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The Origin of American, British and Australian English Varieties Due to Distinct Dialects and Accents

Khadija Binte Nasir

Khadija Binte Nasir is a Bachelor Honors graduate in Applied Linguistics from Kinnaird College for Women University, Pakistan

E-mail: khadijanasir12345@gmail.com

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Abstract

The present research on 'The origin of American, British and Australian English varieties due to distinct dialects and accents' is aimed to determine the major cause of these different variety formations due to variations in the dialect and accent in the inner circle of Kachru's model. The research question is analyzed completely based on phonetics, vowel pronunciation, and syllabification, intonation of asking questions, vocabulary, and spelling. The research is focused on a qualitative approach. The already present information corpus, personal critique, and research analysis are the principal constituents of the experimentation. With the obtained and analyzed data, the researchers verified the cause of distinct English varieties like British, American, and Australian. The obtained result showed that the most obvious difference between British, Australian and American English is in the accent (or pronunciation), especially with vowel sounds. Moreover, another difference lies in the melody and tone, which is the rise and fall of sound, while asking questions. Some other general differences that we figured out were vocabulary and spellings. Hence, we can say that the reason of the origin of American, Australian and British English varieties, which occur in the inner circle of Kachru's model, is due to the difference in accents and dialects depending heavily upon vowel sound variations, intonations, vocabulary and grammar.

Keywords: The Origin of American; British and Australian English Varieties; Distinct Dialects and Accents

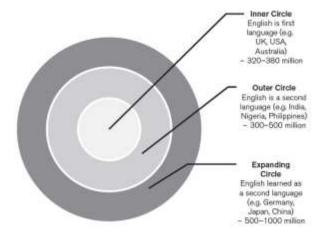
Introduction

Dialects can be characterized as sub-types of languages which are, as a general rule, fathomable together. English speakers from various nations and areas utilize a wide range of accents just as different confined words and grammatical developments; various dialects can be distinguished dependent on these

elements. Dialects can be arranged at more extensive or smaller levels: inside an expansive public or provincial dialect, different more limited sub-dialects can be distinguished on the basis of pronunciation and enunciation. The mix of contrasts in elocution and utilization of neighborhood words might make some English dialects practically indiscernible to speakers from different locales with next to no earlier openness.

Accent in English shows extraordinary variety across locales because this forms the fundamental base on which distinct language varieties can be formed. For instance, the United Kingdom has the biggest variety of accents of any nation, implying that there is no single British articulation. Hence, it is to be noted that dialects and accents are the two basic factors involved in the formulation of various language varieties. The lingua franca of the world has its reasonable part of accents relying upon the nation and even locale you are in.

Other than this, we observed that these variations keep on changing. They are not static even after the formation of a whole new variety. There are certainly many USA accents and then there are subdivisions too. All varying on behalf of pronunciation, enunciation, grammar, spellings and intonation. There is a definite Scandinavian and German influence on the English spoken in America, and the accent is strongly rhotic while the Australian and British accents are less rhotic. In this research article we will be focusing on the inner circle pronunciations of English.



The different variety formations of English language like American, Australian and British English, on the basis of dialects and accents, are justified in this research article.

Research Questions

- 1. How various dialects and accents give rise to different varieties of English like American, British and Australian?
- 2. The differences in articulation and pronunciation in American, British and Australian English.

What are the other reasons apart from changes in dialect and accent that form various varieties of English language specifically in the inner circle?

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Research Objectives

General Objective

• The general reasons apart from changes in dialect and accent that form various varieties of English language specifically in the inner circle.

Specific Objectives

- Figure out how various dialects and accents give rise to different varieties of English like American, British and Australian.
- Differences in articulation and pronunciation in American, British and Australian English.

Methodology

Technique

The information assortment strategy is qualitative. The exploration occurred with the assistance of existing information. The reason behind choosing this procedure is to research the matter with more precision in-compliance with the factual data. Information is taken from already present corpus and various YouTube videos in which Australian, American and British people pronounce the same word but follow different accents. The examination permits thorough information to be gathered from the different dialects and accents and how they lead to varieties of English.

