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# **PART ONE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **I. RATIONALE**

In this globalizing trend society, the need of communicating and exchanging information, culture, technology, science and business among countries becomes more and more necessary and to satisfy this requirement, language as a means of communication has become increasingly important.

In English language, there are many fields in which each is studied by different linguists. And vocabulary, which is considered a very important branch of English language, is investigated and studied by many of lexicologists. However, most of us often care for vocabulary and grammar while studying English in which there are many problems for learners of English as an international language. Among them, the varieties of native English vocabulary cause a lot of troubles.

Varieties of English include many phenomena in both grammar and vocabulary such as tense; complementation; preposition; words spelling, pronunciation, meaning; ... etc. These are complicate phenomena for learners of English and they usually get troubles with this, people are always confused in the case of English that they are communicating is different from English that they have learnt. So it is very necessary to work in depth with this to help learners have an over view and avoid confusing when facing it.

I hope that my study can be useful for learners of English in identifying and understanding more about varieties of English and they can have the better result in studying and communicating.

## **II. AIMS OF STUDY**

This study aims at:

- Providing the theoretical background about English language
- Stating the different dialects.
- Discussing the varieties of English in vocabulary meaning and spelling

## **III. SCOPE OF STUDY**

Varieties of English are a very attractive field for researchers and there are many issues related to it, however, due to the limitation of time and knowledge, I only study varieties of English in vocabulary. All the rest are to be left for the further research. In this study I focus on the differences in vocabulary meaning and spelling of American English and British English.

In daily conversation, we recognize that people often has the difficulties in understanding or using the different words of different English dialects. The reason is that they don't have much knowledge about the varieties of English and American English and British English are most popularly used. And this study will help people have the further view and solve their difficulties to some extent.

## **IV. METHOD OF THE STUDY**

To carry out this research the researcher used the following methods

- Qualitative methods are used as searching, collecting all the information, samples from several books and websites both in English and Vietnamese, then analyzing and systemizing them in this paper.
- Having a small comparison with the helps of native speakers.

## **V. DESIGN OF THE STUDY**

This study is divided into three parts of which the second one is the most important.

The first part named INTRODUCTION, consists of Rationale, Aims of study, Scope of study and Design of study.

The second part titled DEVELOPMENT includes three chapters

- Chapter one: *Theoretical background* focuses on information of English language

- Chapter two: *The differences between American English and British English in Vocabulary meaning*

- Chapter three: *Some related problems facing Vietnamese learners of English and some suggested solutions*

The last part in this paper called CONCLUSION reviews the whole study.

# PART TWO

## DEVELOPMENT

### Chapter one

## THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

### I. ENGLISH LANGUAGE

#### I.1 Geographical distribution

Approximately 375 million people speak English as their first language. English today is probably the third largest language by number of native speakers, after Mandarin Chinese and Spanish. However, when combining native and non-native speakers it is probably the most commonly spoken language in the world, though possibly second to a combination of the Chinese languages (depending on whether or not distinctions in the latter are classified as "languages" or "dialects"). Estimates that include second language speakers vary greatly from 470 million to over a billion depending on how literacy or mastery is defined and measured. Linguistics professor David Crystal calculates that non-native speakers now outnumber native speakers by a ratio of 3 to 1.

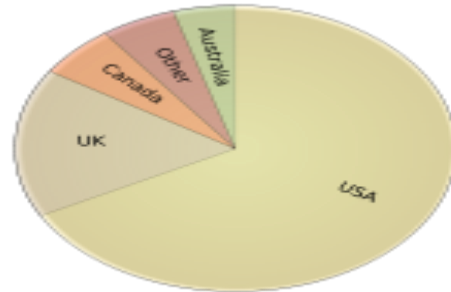
The countries with the highest populations of native English speakers are, in descending order: United States (215 million), United Kingdom (61 million), Canada (18.2 million), Australia (15.5 million), Ireland (3.8 million), South Africa (3.7 million), and New Zealand (3.0-3.7 million). Countries such as Jamaica and Nigeria also have millions of native speakers of dialect continua ranging from an English-based creole to a more standard version of English. Of those nations where English is spoken as a second language, India has the most such speakers ('Indian English'). Crystal claims that, combining native and non-native speakers, India now has more people who speak or understand English



than any other country in the world. Following India is the People's Republic of China.



Pie chart showing the relative numbers of native English speakers in the major English-speaking countries of the world



## I.2 Dialects and regional varieties

The expansion of the British Empire and—since World War II—the influence of the United States have spread English throughout the globe. Because of that global spread, English has developed a host of English dialects and English-based creole languages and pidgins.

Two educated native dialects of English have wide acceptance as standards in much of the world—one based on educated southern British and the other based on educated Midwestern American. The former is sometimes called BBC (or the Queen's) English, and it may be noticeable by its preference for "Received Pronunciation"; it typifies the Cambridge model, which is the standard for the teaching of English to speakers of other languages in Europe, Africa, the Indian subcontinent, and other areas influenced either by the British Commonwealth or by a desire not to be identified with the United States. The latter dialect, General American which is spread over most of the United States and much of Canada, is more typically the model for the American continents

and areas (such as the Philippines) which have had either close association with the United States or desire to be so identified. Aside from those two major dialects are numerous other varieties of English, which include, in most cases, several subvarieties, such as Cockney, Scouse and Geordie within British English; Newfoundland English within Canadian English; and African American Vernacular English ("Ebonics") and Southern American English within American English. English is a pluricentric language, without a central language authority like France's Académie française; and therefore no one variety is considered "correct" or "incorrect" except in terms of the expectations of the particular audience to which the language is directed.

Scots developed—largely independently from the same origins, but following the Acts of Union 1707 a process of language attrition began, whereby successive generations adopted more and more features from English causing dialectalisation. Whether it is now a separate language or a dialect of English better described as Scottish English is in dispute. The pronunciation, grammar and lexis of the traditional forms differ, sometimes substantially, from other varieties of English.

Because of the wide use of English as a second language, English speakers have many different accents, which often signal the speaker's native dialect or language. For the more distinctive characteristics of regional accents, see Regional accents of English, and for the more distinctive characteristics of regional dialects, see List of dialects of the English language. Within England, variation is now largely confined to pronunciation rather than grammar or vocabulary. At the time of the Survey of English Dialects, grammar and vocabulary differed across the country, but a process of *lexical attrition* has led most of this variation to die out.

