

CANADIAN ENGLISH (MAINLAND)

**A PRESENTATION BY BERIL
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Introduction

- The report tries to show Canadian English as a variety of ASE
- Canadian? Or American?
- Problems of Canadians □ Nowadays huge similarity to AE
- CE has its own features Phonology, vocabulary, etc.
- Try to work out, that Canadian English has its own linguistic history
- *"English (CaE) is a variety of English used in Canada. It is spoken as a Canadian first or second language by over 25 million—or 85 percent of—Canadians (2001 census [1]). Canadian English spelling can be described as a mixture of American, British, Français, and unique Canadianisms. Canadian vocabulary is similar to American English, yet with key differences and local variations."*

History

- CE was first recorded in 1854/1857
- *Goose milk* or *corrupt dialect* (regardence of CE)
- *"Canadian English, though diverse in communities and variable in the speech of individuals, is not a composite of archaic or rustic features or a potpourri of British and American speechways but at true national language"*[1982,152,emphasis added] R.Bailey
- Despite some bibliographies and collections the variety remains relatively understudied
- New interests in world varieties of English, multilingual population are good for studies
- Nowadays it is generally agreed that CE is originated as a variant of NA E
- To understand Canadians and their 'language' it is necessary to take a look at the settlement history

Settlement History

- The reason for the homogeneity of CE over a huge distance
- Canadian English has been influenced linguistically through 2 waves
1.)British 2.)American ->French has an important role
- Newfoundland English settlers at the beginning of the 17th century
- New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Islands changed hands from French to English and finally remained English in 1713 handed to England
- Gaelic speakers settled at Cape Breton and German speakers in Lunenburg County. They produced a complex pattern of rural dialects
- Settlement by British Loyalists after the American Revolution in 1783 tripled English speaking population
- BL had different dialects, Differences of CE and Maritimes English

Settlement History

- Maritimes came from New England and seaports of NY State
- Central Canadians came from Western New England, NY and Pennsylvania-> varieties evolved into SCE
- Formed 80% of the population of Upper Canada by 1813
- Immigrants from England, Ireland and Scotland in the 1830s and 1840s, more influence on political and social institutions
- BL settled in Quebec after 1783 moving to the Eastern Townships southeast of Montreal
- By 1831 British settlers were majority, dominated by 1867
- Since 1974 Quebec is French and dominates Quebec English
- Uniformity of CE from Ontario west to Vancouver Island is usually explained by the settlement policy in 1867
- Fear of Americans the railway and settlement was moved westwards by the government

Settlement History

- Important positions were claimed by people from Ontario
- Children grew up speaking Canadian English
- Immigrants specially in the urban areas of Toronto, Vancouver, Winnipeg and Montreal have preserved ties to their mother tongue 17%-30%
- Contribution to a multilingual Canada

CANADIANISMS

- Canadianisms : words which are native to Canada or words which have meanings native to Canada

CANADIANISMS

Some Canadianisms are borrowings...

- ... from Canadian French:
capelin or *shanty*
- ... from the Aboriginal languages of Canada:
kayak from Inuktitut, *chipmunk* from Ojibwa, *saskatoon* and *muskeg* from Cree, *sockeye* from Coast Salish
- Many of more than 10,000 Canadianisms are archaic, rare or rural
For example: *chesterfield* – large sofa or couch in the 1940s and 1950s, now it has fallen out of general use
- Many other distinctly Canadian terms are current among the chiefly urban population of today
Words for specific holidays:
St. Jean Baptiste Day
Victoria Day
Canada Day
- Words for government institutions or agencies:
Throne Speech
CIDA- Canadian International Development Agency

CANADIANISMS

■ FRENCH-ENGLISH RELATIONS

anglophone : English-speaking person

Bill 101 : The Charter of French Language, passed in 1977, requiring, among other things, that public signs in Quebec be in French only

francophone : French-speaking person

language police : The officials of the Commission de protection de la langue française

Quiet Revolution : The period 1960-6 in Quebec, marked by province-wide reforms and a growing separatist movement

separatist : A person who favors the secession of Quebec (or of the Western provinces) from Canada

CANADIANISMS

- NATIVE PEOPLES

Aboriginal rights : Rights guaranteed in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to those defined as Aboriginal by the Constitution Act, 1982

