

Це свідчить про те, що покоління Z не лише споживає контент, а й виступає активним творцем нових лінгвістичних одиниць. Наприклад, лексичні одиниці «*glow up*» або «*slay*» стали символами успіху та впевненості, які вже виходять за межі сленгу та починають фіксуватися сучасними словниками як неологізми.

Отже, що сленг покоління Z є унікальним лінгвістичним феноменом, який сформувався під впливом цифрового середовища та соціальних мереж. Він виконує не лише комунікативну функцію, а й слугує засобом самоідентифікації та вираження емоційної близькості в молодіжних групах. Сленг покоління Z демонструє надзвичайну динамічність. Це явище відображає актуальні тенденції розвитку сучасної англійської мови та особливості мовної поведінки молоді. Поступова фіксація цих одиниць у словниках підтверджує їхню трансформацію з вузького сленгу в загальновживані неологізми.

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REGIONAL VARIETIES OF ENGLISH IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

The English language in the United Kingdom is characterised by a wide range of regional varieties, which include both accents and dialects. An accent refers to differences in pronunciation, while a dialect includes differences in grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation. These varieties developed over many centuries due to historical events and social changes. Today, the study of regional varieties remains relevant because they influence communication, education, and social perception. While accents are an important part of cultural identity, they can also lead to social

inequality, as some varieties (such as Received Pronunciation) are considered more prestigious. [5; 8; 6] In addition, globalisation and media contribute to the gradual loss of dialect differences, which raises concerns about linguistic diversity. Therefore, regional varieties remain an important modern sociolinguistic issue. [4; 2] One of the earliest stages was the Anglo-Saxon invasion in the 5th century (around 449 AD), when tribes such as the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes brought different forms of Old English to Britain. Later, the Viking invasions (8th–11th centuries, especially around 793 AD) introduced Norse vocabulary and influenced northern dialects. A major turning point was the Norman Conquest, after which French became the language of the ruling class and greatly influenced English vocabulary. The Middle English period (12th–15th centuries) saw the mixing of these linguistic elements. The Great Vowel Shift (15th–18th centuries) significantly changed pronunciation across England. The Industrial Revolution (late 18th–19th centuries) [5] caused mass migration to cities, leading to the formation of new urban accents. In addition, political events such as the Acts of Union (1536–1543 in Wales, 1707 with Scotland) influenced language contact. [8; 2] As a result, modern English in the UK reflects centuries of cultural interaction and regional development.

Received Pronunciation (RP) is considered the standard accent of British English. It developed in the 19th century among the educated upper classes [8; 1] in southern England. RP became associated with prestige, authority, and social status. It was widely promoted through public schools and later through broadcasting, especially by the BBC in the 20th century. RP is not connected to a specific region but rather to a social group. One of its main features is the pronunciation of long vowels, for example, “bath” is pronounced /bɑːθ/. It is also a non-rhotic accent, meaning the “r” is not pronounced at the end of words [5]. Although RP was once dominant in formal communication, today it is spoken by only a small percentage of the population. However, it still influences teaching and is often used as a model for learners. RP shows how social factors, rather than geography, can shape a language variety [4; 3].

Cockney is a traditional working-class dialect associated with the East End of London. It became especially prominent during the 18th and 19th centuries, when London expanded rapidly [1; 2]. Cockney is famous for its unique vocabulary, including rhyming slang, where phrases replace common words. For example, “stairs” can be called “apples and pears”. One key pronunciation feature is dropping the “h” sound at the beginning of words [5; 8]. Another feature is the use of a glottal stop instead of the “t” sound, as in “butter” – “bu’er”. Cockney is also non-rhotic, similar to RP. The dialect reflects the identity of London’s working-class communities. Over time, Cockney has influenced newer urban varieties such as Estuary English. Today, it remains an important cultural symbol of London life. It demonstrates how urbanisation and social class contribute to language variation [8].