Just as English itself has borrowed words from many different languages over its history, English loanwords now appear in many languages around the

world, indicative of the technological and cultural influence of its speakers. Several pidgins and creole languages have been formed on an English base, such as Jamaican Patois, Nigerian Pidgin, and Tok Pisin. There are many words in English coined to describe forms of particular non-English languages that contain a very high proportion of English words.

### **I.3 Number of words in English**

The *General Explanations* at the beginning of the *Oxford English Dictionary* states:

The Vocabulary of a widely diffused and highly cultivated living language is not a fixed quantity circumscribed by definite limits... there is absolutely no defining line in any direction: the circle of the English language has a well-defined centre but no discernible circumference.

The vocabulary of English is undoubtedly vast, but assigning a specific number to its size is more a matter of definition than of calculation. Unlike other languages, such as French, German, Spanish and Italian there is no Academy to define officially accepted words and spellings. Neologisms are coined regularly in medicine, science and technology and other fields, and new slang is constantly developed. Some of these new words enter wide usage; others remain restricted to small circles. Foreign words used in immigrant communities often make their way into wider English usage. Archaic, dialectal, and regional words might or might not be widely considered as "English".

The *Oxford English Dictionary*, 2nd edition (*OED2*) includes over 600,000 definitions, following a rather inclusive policy:

It embraces not only the standard language of literature and conversation, whether current at the moment, or obsolete, or archaic, but also the main technical vocabulary, and a large measure of dialectal usage and slang (Supplement to the *OED*, 1933).

The editors of Webster's Third New International Dictionary, Unabridged (475,000 main headwords) in their preface, estimate the number to be much higher. It is estimated that about 25,000 words are added to the language each year.

Thanks to the development of English in many ways, English vocabulary becomes richer and richer and one of that is English varieties which will be mentioned in the main part of this paper.

#### **I.4 English as a global language**

Because English is so widely spoken, it has often been referred to as a "world language", the *lingua franca* of the modern era. While English is not an official language in most countries, it is currently the language most often taught as a second language around the world. Some linguists (such as David Graddol) believe that it is no longer the exclusive cultural property of "native English speakers", but is rather a language that is absorbing aspects of cultures worldwide as it continues to grow. It is, by international treaty, the official language for aerial and maritime communications. English is an official language of the United Nations and many other international organizations, including the International Olympic Committee.

English is the language most often studied as a foreign language in the European Union (by 89% of schoolchildren), followed by French (32%), German (18%), and Spanish (8%). Among non-English speaking EU countries, a large percentage of the population claimed to be able to converse in English in the Netherlands (87%), Sweden (85%), Denmark (83%), Luxembourg (66%), Finland (60%), Slovenia (56%), Austria (53%), Belgium (52%), and Germany (51%). Norway and Iceland also have a large majority of competent English-speakers.

Books, magazines, and newspapers written in English are available in many countries around the world. English is also the most commonly used language in the sciences. In 1997, the Science Citation Index reported that 95% of its articles were written in English, even though only half of them came from authors in English-speaking countries

Thanks to English as a global language that many countries around the world are using, the popularity did contribute to the development of varieties of English.

## II. AN OVERVIEW OF ENGLISH VARIETES

### II.1 British English

**British English**, or **UK English (BrE, BE, en-GB)**, is the broad term used to distinguish the forms of the English language used in the United Kingdom from forms used elsewhere. There is confusion whether the term refers to English as spoken in the British Isles or to English as spoken in Great Britain, though in the case of Ireland, there are further distinctions peculiar to Hiberno-English.

There are slight regional variations in formal written English in the United Kingdom (for example, although the words *wee* and *little* are interchangeable in some contexts, one is more likely to see *wee* written by someone from northern Britain or from Northern Ireland than by someone from Southern England or Wales). Nevertheless, there is a meaningful degree of uniformity in *written* English within the United Kingdom, and this could be described as "British English". The forms of *spoken* English, however, vary considerably more than in most other areas of the world where English is spoken<sup>1</sup> and a uniform concept of "British English" is therefore more difficult to apply to the spoken language. According to Tom McArthur in the *Oxford Guide to World English* (p. 45), "[f]or many people...especially in England [the phrase *British English*] is tautologous," and it shares "all the ambiguities and tensions in the word British,

and as a result can be used and interpreted in two ways, more broadly or more narrowly, within a range of blurring and ambiguity".

## II.2 American English

**American English** (variously abbreviated **AmE**, **AE**, **AmEng**, **USEng**, **en-US**), also known as **United States English** or **U.S. English**, is a set of dialects of the English language used mostly in the United States. Approximately two thirds of native speakers of English live in the United States.

English is the most common language in the United States. Though the U.S. federal government has no official language, English is considered the *de facto* language of the United States due to its widespread use. English has been given official status by 30 of the 50 state governments.

The use of English in the United States was inherited from British colonization. The first wave of English-speaking settlers arrived in North America in the 17th century. During that time, there were also speakers in North America of Spanish, French, Dutch, German, Norwegian, Swedish, Scots, Welsh, Irish, Scottish Gaelic, Finnish, Russian (Alaska) and numerous Native American languages.

## II.3 Australian English

**Australian English** (**AusE**, **AuE**, **AusEng**, **en-AU**) is the form of the English language spoken in Australia.

Australian English began diverging from British English shortly after the foundation of the Australian penal colony of New South Wales (NSW) in 1788. British convicts sent there, including Cockneys from London, came mostly from large English cities. They were joined by free settlers, military personnel and

administrators, often with their families. However, a large part of the convict body were Irish (at least 25% directly from Ireland, plus others indirectly via Britain) and other non-English speaking Welsh and Scots, or at least, not from the South/South East of Britain. English was not spoken, or was poorly spoken, by a large part of the convict population, and the dominant English input was that of Cockney South-East England.

In 1827 Peter Cunningham, in his book *Two Years in New South Wales*, reported that native-born white Australians of the time – known as "currency lads and lasses" – spoke with a distinctive accent and vocabulary, with a strong Cockney influence. The transportation of convicts to Australia ended in 1868, but immigration of free settlers from Britain, Ireland and elsewhere continued.

The first of the Australian gold rushes, in the 1850s, began a much larger wave of immigration, which would significantly influence the language.