•Selection

For analysis we have selected three varieties of English or can be said that we are going to focus on the Kachru Model's inner circle of English. The three varieties we are going to be looking at are British English, American English and Australian English. We will be focusing on the factors like phonology, phonetic framework and pronunciation of these English varieties by looking at the data that is already present or gathering information through audio-visuals.

Theoretical Framework

In sociolinguistics, a variety, also called an isolect or lect, is a specific form of a language or language cluster. This may include languages, dialects, registers, styles, or other forms of language, as well as a standard variety. A variety is formed when there is change in or divergence from the standard language. If we consider English language as a standard language, it has many varieties too. For example British English, American English, Australian English, Canadian English, Indian English, Philippine English, Ugandan English etc.

English is spoken today on all five continents as a result of colonial expansion in the last four centuries or so. The colonial era is now definitely over but its consequences are only too clearly to be seen in the presence of English as an official and often native language in many of the former colonies along with more or less strongly diverging varieties which arose in particular socio-political conditions, so-called pidgins which in some cases later developed into creoles. Another legacy of colonialism is where English fulfils the function of a lingua franca.

Standard English is a controversial term for a form of the English language that is written and spoken by educated users. For some linguists, Standard English is a synonym for good or correct English



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usage. Others use the term to refer to a specific geographical dialect of English or a dialect favored by the most powerful and prestigious social group.

Varieties of language develop for a number of reasons: differences can come about for geographical reasons; people who live in different geographic areas often develop distinct dialects—variations of Standard English. Those who belong to a specific group, often academic or professional, tend to adopt jargon that is known to and understood by only members of that select group. Even individuals develop idiolects, their own specific ways of speaking. Hence when people start speaking the standard language in one of their own ways, a variety of language occurs.

In America there is a standard which is referred to by titles, General American and Network American English being the two most common. There is a geographical area where this English is spoken and it is defined negatively as the rest of the United States outside of New England (the north east) and the South. General American is spoken by the majority of Americans, including many in the North-East and South and thus contrasts strongly with Received Pronunciation which is a prestige sociolect spoken by only a few percent of all the British. The Southern United States occupy a unique position as the English characteristic of this area is found typically among the African American sections of the community.

In non-English-speaking regions, English tends to emerge initially as an import from an English-speaking region. This can occur for many reasons, including migration/diaspora, colonization, the adoption of new technology, and the proliferation of entertainment like movies. Between the speakers of any language varieties there is variation in the way that they use their language. This variation is demonstrated by linguistic differences in terms of sound (phonetics) and structure (grammar). Some other differences can be pronunciation (vowel pronunciation), syllabification, and intonation of asking questions, vocabulary and spelling.

Those varieties of English which are spoken outside of Britain and America are variously referred to as overseas or extraterritorial varieties. A recent practice is to use the term *Englishes* (a plural created by linguists) which covers a multitude of forms. The label English World-Wide (the name of an academic journal dedicated to this area) is used to refer to English in its global context and to research on it, most of which has been concerned with implicitly comparing it to mainland varieties of Britain and America and then with trying to determine its own linguistic profile. Extraterritorial varieties are not just different from mainland varieties because of their geographical distance from the original homeland but also because in many cases a type of suspension has occurred vis à vis changes in point of origin, i.e. in many respects the overseas varieties appear remarkably unchanged to those from the European mainland. This phenomenon is known as colonial lag. It is a term which should not be overworked but a temperate use of the term is appropriate and it can be cited as one of the features accounting for the relative standardization of overseas varieties, such as Australian or New Zealand English with regards to British forms of English.

