

СЕКЦИЯ «Иностранные языки и регионоведение»

Comparative analysis of patterns of the verb 'to substitute' in British and American English

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English is widely spread all over the world. British and American varieties are spoken by the majority of native speakers and are usually preferred by teachers of English as a Foreign Language. Language is a live phenomenon. Obviously, the English language is also subjected to transformation on different levels: vocabulary, spelling, grammar, pronunciation. As a consequence, British and American varieties of English become diverged from each other to different extents in all of the above-mentioned levels.

The main aim of this paper is to study the differences and similarities of prepositional usage of the verb *substitute* in spoken and written American English, and to compare British and American English to illustrate lexico-grammatical differences between two varieties by the example of the verb *substitute*.

Firstly, historical background and the meaning of the verb *substitute* are examined, which shows that in course of time, together with the general meaning of 'to put one in the place of another' specialized meanings in such spheres like mathematics, sciences and sport were developed. However, American and British contemporary dictionaries differ in the ways they register these additional meanings.

Secondly, two existing research studies on the topic are reviewed, i.e. Denison, David (2009) "Argument structure." In: Rohdenburg and Schlüter (eds.); Tottie, Gunnel (2005) "On substituting with for for with substitute (and some other prepositions as well)." In: Kevin McCafferty, Tove Bull and Kristin Killie (eds.). Scholars used different ways to collect data and focused on different aspects of the verb usage. Tottie used data from British and American Newspapers, and CNN, paying most attention to the similarities of the verb *substitute* and the verb *replace*. Denison analyzed data from British and American National Corpora with the primary aim to compare two varieties of English in their use of reversed pattern of *substitute*

Finally, the present research can be divided into two parts:

1. Analysis of patterns distribution of the verb *substitute* in written and spoken American English, and comparison of two forms. Data, received from Corpus of Contemporary American English, consists of 600 examples from TV programs, newspapers and magazines, and excluding language of fiction and academic pieces of writing.

2. Comparison of data from COCA to data from BNC (by Denison). To consider the information from above-named corpora comparable, the following conditions were applied. Firstly, the numbers of examples provided by two corpora are not equal. For this reason, the percentage ratios of examples in two varieties of English will be compared. Secondly, the analysis of COCA brought out more patterns than Denison's analysis of BNC did. Therefore, patterns from COCA were limited to the corresponding ones from BNC. Results can be seen in the table below.

Main results of the research can be formulated as follows:

1. The verb *substitute* is more often used in written American English. It must be taken into account that in this research only the written language of newspapers and magazines was considered. This leaves space for further development of the topic provided that examples from academic language and fiction will be studied.

2. Patterns of V new category are more frequent in British English than in American English, and patterns of V old category are used relatively similar in both varieties. The main distinction between varieties is the use of *substitute* in active or passive constructions with passive voice being more popular in British English.

### Литература

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