First Nation : An Indian band or community

Native Friendship Centre : An institution in a predominantly non-Aboriginal community to provide social services to Aboriginal people

status Indian : A person registered as an Indian under the Indian Act

CANADIANISMS

- GOVERNMENT, LAW AND POLITICS

Bell-ringing : The ringing of bells in a legislative assembly to summon members for a vote

Confederation : The act of creating the Dominion of Canada; also the federation of the Canadian provinces and territories

First Ministers : The premiers of the provinces and the Prime Minister of Canada

impaired : Having a blood alcohol level above the legal limit

riding : a district whose voters elect a representative member to a legislative body

RCMP : A member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police

transfer payment: A payment from the government to another level of government

CANADIANISMS

- FINANCE

Bay Street and Howe Street : The stock markets in Toronto and Vancouver

GST : The goods and services tax; a value-added tax levied by the federal government

PST : Provincial sales tax

harmonized sales tax : A combination of the GST and PST

toonie or twonie : A Canadian two-dollar coin

CANADIANISMS

- SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND PROGRAMS

Child tax benefit (formerly family allowance) : A payment made by the federal government to mothers of children under 18, also *baby bonus*

health card or care card : A card identifying a person as eligible to receive medical treatment paid for by a public insurance company

multiculturalism : An official policy advocating a society composed of many culturally distinct groups, enacted into legislation in 1985

social insurance number or SIN : A nine-digit number used by the government for identification purposes

UIC : Unemployment Insurance Commission; also the insurance payment

CANADIANISMS

■ SPORTS

Jeux Canada Games : An annual national athletic competition, with events in summer and winter

murderball : A game in which players in opposing teams attempt to hit their opponents with a large inflated ball

Participation : A private, nonprofit organization that promotes fitness

Stanley Cup, Grey Cup, Briar, Queen's Plate:
Championships in hockey, (Canadian) football, curling and horse-racing

CANADIANISMS

- FOOD AND DRINK

all dressed : A hamburger with all the usual condiments on it

drink(ing) box : A small plasticized cardboard carton of juice

Nanaimo bar : An unbaked square iced with chocolate

screech : A potent dark rum of Newfoundland

smoked meat : Cured beef similar to pastrami but more heavily smoked, often associated with Montreal

CANADIANISMS

■ EDUCATION

bursary : A financial award to a university student (also Scottish and English)

French immersion : An educational program in which anglophone students are taught entirely in French

reading week : A week usually halfway through the university term when no classes are held

residence or res : A university dormitory

Like all dialects, Canadian English includes certain distinctive clipped forms

- *emerge* < emergency room
- *cash* < cash register
- *physio* < physiotherapy
- *homo* < homogenized milk
- *grad* < graduation ceremony
- *CanLit* < Canadian Literature

Canadian English also includes distinctive slang expressions

- *chippy* - 'short-tempered'
- *hoser* – 'an idiot'
- *keener* – 'an overzealous student'
- *to have had the biscuit* – 'to be no longer good for anything'
- *Molson muscle* – 'a beer belly'

Linguistic features of Canadian English

- Phonology
- Morphosyntax and usage
- Spelling

Phonology

- Canadian raising

Raised onset of the [aʊ] and [aɪ] diphthongs to [ʌʊ] and [ʌɪ] before voiceless consonants:

- lout / loud
- bout / bowed
- bite / bide
- fife / five

- Merger of [ɑ] and [ɔ]

Resulted in homophonous pairs:

- offal / awful
- Don / dawn

Phonology

- Voicing of the intervocalic

Canadians voice or flap intervocalic [**t**] to [**d**]:

- metal / medal
- latter / ladder
- atom / Adam

- Yod dropping

Canadians consistently drop yod in the [**IU**] diphthong after [**s**] (suit) and variably do so after labials and velars

- Retention of [**r**]

Morphosyntax and usage

- Verbal forms
- Prepositional idioms
- Sentence-final *eh*

Spelling

- Mix of British and American English
- Spelling varies from province to province
- Spelling varies from word to word
- Canadians choose the *-ize* / *-yze* ending over *-ise* / *yse*



Conclusion

- Canadian English is the outcome of a number of factors. It is strongly marked by British English and because of the geographical proximity, Canadian English continues to be shaped by American English. The presence of a large French-speaking minority has also had an effect on Canadian English.

References

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