Among the changes wrought by the gold rushes was "Americanisation" of the language – the introduction of words, spellings, terms, and usages from North American English. The words imported included some later considered to be typically Australian, such as *dirt* and *digger*. *Bonzer*, which was once a common Australian slang word meaning "great", "superb" or "beautiful", is thought to have been a corruption of the American mining term *bonanza*, which means a rich vein of gold or silver and is itself a loanword from Spanish. The influx of American military personnel in World War II brought further American influence; though most words were short-lived; and only *okay*, *you guys*, and *gee* have persisted.

Since the 1950s American influence has mostly arrived via pop culture, the mass media – books, magazines, television programs, and computer software – and the world wide web. Some words, such as *freeway* and *truck*, have even naturalised so completely that few Australians recognise their origin.

British words such as *mobile (phone)* predominate in most cases. Some American and British variants exist side-by-side; in many cases – *freeway* and *motorway*, for instance – regional, social and ethnic variation within Australia typically defines word usage.

Australian English is most similar to New Zealand English due to shared history and geographical proximity. Both use the expression *different to* (also encountered in British English, but not American) as well as *different from*.

## **II.4 Canadian English**

**Canadian English (CanE, en-CA)** is the variety of English used in Canada. More than 26 million Canadians (85% of the population) have some knowledge of English (2006 census). Approximately 17 million speak English as their native language. Outside Quebec, 76% of Canadians speak English natively. Canadian English contains elements of British English in its vocabulary, as well as several distinctive Canadianisms. In many areas, speech is influenced by French, and there are notable local variations. However, Canada has very little dialect diversity compared to the United States. The phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and lexicon for most of Canada are similar to that of the Western and Midland regions of the United States, while the phonological system of western Canadian English is identical to that of the Pacific Northwest of the United States, and the phonetics are similar. As such, Canadian English and American English are sometimes grouped together as North American English. Canadian English spelling is a blend of British and American conventions.

## **II.5 New Zealand English**

**New Zealand English (NZE, en-NZ)** is the form of the English language used in New Zealand.



The English language was established in New Zealand by colonists during the 19th century. The most distinctive influences on New Zealand English have come from southern England, Scottish English and the indigenous Māori language.

New Zealand English is close to Australian English in pronunciation, but has several subtle differences; several of these show the influence of Māori speech. One of the most striking differences between the New Zealand accent and the Australian accent and other varieties of English (although shared partly with South African English) is that /ɪ/ is a central vowel

A distinct New Zealand variant of the English language has been in existence since at least 1912, when Frank Arthur Swinnerton described it as a "carefully modulated murmur," though it probably goes back further than that. From the beginning of British settlement on the islands, a new dialect began to form by adopting Māori words to describe the flora and fauna of New Zealand, for which English did not have any words of its own.

### **III. ASPECT OF ENGLISH VARIETIES**

#### **III.1 Meaning**

- English vocabulary has various meaning depend on the different dialects and different countries.

Eg 1: Candy

- In British English means heated sugar spun into thin threads and collected into a mass, usually on a stick; something pleasing but having little worth

- In American English means someone particular attractive in a sexy way like eyes candy

-

- Otherwise the different dialects and different countries use the different word but they have the same meaning.

Eg 2: Primary school in Australian English means elementary school in American English

People in the different places use English differently. The same word can be used to convey the different meaning on the contrary or one meaning can be conveyed by the different words depending on the people in different places and countries.

## **III.2 Pronunciation**

### **III.2.1 Northern English dialects**

- /ʌ/ does not exist. There is no distinction between ‘put’ and ‘putt’, both having /ʊ/
- Words like ‘dance’ and ‘daft’ have /æ/
- /eɪ/ and /əɪ/ are either narrow diphthongs, monophthongs or even opening diphthongs

### **III.2.2 Scottish**

- /ʌ/ is present in words like ‘hut’, ‘funny’, ‘cup’
- /ɛ:/ does not occur. Instead /ɛ/ is used, as in ‘world’, or /e/, as in ‘certain’.
- Diphthongs are monophthongized, for example in ‘boat’, ‘pole’, ‘nose’, ‘bay’, ‘plate’, ‘remain’
- /u:/ is often used in words where RP has /a /, such as in ‘house’ and ‘mouse’

- Post-vocalic /r/ is pronounced, as in ‘certain’, ‘world’. Scottish /r/ is a flap

- The glottal stop [ʔ] is often used instead of /t/ in words like ‘better’, ‘that’

### III.2.3 Irish English

- Post-vocalic /r/ is pronounced

- There’s often no distinction between /t/ and /θ/, and between /d/ and /ð/.

/t/ would be used in ‘thing’; /d/ in ‘them’

- -ing is pronounced like –in

- The vowel sounds resemble those of many Scottish accents

- A rising intonation is often used in statements

### III.2.4 Australian

- /æ/ is often used in words like ‘dance’, ‘sample’, ‘plant’, ‘branch’

- Front vowels tend to be closer than in RP, f ex in ‘bid’, ‘bed’, ‘bad’

- Some diphthongs are wider than in RP (the difference between the open first element and the closed second element is greater), f ex in ‘bay’, ‘today’

- Post-vocalic /r/ is NOT pronounced

- Intervocalic /t/ is often realized as /d/ (like in North American English) f ex in ‘city’, ‘better’

### III.2.5 American English

- Post-vocalic /r/ is pronounced in words like ‘four’, ‘car’, ‘perhaps’, ‘father’

- /æ/ is used in stead of / æ:/ in words like ‘dance’, ‘France’, ‘laugh’, ‘glass’

- / / does not exist. /a:/ is used in words like ‘pot’, ‘stop’, ‘bottle’
- /d/ is used instead of /t/ in words like ‘matter’, ‘bottle’, ‘Saturday’
- /l/ is always dark
- /j/ is left out before /u:/ in words like ‘due’, ‘during’, ‘attitude’

### III.2.6 West Indian English

The English and Creole spoken in the West Indies vary greatly.

Some main characteristics of Jamaican English:

- There is usually no distinction between /t/ and /θ/, and between /d/ and

/ð/. /t/ would be used in ‘thing’; /d/ in ‘them’

- /ʌ/ is often realized as / /, f ex in ‘suffer’
- [ie] is often used for /ei/ (‘bay’)
- Unstressed /ə/ occurs much less frequently than in other varieties of English. All syllables would receive equal stress, as in Jamaica, daughter, wonderful

- West Indian English is, like West African English, syllable timed rather than stress timed. This means that **each** syllable occurs at approximately regular intervals. In most other varieties of English, the **stressed** syllables occur at approximately regular intervals.