The varieties of English both in Europe and overseas tend to show variation in certain key features, for instance special verbal structures to express aspectual distinctions are common to nearly all varieties in the developing world. Pronunciation and morphology features can equally be classified according to frequency of variation in non-standard forms of the language. To facilitate orientation in this sphere the features are mentioned below which typically vary among both mainland and extraterritorial forms of English. Note that the variation in the area of lexis (vocabulary) tends to be restricted to two types. The first is the presence of archaic words no longer found in mainland Britain, e.g. the use of bold in the sense of misbehaved or wench as a non-derogative term for woman. The second type contains flora and fauna words. Obviously those speakers of English who moved to new environments were liable to borrow words from indigenous languages for phenomena in nature which they did not know from Europe, thus Australian English has koala, kangaroo, New Zealand English kiwi, etc.

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Non-standard Features of English

In the development of the language English has shown variation with a number of features on different linguistic levels. In those cases where the variation has been between dialects and/or sociolects and the arising standard the features in question have become indicators of non-standardization. Consciousness of this is frequently present with speakers and it forms part of what is sometimes called 'panlectal' knowledge of language, i.e. part of the awareness of inherent variation in a language which people acquire with their particular variety of the language in question. In English the indicators of non-standardization are chiefly phonological but there are also morphological and syntactical features, the most salient of which are indicated below. The standard referred to here is Received Pronunciation and the variation applies chiefly to forms of British English.

• Phonology

- 1) Presence of syllable-final /r/ card /ka: Įd/
- 2) Lack of initial /h-/ happy /æpi/
- 3) Glottalisation of /t/ bottle /bɔʔl/
- 4) No lowering of /v/ but /but/
- 5) Short /a/ before /f, s, θ / bath /ba θ /
- 6) Use of /m/ which /miwitſ/
- 7) Alveolarisation of /ŋ/ walking /wɔ:kn/
- 8) Yod deletion in /ju:/ news /nu:z/ tune /tu:n/
- 9) No lexical distribution of /æ/ and /a:/ grand /grand/, cancel /ka(:)nsl/
- 10) Short vowel distinction before /r/ fern /fe,n/ # burn /b,n/
- 11) Unshifted long /u:/: town /tu:n/

• Morphology

- 1) Contraction of am + not: amn't or aren't and of is + not: isn't or ain't
- 2) Use of /i:/ for /ai/ with possessive pronoun my
- 3) Use of demonstrative pronouns for possessive pronouns: them boys
- 4) A distinctive form for the second person plural: ye, yez, youse
- 5) Use of objective forms for subject, e.g. us for we, her for she
- 6) Unmarked adverbs (deletion of final /i:/): He's awful busy these days
- 7) Differences between weak and strong verbs
- 8) Zero marking for plurals, often with numerals: He's been here five year now

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Syntax

- 1) Use of past participle as preterite: I done the work, I seen him
- 2) Verbal -s outside third person singular: The boys plays football.
- 2) Narrative present with generalised -s: I hops out of the car and finds him lying on the ground
- 3) Additional aspectual distinctions such as the habitual: He does be working all night. Perfective with participle after object: He has the book read
- 4) Double or multiple negation: They don't do nothing for nobody
- 5) Use of for with infinitives: He went out for to get some milk
- 6) Deletion of copula and/or auxiliary: She a farmer's daughter, He gone home
- 7) Zero subject in relative clauses: There's a man wants to see you
- 8) Never as past tense negative: I never done the work (= I didn't do...)
- 9) Lack of negative attraction: Anyone wasn't interested in linguistics
- 10) Passive with get: His car got stolen last week
- 11) Different use of prepositions, e.g. on to express relevance: They broke the glass on me
- 12) Overuse of the definite article: He asked the both of them

Research Findings

The difference between the American, Australian and British English can be figured out on the basis of pronunciation (vowel pronunciation), syllabification, and intonation of asking questions, vocabulary, spelling and grammar.

• Pronunciation

The most evident difference in the Australian, British and American English is the pronunciation and specifically the vowel pronunciation. American English is famous for its clear /r/ sounds, whereas British or Australian English lose the /r/ sound if it's at the end of a word or syllable. For example, the word "smarter" is pronounced /smartər/ in American English, but /sma:tə/ in British and Australian English.

Another thing that was noted from the pronunciation videos was that the British accent is very strong and intense, whereas the American pronunciation is smooth. The Australian English is somewhat lazy and lagging because the words are articulated in a comparatively slow manner.

