that differs from the level of the interlocutor. Humour is a demonstration of

nonsense or absurdity of objects, actions or situations, made with the intention of causing a smile. Usually it is produced defiantly and bloated. There are different forms of humour corresponding to different levels of humanization (Zenon, 2016). To example, rude jokes are popular among children and young people, while satire is more popular among mature and intelligent people. Humour is often not universal and cannot be transferred from one culture to another, usually because it depends on the details of a particular cultural environment. In the era of globalization, differences between cultures have become increasingly clear, and the humour gets some versatility. There are various forms of humour: paradox, satire, sarcasm, irony, oxymoron or wit, wordplay, parody and so on. Humour has different literary forms - anecdote or joke, monologue, dialogue, story, pun, repartee with the interlocutor, aphorism that is suitable for the occasion, etc. Not counting the textual form, humour can be presented in graph form - caricature, sketch, photo and others (Schwarz, 2010).

## 6. Conclusions

It should be noted that the perception of a comic situation, a particular object is also directly dependent on the subject of perception – a recipient of the joke, from his/her background knowledge, experience, expectations, from where he/she is located. This, in turn, makes it possible to describe the same situation from different points of view, perspectives, which undoubtedly expands the idea of it. This is due to the existing differences in the world pictures of different languages, as the perception of the world depends on the cultural and national characteristics of the native speakers (Zaliznyak, 2007).

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