### III.2.7 West African English

- The vocalic system of WAf English is reduced in comparison to that of most other varieties of English. For example:

/ei/ and /ɛ:/ don’t usually exist. ‘Gate’, ‘ten’ and ‘turn’ would all be pronounced with /e/

- Post-vocalic /r/ does not exist. ‘Ten’ and ‘turn’ are homophonous
- Voicing assimilation is common: ‘the fact that’ = /de fæg dæt/; ‘looked’ = /l gd/

- Final consonant clusters may be reduced: ‘last’ = /la:s/; ‘passed’ = /pa:s/
- Wales English is syllable timed rather than stress timed (see West Indian English)

In short, people in different countries or dialects can use the same words with their own pronunciations and it helps creating the English varieties all around the world, and each way of pronunciation is typical for its own dialect.

### III.3 Spelling

English has variation in spelling depends on the different dialects and countries. Here we will have the overview and comparison of countries as English native speakers. And the different spelling could be listed as follow:

- “our” vs “or”  
Eg: “labour” and “labor”
- “ze” vs “se”  
Eg: “analyse” and “analyze”
- “re” vs “er”  
Eg: “centre” and “center”
- Double consonants  
Eg: “install” and “install”
- “ph” vs “f”  
Eg: “sulphur” and “sulfur”
- Dropped “e”  
Eg: “liveable” and “livable”
- “ce” vs “se”  
Eg: “licence” and “license”

- “ogue” vs “og”

Eg: “dialogue” and “dialog”

- “xion” vs “ction”

Eg: “inflexion” and “inflection”

- Others

Eg: “cheque” and “check”

Eg: “inquire” and “enquire”

Eg: “gray” and “grey”

Eg: The word *aeroplane*

Is used in Australian, New Zealand, South Africa, Ireland and UK

The word *Airplane*

Is used in Canadian and United States instead

Depending on the places or the countries, a word can be spelled differently.

## Chapter two: **THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BRITISH ENGLISH AND AMERICAN ENGLISH VOCABULARY MEANING**

### **I. GENERAL INTRODUCTION ABOUT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BRITISH ENGLISH AND AMERICAN ENGLISH**

American English and British English (BrE) differ at the levels of phonology, phonetics, vocabulary, and, to a lesser extent, grammar and orthography. The first large American dictionary, *An American Dictionary of the English Language*, was written by Noah Webster in 1828; Webster intended to show that the United States, which was a relatively new country at the time, spoke a different dialect from that of Britain.

Differences in grammar are relatively minor, and normally do not affect mutual intelligibility; these include, but are not limited to: different use of some verbal auxiliaries; formal (rather than notional) agreement with collective nouns; different preferences for the past forms of a few verbs (e.g. AmE/BrE: *learned/learnt*, *burned/burnt*, and in *sneak*, *dive*, *get*); different prepositions and adverbs in certain contexts (e.g. AmE *in school*, BrE *at school*); and whether or not a definite article is used, in very few cases (AmE *to the hospital*, BrE *to hospital*). Often, these differences are a matter of relative preferences rather than absolute rules; and most are not stable, since the two varieties are constantly influencing each other.

Differences in orthography are also trivial. Some of the forms that now serve to distinguish American from British spelling (*color* for *colour*, *center* for *centre*, *traveler* for *traveller*, etc.) were introduced by Noah Webster himself; others are due to spelling tendencies in Britain from the 17th century until the

present day (e.g. *-ise* for *-ize*, although the Oxford English Dictionary still prefers the *-ize* ending) and cases favored by the francophile tastes of 19th century Victorian England, which had little effect on AmE (e.g. *programme* for *program*, *manoeuvre* for *maneuver*, *skilful* for *skillful*, *cheque* for *check*, etc.).

AmE sometimes favors words that are morphologically more complex, whereas BrE uses clipped forms, such as AmE *transportation* and BrE *transport* or where the British form is a back-formation, such as AmE *burglarize* and BrE *burgle* (from *burglar*).

The most noticeable differences between AmE and BrE are at the levels of pronunciation and vocabulary

## II. DIFFERENT WORDS WITH THE SAME MEANING

As in the introduction above, one of the varieties of English is that with the same meaning there are various words to denote and it depends on habit of speakers in each country.

This part can not cover all the vocabularies as mentioned, it just can give some typical and familiar words relating to such topics as follow:

### II.1 Clothes

This is the different words in American English (AE) and British English (BE) about clothes:

- BE : *I will wear vest today*
- That means: *I will wear undershirt today.* In AE
- And when American says that: “I would like to buy the bigger vest”
- That means “I would like to buy a bigger waistcoat” in BE



“Vest” in BE means “undershirt” in AE and “vest” in AE means “waistcoat” in BE.

- When the British say that: “she is wearing a very nice dressing gown”

That means: “she is wearing a very nice bath robe” in AE

We also have the other word respectively BE and AE such as:

- Or trousers and pants are used as same meaning in BE and AE even though pants in BE has different meaning with trousers

- Or kind of shirt neck that is called polo neck in BE is turtle neck in AE

- Kind of shoes used when we play sport that are called trainers in BE are called sneakers in AE

## II.2 People

These are some typical different words of British English and American English that have definitely the same meaning.

- British people often receive letter from postman and American people often receive from mailman

- After taking dinner at a restaurant British people pay the bill for the cashier and the American pay for the teller.

- Seeing a person who do the eccentric things British people will say

“He is a nutter” but an American will say “He is a crazy person”

- When people is sued British people will call their solicitor and the American will call their lawyer of their attorney

- How about Dust man in BE?

That is Garbage man in AE

### II.3 At school

A sharp instrument or a piece of rubber used to erase writings, drawings, etc.