Moreover, the 'o' sound in the word bottle is pronounced as "aah" in American English, "awe" in British English, and "aaw" in Australian English.

West Country accents, such as Devon, Cornwall, Somerset, and Dorset all have the hard "rr" sound. Many of them also pronounce their "T" like a lot of Americans, almost like an "L" sound. For example, if they are saying "See you later", they pronounce it, "See you layl'rrr", almost dropping the "e"



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after the "l" sounding "t" but then they say a strong "r" sound. There is a place in Devon called Exeter, but someone from Devon will usually pronounce it "Exel'rrr", again tending to drop the third "e" and pronouncing an "L" sounding "T" and hard "rrr" sound. The Pilgrim Fathers sailed to America from Plymouth where a lot of them were from and that's partly how American's got the hard "r" in their accents and the almost "L" sound in their "T". For instance someone from Devon would usually pronounce ghetto as 'ghello'.

The pronunciation of the letter't' is not very stressing in the American accent, normally stressed in the Australian accent whereas the British accent does not stress on the letter 't' at all.

The pronunciation of the letter /a/ is different in all the languages. It's more like 'ay' in American and 'aa' in British and Australian English. For example, in American accent the word can't is pronounced like /kaynt/, In British and Australian English, it's more like /kaant/.

There's more stress on the letter 'u' in American pronunciations while less stress is laid in British and Australian English.

The 'stu' words like 'student', 'study, 'studio' etc. are pronounced as 'schew' in the beginning in the British and Australian English whereas they are pronounced like 'stu' in the beginning in the American accent. Also, the 'u' is pronounced more like 'oo' in the American accent while in the British and Australian accent it's pronounced normally like /u/.

Tuesday is pronounced as 'tuoosday' in American accent while on the contrary, it's pronounced like 'chewsday' in British and Australian English.

The American speakers roll their tongue for the 'r' sound however British and Australian don't.

Vocabulary

1. Australian English

- "Aussie" refers to someone who's Australian.
- "Mate" means friend ("mate" is also used in British English).
- "G'day" (pronounced "geh-day") means "hello" or "how're you?"
- "Crikey!" or "Streuth!" (Pronounced "krai-kee" and "strooth") are both exclamations of bewilderment, shock or surprise.
- "How ya going?" means "how're you?"
- "Fair dinkum" or "dinky die" are both used to say something is true.
- "True Blue" is a way to say "the real thing." Originally it meant to be patriotic, but today it means genuine or authentically Australian.

2. British English

- "Bloody" means "very."
- "Rubbish" literally means "garbage" or "trash." If you don't like something this is the perfect word to use to say it's worthless or untrue.
- "Lovely" is a common British word to use if you want to express affection or approval for someone or something (commonly used amongst the older generation; specifically women).
- "Pissed" means someone has drank a large amount of alcohol and is intoxicated or drunk (not to be confused with American English which uses this word to say someone is extremely angry or irritated).
- "Bodge" is a word used to say that a repair job is of a low-quality or is not done well.



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- "Chuffed to bits" is a common way in Britain to say you're very pleased with someone or something.
- "Cheeky" means playful or mischievous.
- "You alright?" or "alright?" is a common way to say "hello!" in Britain. You can simply respond by nodding your head or saying "Hi." This sounds like a question, but it's simply a greeting.
- "Fancy a cuppa'?" means "would you like a cup of tea?" As many people already know, tea is a huge part of British culture and it's very common to be offered a cup of tea if you visit a British friend.

3. American English

- "How's it going?" or "what's up?" is a common way for people from the United States to ask "how're you?" or "how're you doing?"
- "Awesome" or "cool" are popular ways to express that you think someone or something is amazing or wonderful.
- "Costs an arm and a leg" means that something is really expensive.
- "Oh my God", "oh my gosh" or "OMG" are all ways to emphasize surprise or shock.
- "Hang out" is a way to talk about spending time at a certain place or with someone.
- "Chill out" means to relax.
- "Have a blast" is a way to say that someone or something is fun.

