



PEOPLES FRIENDSHIP UNIVERSITY OF RUSSIA

Institute of Foreign Languages  
Department of Foreign Languages in Theory and Practice

# Features of the Australian English

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# **The main aim of the term paper**

to study the features of the Australian version of  
the English language.

# The main tasks

- the analysis and description of Australian English;
- the definition of the phonetic features of the Australian version of the English language;
- the specification of the grammatical originality of the Australian version of the English language;
- the consideration of the lexical and semantic specificity of the Australian version of the English language;
- the study of word formation in the Australian version of the English language.

**The object**



the system of the unified national English language

**The subject**



the Australian version of the English language

# Three types of pronunciation in Australian English:



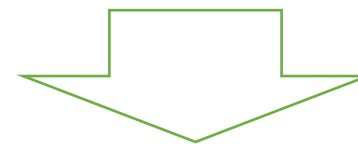
Acrolect

cultured pronunciation  
most common in  
broadcasting, spoken by  
approximately 10% of the  
country's population. It is  
closest to the British  
standard



Mesolect

common Australian,  
intermediate between  
vernacular pronunciation  
and normative; it has no  
pronounced features.  
General AusE is spoken by  
most of the population,  
mainly in the cities



Strine

type of pronunciation,  
which is characterized by  
distortion of sounds and  
reduction of syllables

in the 50 years of the twentieth century the prestige of received pronunciation (RP) began to fall sharply. Accordingly, Australians began to speak less Cultured AusE as it is associated with the British colonial tradition

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graph LR; A[GenAus (Standard Australian English)] <--> B["in the 50 years of the twentieth century the prestige of received pronunciation (RP) began to fall sharply. Accordingly, Australians began to speak less Cultured AusE as it is associated with the British colonial tradition"]; A <--> C["young people (as the initiator of social, including linguistic, changes) refused to use BrAus in their speech, thereby marking their difference from those who speak on Ethnic Broad. The vernacular type is distinguished with the ancient myth that the genuine Australian lives closer to nature, and Australia could be a nation of open spaces, despite the reality that it is the foremost urbanized nation within the world. This process takes place within the framework of language variation"]
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GenAus (Standard Australian English )

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# What do Australians speak? (Examples)

- "They speak as though there's a piece of barbed wire clamped on both sides of their jaws";
- "An Aussie accent sounds like a flock of ducks";
- "A long flat line and words go along this line straight";
- "The tongue is lying over an exercise ball and you can't let it get too busy" etc.

# The most notable features are as follows:

- 1) the usage of the preposition “about” together with the prepositional adverb “around”, forming a colloquial cliché: “We will arrive around about midnight”;
- 2) the use of the personal pronoun “she” (her) in relation to the UK;
- 3) the use of the construction “It is me” along “with It is I”;
- 4) the omission of auxiliary verb in perfect tenses in AusE.



When comparing the lexical-semantic system of the Australian version of the English language with the British one, the following cases are found:

1. The words match in two ways;
2. Words are available in two versions, but differ (a) semantically; (b) emotionally-expressive coloring; (c) functionally-stylistically; (d) in frequency;
3. Words remain in the British version, but disappeared from the Australian a) completely; b) replaced by others;
4. The words remain in the Australian version, but have fallen out of use in the UK (a) completely; (b) replaced by others);
5. The words appeared in the British version, but are missing in the Australian version;
6. Words appeared in the Australian version (a) by word formation based on word-forming elements and models of the English language or on the basis of mixed origin elements; (b) borrowing (from the languages of the Australian aborigines; from other European languages; from other versions of the English language); (c) were created artificially.

# Conclusion

1. There are three variants of pronunciation: General, Cultured and Broad. Their differences do not lead to the complexity of the communicative process but they serve to define the social status of the speaker.
2. The vowel system of the Australian variant of English differs a lot and it has the feature of the system shift. The general tendency of the shift can be defined as the shift to more closed sounds of the front row.
3. The rhythm of the Australian speech is clearer and smoother than in the British variant. It occurs due to the fact that the contrast between the stressed and unstressed syllables is lower in the Australian variant of the English language.

Thank you for your attention!