- Rubber (BE)
- Eraser (AE)

A subject at school

- Maths (BE)
- Math (AE)

A public school in BE means a private school in AE

And public school in AE means state school in BE

Days off of pupil is

- Holiday (BE)
- Vacation (AE)

Prepared lunch for children is called

- Packed lunch (BE)
- Sack/ bag lunch (AE)

Rooms for teachers are called

- Staff room (BE)
- Teachers lounge (AE)

Break for pupil is called

- Play/ break time (BE)
- Recess (AE)

The leader of the school is called

- Headmaster/mistress/Headteacher (BE)
- Principle (AE)

## II.4 Buildings and Shops

There are different words to call the house for two fold

- Semi-Detached House (BE)
- Duplex (AE)

Set of rooms is

- Block of flats (BE)
- Apartment house/ Apartment building (AE)

When a British people say first floor, American will understand that is second floor

When people are sick and want to get medicine they will go to

- Chemist (BE)
- Drug store/ Druggist (AE)

Row of houses jointed is called

- Terrace (BE)
- Town House (AE)

House has one story is called

- Bungalow (BE)
- House/ Rank house (AE)

In the restaurant people often check with

- Bill (BE)
- Check (AE)

## II.5 Sports

There are different ways to name kinds of sport

Football in British English is used widely than Soccer in American English.

We often say:

- There will be a football match on TV tonight.

But American says:

- I want to go to stadium to watch soccer tonight.

But in the other hand, we often use the word baseball in AE than Rounders in BE

We say:

- He is my baseball team's member of my school.

But actually British say:

- I like watching rounders on TV

Bat (table tennis) in BE is called Paddle (ping pong) in AE

## II.6 On the road

- Dual carriageway in BE means Divided highway in AE

For parking: British has car park, American has parking lot

- Car park (BE)
- Parking Lot (AE)

For road

- Car Journey/ drive (BE)
- Road trip (AE)

For crossing

- Zebra/ Pedestrian Crossing (BE)
- Cross Walk (AE)

Lollipop vendor

- Lollipop man/ woman (BE)
- Crossing Guard (AE)

-Motorway in BE means Freeway /Throughway or Super highway in

AE

A low, wheeled vehicle or barrow for carrying goods, stone, and other heavy articles

- Lorry (BE)
- Truck (BE)
- Articulated Lorry (BE)
- Tractor Trailer / Trailer Truck (AE)

The accelerator pedal of a motor vehicle: in British has petrol station but American has gas/gasoline station

- Petrol (BE)
- Gas/gasoline (AE)

A walk for foot passengers at the side of a street or road is called:

- Sidewalk (BE)
- Pavement (AE)

## II.7 Others

British say:

-Olympic Torch

American says:

- I need a flashlight to go to the tuner.

- The British has their bank holiday and the American has their national holiday

- Learners often know autumn is one of 4 seasons in a year, and that is a BE word, in AE they don't call it autumn but fall

- Do learners know that lift in BE has same meaning with elevator in AE?

I think there are not many learners know that, and they often think that is two separated words with different meaning.

- How about *queue* and *stand in a line*?

They have definitely the same meaning but just used in different countries.

- There are more words in difference between BE and AE listed in the Glossary below.

### **III. THE SAME WORD WITH THE DIFFERENT MEANINGS**

Varieties of English are expressed in many different ways and one of them is the case that one word has different meanings.

In this part, all the words can not appear but some typical and familiar ones. More words will be listed in the part of glossary below. This part will be sorted as following topics:

#### **III.1 Places and Buildings**

- “City”

- BE - a large town, in particular a town created a city by charter and containing a cathedral "The City": the City of London, London's financial centre, hence financial markets and investment banking more generally Wall Street

- AE - a usually large or important municipality governed under a charter granted by the state (however most smaller towns in the US are cities); an element of a standard mailing address (UK "postal town")

- “Block”

- BE- a building (*block of flats, office block*)

- AE- in a city, the portion of a street between adjacent intersections\* or an informal rough unit of distance derived from the length of the same
  - “Office”
    - BE- a government department ("Colonial Office", "Foreign and CommonwealthOffice") the outbuildings and dependencies of a dwelling (as an estate)
  - AE- the place where a physician or dentist practises (UK: *surgery*)
    - “Park”
      - BE - a tract of ground kept in its natural state, about or adjacent to a residence, as for the preservation of game, for walking, riding, or the like (esp. Scotland) a pasture or field
      - area for the parking of motor vehicles ("a car park")
      - (sports) a soccer or rugby field
      - see also country park
- AE - any of various areas designated for certain purposes such as amusement park, *theme park*, industrial park, trailer park, *memorial park*(acemetry)(sports) enclosed ground for ball games, oftenest the ballpark a level valley among the mountains (as the Rocky Mountains); also, an area of open grassland, or one for cultivation, esp. if among the woods
  - “Pitch”
    - BE - outdoor site for a stall or some other business site for a tent (US: *campsite*.)
    - playing field for a particular sport (*football pitch, rugby pitch, cricket pitch*, etc.) (US: *field*)
    - AE - in baseball, the delivery of a baseball by a pitcher to a batter
- "pitching a tent" (slang): to have an erection (describes the shape of the fabric covering one)(slang) to dispose

- “Point”
  - BE - railway turnout (US: *switch*)  
(*power point*) electrical socket (US: *outlet*)  
cape or promontory jutting into sea  
(*full point*) with *full stop*
    - AE - piece of land jutting into any body of water, esp. a river ("points and bends"); a prominence or peak (of mountains, hills, rocks), also an extremity of woods or timber
- “College”
  - BE- part of the name of some state secondary schools (US approx.: *high school*) and many independent schools (US approx.: *prep school*) educational institution between school and university (e.g. sixth form college, technical college, college of further education)  
vocational training institution
    - AE- professional association which grants some form of professional qualifications, mostly in the medical field (e.g. Royal College of Surgeons, American College of Surgeons) an independent institution of higher education (as a small university or a division of a university) granting bachelor's degrees  
generic term for higher education, but *only* at the undergraduate level

### III.2 People

- “Boob”
  - BE- a mistake (slang); (v.) to make a mistake
  - AE- stupid person
- “Caretaker”
  - BE- one who takes care of a building, usu. a state-owned building, i.e. school (US: *janitor*; *custodian*)one put in charge of a farm after eviction of tenant



- AE- one who takes care of real estate in exchange for rent-free living accommodations

- “Major”

- BE- (in the past, in English public schools) used to denote the eldest of two or more pupils with the same surname (“Bloggs major”)

- AE- (n.) a college/university student's main field of specialization (“his major is physics”); the student himself (“he is a physics major”); (v.) to pursue a major (“he majored in physics”) (compare *minor*; UK: compare *read*) (n.) rank between captain and lieutenant colonel in the air force (UK squadron leader) and in some police agencies (UK approx. superintendent).