Scouse is the accent and dialect of Liverpool, located in England. It developed mainly in the 19th century during a period of intense immigration [8; 2]. Many Irish people arrived in Liverpool during the Great Famine (1845–1849), which strongly

influenced the local speech [5; 7]. As a result, Scouse has a distinctive rhythm and intonation similar to Irish English [2]. It is also known for its unique consonant pronunciation, especially softer “k” and “t” sounds. The accent is very recognisable and often described as musical. Scouse also includes specific vocabulary and expressions used by local speakers. It reflects Liverpool’s history as a major port city with diverse cultural influences [8]. Over time, the accent has become a strong marker of local identity. It is widely used in media and popular culture. Scouse shows how migration and cultural contact shape language.

Geordie is spoken in and around Newcastle in northern England. Its origins date back to the Anglo-Saxon period (5th–7th centuries) [5; 7]. Because the region was relatively isolated, many old linguistic features were preserved. Geordie includes vocabulary that comes directly from Old English, such as “bairn” (child). Another common word is “aye”, meaning “yes”. The pronunciation is also distinctive, especially in vowel sounds. Geordie speakers often pronounce words differently from standard English, making the accent unique. The dialect has a strong regional identity and pride [2]. It is sometimes considered one of the most difficult accents to understand. Despite modernisation, Geordie has remained stable over time. It demonstrates how geographical isolation can preserve older forms of language.

Scottish English is spoken in Scotland and developed alongside the Scots language. Its history goes back to the medieval period, especially after the formation of the Scottish kingdom. The language was influenced by Old English, Norse, and later French. One of its key features is the pronunciation of the “r” sound, which is usually rolled or tapped [5; 8]. Vowel sounds are also different from those in standard British English. For example, “house” may be pronounced as “hoose”. Scottish English includes many unique words and expressions [7]. It reflects Scotland’s distinct cultural and historical identity. The variety is widely used in everyday communication. It is also present in literature and media. Scottish English shows how language evolves differently in separate cultural contexts [8].

Welsh English is spoken in Wales and is strongly influenced by the Welsh language. This influence developed over centuries, especially after the Acts of Union (1536–1543), when English became dominant in administration [5; 2]. However, Welsh remained widely spoken among the population. As a result, English in Wales adopted features of Welsh pronunciation and rhythm. Welsh English is often described as melodic due to its intonation patterns. Some grammatical structures are also influenced by Welsh. Vocabulary may include words borrowed from Welsh. The dialect reflects the bilingual nature of Welsh society. It is an important part of national identity. Welsh English continues to evolve alongside the revival of the Welsh language. It demonstrates the impact of language contact and bilingualism [8].

Irish English is spoken in Northern Ireland and has developed under the strong influence of the Irish language. Its formation began after the English colonisation of Ireland in the 16th–17th centuries, especially during the Plantation of Ulster (from 1609) [5; 7]. During this period, English and Scottish settlers brought their dialects, which mixed with the native Irish language. As a result, Irish English has unique pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary [8]. One of its main features is a distinctive

rhythm and intonation influenced by Irish speech patterns. For example, speakers may use expressions like “I’m after doing it” to mean “I have just done it,” which reflects Irish grammar [4]. The accent is rhotic, meaning the “r” sound is clearly pronounced in all positions. Irish English also includes specific vocabulary and idioms not common in standard English. It reflects both British and Irish cultural influences. Today, it is an important marker of identity in Northern Ireland [2]. This variety clearly shows how colonisation and language contact shape linguistic development.

All in all, regional varieties of English in the United Kingdom are the result of a long and complex historical process. From early invasions to social and political changes, each period contributed to linguistic diversity. Accents and dialects reflect both geographical and social differences. They also serve as markers of identity and cultural heritage. Despite the spread of standard English, regional varieties remain strong [5; 3]. Modern media has increased their visibility and acceptance. These varieties enrich the English language and make it more dynamic. Understanding them helps us better understand British culture and history [1]. Therefore, regional English is not only a linguistic phenomenon but also a cultural one. It highlights the deep connection between language, society, and identity [4; 2].

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