Some other Everyday Words

American: Afternoon

British: Afternoon

Australian: Arvo

American: Gas station

British: Petrol station

Australian: Servo

American: Candy

British: Sweets /sweeties

Australian: Lollies

American: Flip flops

British: Flip flops

Australian: Thongs

• Intonation of Asking Questions

The intonation (the pitch of your voice) can be very different in different countries. For example, if a person asks a yes/no question in American English, their voice goes up at the end. But if a person asks that question in Australian English or British English, their voice would go down. This is the way the dialect differ in the high and low pitch. There is a high rise terminal end in the American English while



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answering questions whereas a low rise terminal end is noted in American and Australian English. The habit of ending statements with a stress can be seen in American accent unlike the other two varieties which end questions on a low note. This is also known as 'up talk'.

A BBC News Article "The Unstoppable March of Upward Inflection" Written in 2004 Says That

"Uptalk had been spotted even earlier, in 1975 by linguist Robin Lakoff, who wrote that "there is a peculiar sentence pattern which has the form of a declarative answer to a question, and is used as such, but has the rising inflection typical of a yes-no question." But the actual term "uptalk" wasn't used until a New York Times piece in 1993.

But in the UK many people take it as a given that the speech pattern arrived from Australia, going so far as to dub it the Australian Question Intonation. Some laymen go even further and trace the shift in British speech patterns to the arrival of soap opera Neighbors on British television in 1986.

We don't fully recognise it, but our manner of speech is constantly changing based on how those around us speak. And as Liberman points out, uptalk is something that's always been in our manner of speech, just not necessarily as pronounced as today. "In all variations of English," he explains," there are a set of circumstances in which rising patterns are used not in polar questions - that is, yes or no questions. Uptalk has always been available, just below the surface, because there are circumstances in which speakers not thought to be uptalkers use uptalking characteristics."

Sharyn Collins, a voice coach and elocution expert, has strong opinions on uptalk. "It's perfectly fine in Australia, New Zealand and America," she intones in a cut-glass accent. "But not here [in the UK], I believe. We've adopted it in a different way." "

-BBC

So this is how intonation is viewed in American culture and language comparing it to British and Australian dialect.

• Stress and Syllabification

American English is inclined to pronounce unstressed syllables while the British and Australian English pronounce stressed syllables. Typically American English puts the stress on the final syllable, whereas British and Australian English makes an earlier syllable stressed.

- To stress a syllable you need to: say the vowel clearly; say the vowel slightly louder, longer and slightly higher pitched
- To de-stress a syllable or make it the weak syllable, you need to: say the vowel as a schwa /ə/ sound or short 'u' sound; the vowel sound 'loses' its regular sound and becomes a 'schwa' sound.

	British Australian English	American English
Adult	/'æd. Alt/	/ə'dʌlt/
ballet	/'bæl. eɪ /	/ bæl 'eɪ/
brochure	/'brəʊ. ʃər/	/brov 'for/

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cafe	/'kæf. eɪ/	/kæf 'eɪ /
cliche	/'kli: . ʃeɪ /	/kli: 'ʃeɪ /
detail	/'di: teɪl /	/dı ' teıl /
garage	/ 'gær . a:3 /	/gə 'ra:ʒ
vaccine	/'væk si:n /	/væk 'si:n /
salon	/'sæl. pn /	/səʾlɒn /

(An audio of these words with the pronunciation in each variety is also available at https://www.speakmoreclearly.com/english-pronunciation-tips/british-australian-and-american-pronunciation-for-multi-syllable-words-dont-get-confused/)

Hence, we can notice that typically American English puts the stress on the final syllable, whereas British and Australian English makes an earlier syllable stressed.

• Spellings

The UK and Australia share the same spelling, while the United States has a slight difference in the way words are spelt. While American English uses 'ize', 'izi' and 'iza' in words like 'organize', 'organizing' and 'organization', Australian/British English uses 'ise', 'isi' and 'isa', as in 'organise', 'organising' and 'organisation'.