- “Minor”

- BE- (in the past, in English public schools) used to denote the youngest of two or more pupils with the same surname (“Bloggs minor”)

- AE- (n.) secondary academic subject (compare *major*) (“has a major in biology and a minor in English”); (v.) to study as one's minor (“she minored in English”)minor league;

### III.3 Foods and Drinks

- “Brew”

- BE- tea

- AE- beer

- “Candy”

- BE- (*candy floss*) heated sugar spun into thin threads and collected into a mass, usually on a stick; something pleasing but having little worth (US: *cotton candy* for both senses)

- AE- (*eye candy*) someone particular attractive in a sexy way (See also *arm candy*.)

- “Sweet”

-BE - (n.) An after-meal dessert, more s.v. *candy*

-AE - (n.) Short for sweetheart. Also, to be sweet on someone is to have a crush on them(adj.) used to describe something as good ("That car is sweet!")

### III.4 Animals

- “Bird”

- BE - one's girlfriend or any young female (slang; getting rarer and considered derogatory by some)  
prison sentence (slang)

- AE - insulting hand gesture involving shaking one's fist towards someone with knuckles pointing towards the person being insulted and the middle finger extended (used chiefly in “flipping someone the bird”) (slang)

### III.5 Things

- “Bill”

- BE- *The bill* = the police (slang, poss. from *Old Bill*)

- AE- a piece of paper money (UK: *note/banknote*)

- “Carriage”

- BE- railway coach designed for the conveyance of passengers the conveying of goods or the price paid for it ("carriage-paid"); "handling"

- AE- (*baby carriage*) baby transport vehicle featuring the infant laying down facing the pusher (UK: *perambulator, pram*) – more *buggy* a shopping cart (primarily in North Atlantic states)

- “Cooker”

- BE- an appliance for cooking food (US: *cookstove, stove, range*); see also a cooking apple, a large sour apple used in cooking

- AE- a person who cooks (UK always *cook*)

- “Hamper”

- BE- large basket for food (especially *picnic hamper*, *Christmas hamper*)
- AE- basket for clothes that need washing (UK: *Linen basket* or *laundry basket*)
  - “Lot”
  - BE- (*the lot*) the whole thing (US similar: *the whole schmear* or *enchilada* or *ball of wax* or *shebang*)
  - AE- a measured plot of land; a portion of land set for a particular purpose ("a building lot"), e.g. for parking ("parking lot") or selling ("used car lot") automotive vehicles. But also a "vacant lot" a film studio
    - “Lugs”
    - BE- ears (lugholes)
    - AE- a lug nut fastens a tire to the wheel, (UK wheel nut). a "big lug" is usually a term of endearment for a large shy, goofy man.

### III.6 Natures

- “Mean”
  - BE - stingy, miserly, selfish
  - AE - unpleasant, unkind, vicious
- “Graduate”
  - BE - to finish university with a degree  
relating to a student at the point of gaining, or who has recently completed, a degree
  - AE - to finish studying at any educational institution by passing relevant examinations  
relating to a student taking a higher degree (UK equiv.: "postgraduate"), eg. graduate school
- “Spotty”
  - BE - pimply ("a spotty teenager")

- AE - of inhomogeneous quality ("a spotty record")

In short, one word could be used in different meaning depends on habits of the speakers from different dialects or countries and it contributes to English varieties. All the words could not be mentioned above and it would be listed in the glossary below.

## Chapter three: **SOME RELATED PROBLEMS FACING VIETNAMESE LEARNERS OF ENGLISH AND SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS**

### **I. LEARNING PROBLEMS AND DEFICIENCIES WHEN STUDYING ENGLISH AS A SENCOND LANGUAGE**

- Learners sometime even don't know that there are English varieties and so they meet lots of difficulties
- Learners who study one kind of English varieties they will get confused when they face with the rest and so they feel like these are new words.
- The more various English is the more words learners need to learn and that is really a big deal. Instead of learning one new word they might have to learn 3 or more.

### **II.SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS**

- In order to learn English more efficiently learners need to have the over view of English varieties and have plan to learn different words or different meaning of words used in different dialects or countries. When they have the overview they will not get confused when they meet the strange words in a familiar context.
- One advice for Vietnamese learners when study English varieties that please don't be hesitate to guess meaning of the strange words in a clear context that you can understand.
- English varieties are very huge and it is so hard or could be impossible for learners who learn English as second language to cover them all. And so, according to me learners had better to focus on British English and American English but the others because they are the most popular and standard with the biggest speakers in the world. If learners do that it will help them reduce lots of time but still can cover the hugest aspect of it.

### III. EXERCISES

**Exercise 1 Match the appropriate words with British and American meaning below:**

A school which is private	Gas	Something you wear to cover your legs and over your underpants
Clothing that you wear under your shirt	Public school	Clothing that you wear over your shirt and under your jacket
A list of thing that you bought for eaten in a restaurant and which tells you how much to pay	Subway	Something you put in your car to make it go
Something that you burn for heating and cooking	Pants	A railway which runs under the ground
Long sticks of potato which you cook deep oil and eat hot with a meal	Vest	Money which is made of paper
A list of thing that you bought for eaten in a restaurant and which tells you how much to pay	Bill	Very thin slices of fried potato which you eat cold before a meal or as a snack
A part which passes under the road	Chips	A school that open to everyone

**Exercise 2 Write definitions for these American words**

- a. Druggist
- b. Parking lot
- c. Drugstore
- d. Main street
- e. Stop lights
- f. Elevator

**Exercise 3 Match the American English words with the British English words below:**

Bill

Chips

Druggist

Faucet

French fries

Gas

Main street

Vest

Pants

Stop lights

Parking lot

Subway

Public school

Trousers

Car park

State school

Traffic lights

Underground

Waistcoat

Chemist

Chips

Crisps

High street

Bank note

Petrol

Tap

## **PART THREE**

### **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, this study researched English varieties which are not only very interesting but also huge part of English study for learners learning English as second language. English varieties mention that English speakers in different dialects or countries use English in different ways depend on their habit.

In this paper, the research focused on the differences between British English and American English vocabulary meaning because British English and American English are two biggest presentatives and most standard of English speakers in the world. This study is divided into two main parts.

The first part mention different words in different dialects/countries have the same meaning and the topics are divided as follow:

- Clothes
- People
- At school
- Buildings and shops
- Sports
- On the road
- Others

The second part showed readers the same word and has different meaning in different dialects/countries and the topics are as follow:

- Places and buildings
- People
- Foods and drinks
- Animal
- Things
- Natures



In each topic there are typical words which are used very popularly and with explanations and examples to help readers have deep knowledge of English varieties in British and American English vocabulary meaning differences and in particular and varieties of English in general.

All the examples are designed base on the familiar context in conversations or drawled from different sources to make the difference between dialects clear and help learners use varieties of English effectively in their conversations.

English varieties are interesting, useful and huge part of English study and it also causes lots of difficulties in for learners to learn and using. To overcome these difficulties, some suggested solutions are given in the chapter three.

English varieties are huge and besides vocabulary meaning it includes spelling, pronunciation, grammar... etc but because of my limited knowledge and ability, this study only refers to a very small part is the difference between British and American English vocabulary meaning. And of course mistaken and shortcoming are unavoidable, there fore, i hope to receive the sympathy and contribution from teachers and readers to make it more perfect.

Hopefully, in future, this topic will be study further to help learners have a full study on English varieties.

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## APPENDICES:

### I. KEYS TO EXERCISES

#### Key to exercise II.1

Something that you burn for heating and cooking	Gas	Something you put in your car to make it go
A school which is private	Public school	A school that open to everyone
A part which passes under the road	Subway	A railway which runs under the ground
Something that you wear under your trousers	Pants	Something you wear to cover your legs and over your underpants
Clothing that you wear under your shirt	Vest	Clothing that you wear over your shirt and under your jacket
A list of thing that you bought for eaten in a restaurant and which tells you how much to pay	Bill	Money which is made of paper
Long sticks of potato which you cook deep oil and eat hot with a meal	Chips	Very thin slices of fried potato which you eat cold before a meal or as a snack

#### Key to exercise II.2

1. Druggist - Someone who sells medicine in a shop
2. Parking lot - The place where you park the car
3. Drugstore - A shop where you can buy medicine, beauty products, school supplies, small things to eat
4. Main street - The street in a town where all the shops are
5. Stop lights - Lights which control the traffic
6. Elevator - A device which carries people from one floor to another in a building

### Key to exercise II.3

Bill	Bank note
Chips	Crisps
Druggist	Chemist
Faucet	Tap
French fries	Chips
Gas	Petrol
Main street	High street
Vest	Waistcoat
Pants	Trousers
Stop lights	Traffic lights
Parking lot	Car park
Subway	Underground
Public school	State school

## II. GLOSSARY

### II.1 List of words with same meaning in American and British English

American	British
circle, traffic circle	roundabout
crossroads	fourway
crosswalk	zebra crossing
defogger	window heater
dead battery	flat battery
detour (noun)	diversion
dirt road	unmade road
divided highway	dual carriageway
drive shaft	propeller shaft
driver's license	driving licence
drunk driving	drink-driving
dump truck	dumper truck
expressway	Motorway
Fender	wing
fill up	top up
four lane road	dual carriageway
freeway (Western U.S.)	motorway
gas /gasoline	petrol
gear shift	gear lever
high beams	full lights
hood	bonnet
Interstate	motorway
low beams	lights dipped
median	central reservation
muffler	car silencer

odometer	Clock
overpass	Flyover
parking lot	car park
power train	Transmission
reflectors(embedded in road)	cats eyes
rental car	hire car
right turn	turning right
rotary (New England)	Roundabout
straightaway(as at a race track)	straight
top off	top up
towing	recovery
transmission	gear box
trunk	Boot
turn signals	indicators
unpaved road	unmade road
windshield	windscreen
appetizers	Starters
canned (in metal)	tinned
cookie	Biscuit
cornstarch	cornflour
cotton candy	candy floss
french fries	chips
ground meat	mince
hamburger	Mince
jello	jelly
jelly	jam
potato chips	crisps
aluminum	aluminium
apartment	Flat

attorney	solicitor
backpack	rucksack
bill (as in currency)	Note
blind(noun - as in duck blind)	hide
botanical garden	botanic garden
busy (as in telephone)	engaged
bus	coach
car (railroad)	coach (railway)
cart(noun as in a shopping cart)	trolley
cell (phone)	mobile (phone)
cheap	shoddy
check (in a restaurant)	Bill
clippings (as in news clippings)	cuttings
curse word	swear word
dish cloth, dish towel	tea towel
doing the dishes	washing up
downscale	downmarket
dress (noun)	frock
drug store	chemists
elevator	lift
equip, fit out (verb)	fit
eraser	rubber
"excuse me"	"sorry"
fall	autumn
faucet	Tap
field (for playing sports)	pitch
fire (verb - from employment)	sack
fixtures(as in plumbing)	fittings
flashlight	Torch

for rent	to let
"for that matter"	"come to that"
"from now on"	"in future"
garter	Suspenders
"get on the train"	"join the train"
in the hospital	in hospital
layoff(verb - to lay off)	redundancy (verb - to make redundant)
lawyer	Solicitor
line	queue
mail	post
math	maths
men's room	gents
mom	mum
movie theater	cinema
moving	removal
nothing	nil
non-profit organization	Charity
on line	on stream
open house	open day
pacifier	dummy
pants	Trousers
"pardon me"	"sorry"
pharmacy	chemists
prenatal	Antenatal
principal	Headmaster
rates, prices	tariffs
rebate (noun)	cashback
rent (rent a car)	hire (hire a car)
reservations (verb - to reserve)	bookings(verb - to book)



restroom	toilet
run (for election)	stand (for election)
set	Fix
shopping cart	shopping trolley
sick	ill
sleep in	lie in
sneakers	trainers
soccer	football
sports	Sport
stove, stovetop	hob
stroller	pram
subway underground	Tube
suspenders	braces
sweater	jumper
telephone booth	telephone box
transportation	transport (noun)
trash can	dustbin
truck	lorry
tuition	fee
turtle neck	polo neck, roll neck
underpass	subway
undershirt	vest
upscale	Upmarket
vacation	holiday
vacuum tube	Valve
vest	waistcoat

## II.2 List of words with different meanings in American and British English

Words	British meaning	American meaning
accommodation	housing ("residential accommodation")	(esp. in the past) a local public conveyance, esp. a train
apartment	suite of rooms set aside for a particular person (rare),  usu. rented housing unit in a larger building implying luxury (In other words a narrower definition than the US.	rented housing unit in a larger building
appropriate (v.)	to take (money) to oneself, to filch or misappropriate	to dispense (money), to budget
athlete	one who participates in running, throwing, and jumping competitions	one who participates in sports in general
bird (n.)	one's girlfriend or any young female (slang; getting rarer and considered derogatory by some)  prison sentence (slang)	insulting hand gesture involving shaking one's fist towards someone with knuckles pointing towards the person being insulted and <u>the middle finger extended</u> (used chiefly in "flipping someone the bird") (slang)
brilliant	excellent, of the highest quality (rarely sarcastic)	stupid (sarcastic use)
Buffet	railway carriage containing a refreshment counter selling snacks and drinks, esp. on a train on which a full restaurant car (US: <i>dining</i>	Type of sideboard

	<i>car</i> ) service is not provided	
call box	Telephone booth	Roadside emergency telephone
Campsite(n)	area or park for people to camp in (US: <i>campground</i> )	spot for a particular person or group to camp, often within a campground (UK: <i>pitch</i> )
candy (n.)	( <i>candy floss</i> ) heated sugar spun into thin threads and collected into a mass, usually on a stick; something pleasing but having little worth (US: <i>cotton candy</i> for both senses)	( <i>eye candy</i> ) (derog.) someone particular attractive in a sexy way (See also <i>arm candy</i> .)
Car (n)	railway vehicle, only in combination (e.g. "restaurant car", except London Underground "carriage") (archaic) street tramway vehicle	nonpowered unit in a railroad or railway train ("railroad car"; "a passenger/freight/parlor/dining/baggage etc. car") elevator cage
caretaker	one who takes care of a building, a state-owned building, i.e. school (US: <i>janitor; custodian</i> ) one put in charge of a farm after eviction of tenant	one who takes care of real estate in exchange for rent-free living accommodations
casualty	often, someone who has been wounded; hence <i>casualty department</i> (US: <i>emergency room</i> )	often, someone who has been killed; see also casualty insurance
chips (food)	Long cuts of deep fried	thin slices of fried potato (UK:

	potato, thick cut resembling American steak fries	<i>crisps</i> )
cooker	an appliance for cooking food (US: <i>cookstove, stove, range</i> ); see also a cooking apple, a large sour apple used in cooking	a person who cooks (UK always <i>cook</i> )
engineer	a technician or a person that mends and operates machinery	one who operates an engine (UK: <i>engine driver</i> )
First floor	the floor <i>above</i> ground level (US: <i>second floor</i> )	the floor <i>at</i> ground level (often, but not always, the same floor as a building's lobby) (UK: <i>ground floor</i> )
flat	(n.) self-contained housing unit (US: <i>apartment</i> ) (adj., of a battery) discharged, exhausted, dead	(n.) a flat tyre/tire an apartment that occupies the entire floor of a small building (upstate <u>New York</u> and <u>San Francisco</u> ); used also in phrases such as <i>railroad flat</i>
general	The second highest rank in the British army	The Highest rank in the US army
government	the <u>cabinet</u> or <u>executive branch</u> (US: the <i>administration</i> ) the <u>political party</u> supporting the cabinet in <u>parliament</u>	the collective agency through which government is exercised (UK: the <i>state</i> ) all such individual agencies (UK: the <i>public sector</i> )
Grammar school	a type of secondary school, normally a selective state	elementary school (less common today)

	funded school	
Highway	Public road	main road (as between cities) ( <i>divided</i> or <i>dual highway</i> ) a road with two roadways and at least four lanes (UK: <i>dual carriageway</i> ) ( <i>highway post office</i> ) in the past, a bus transporting mail that was sorted en route
lavatory	toilet	washbasin, place for washing
lift (n.)	platform or cage moved vertically in a shaft to transport people and goods to various floors in a building (US: <i>elevator</i> )	an elevation in mood, "I got a lift just talking with her."
majority (politics)	the greatest number of votes difference of votes between first and second place (US: <i>plurality</i> )	more than half of all votes (UK: <i>absolute majority</i> )
middle class	better off than 'working class', but not rich, ie a narrower term than in the US, and often negative	ordinary; not rich although not destitute, generally a positive term
napkin	nappy , <u>diaper</u> (dated, not well known)	(oftenest, <u>sanitary napkin</u> ) absorbent piece of material worn by a woman while menstruating (UK <i>sanitary towel</i> )
office	a government department (" <u>Colonial Office</u> ", " <u>Foreign and Commonwealth Office</u> ")	the place where a physician or dentist practises (UK: <i>surgery</i> )

	(pl.) the outbuildings and dependencies of a dwelling (as an estate)	
pants	<u>underpants</u> (also <u>briefs</u> or <u>boxers</u> ) of poor quality (slang) (of a situation) bad, unfortunate (slang). Although refers to trousers in Liverpool and Newcastle	usually, any <u>trousers</u> , exc. in "to get into her pants", etc., in which it denotes women's underclothing  ( <i>wear the pants in the family</i> ) be masculine, be the breadwinner, perform the husband's role (spoken esp. of a wife, usage becoming obsolete)
pavement	a paved strip at the side of a road, reserved for pedestrians (US: <i>sidewalk</i> )	the road surface
roundabout	a <u>merry-go-round</u> a circular road intersection (US <i>traffic circle</i> or <i>rotary</i> .)	a type of men's jacket used in the past
rubber	Pencil eraser	<u>condom</u> waterproof rain boot (UK: <i>wellington</i> )
store	place for storage of items not needed for immediate use	consumer retail establishment of any size (UK: <i>shop</i> ), e.g. <i>grocery store</i> , <i>hardware store</i> , <u>convenience store</u> , <u>dime store</u> ; hence <i>storefront</i> (UK: <i>shopfront</i> ), <i>storekeeper</i> (UK: <i>shopkeeper</i> )
straightaway	immediately, right away	(solid) a straight (in a road, racecourse, etc.)
torch	handheld device that emits light (US: <i>flashlight</i> )	(v.) commit an act of arson. (n.) an arsonist