USA	Australia/UK	
-er (center) -or (color) -ize (organize) -og (analog) -led (traveled)	-re (centre) -our (colour) -ise (organise) -ogue (analogue) -lled (travelled)	

• The use of Collective Nouns

In British English, the collective nouns combine with verbs and are used in the plural form, so for example the staff have decided the date of the summer play. In Australian and British English, these collective nouns combine with verbs and are used in the singular form, so for example, the staff has decided the date of the summer play.

• Grammar

There can be a slight difference noted in the grammar of the words in each variety. For example the collective nouns or the past tense. One other difference is the use of the Present Perfect (for example, I have eaten dinner already). This is much more common in Australian English and British English. In the United States, people will use the past simple more often and they would say, "I ate dinner already."

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Australian grammar is a mixture of American English and British English due in part to America television and computer software mixed in with British grammar.

USA	Australia	UK
The class is happy.	The class is happy.	The class are happy.
l'd for gotten .	I'd for got .	I'd for got .
I learn ed it.	I learnt it.	I learnt it.

Discussion Analysis

English language has been developed in terms of pronunciation from time to time. People learned and applied the language in their own specific way because English speakers have a rich historical background, they travelled place to place for various purposes. People of those colonized areas acquired the knowledge of the English language and ended up making a varieties of language because, majority of the speakers started to adopt and implement it in particular manners. The prominent difference in GA and RP lies in pronunciation of vowel sounds and consonants. The most common and prominent difference in these dialects is that the speakers of American dialect of English pronounces fricative sound when it comes to letter 'r' we can see that when an American speaker speaks English he/she puts stress on the letter "R" for instance when they say car /Kar/ we can clearly hear the 'r' sound while in British English and Australian English they prefer to pronounce it softly as car /kά/. The American speakers roll their tongue while pronouncing the consonant 'r' sound however, British and Australians speakers don't unless the placement of the consonant would appear in the starting of a word for instance word "read" "red". It has been also noted that American speakers pronounce each syllable of a word while British English speakers tend to expel a few syllables while pronouncing a word. They speaks in a way that only a few syllables can be identified. We have also analyzed that the speakers of American dialect of English put stress on the first syllable more while on the other hand British English speakers and Australian English speakers stress on the second syllable more. American speakers have more harsh tone than the other two dialects speakers. These dialects are not only different in terms of pronunciation but also different in vocabulary as well. The major factor involved in the formation of a dialect is the need for vocabulary. There are various examples where many languages of the world adopted or borrowed new words from other languages because of socio-physical factors, which ultimately resulted as the formation of a new dialect or modification of the old language. Similar is the case with these dialects. The difference we highlighted in this paper is in terms of vocabulary are; in American English most of the words that end with "er" for example 'center' is different in British and Australian English as "re" 'Centre'. Another example is of ize or yze as ise or yse for example British and Australian (analyse, memorise, organise,) American English (analyze, memorize, organize). Lastly, Americans tends o speak more informally by using short forms and slangs in their day to day life, while British English speakers and Australian speakers prefer to speak formally with correct formation of sentences. As per the differences presented and analyzed we have come to the conclusion that apart from these differences the importance of each dialect is not less than one another. Because language is related to prestige and English being a global language gives some hidden benefits to the speakers of various dialects of English. The major reason behind the formation of these dialects is that people from various regional backgrounds travelled and adopted the new language with their strong regional characteristics resulting in creation of a new variety/dialect of that particular language. In light of evidences we can say that Australian English and British English are almost similar while American English has slight differences due to its historical background with the English language.

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Conclusion

To conclude we can say that language cannot be implemented if there is no social acceptance. Many factors are involved in the formation of a dialect firstly invasion of a community who to some extent provide social benefits to the people of an area. That is the reason English is splinted into Englishes. As we all know that English has a strong influence among most of the population of the world, they prefer speaking English as a foreign language which helped English in securing the position of global lingua franca and people start acquiring it in their own styles end up forming a dialect of English. Moreover, if we talk about the formation of various varieties of English or any other language too, it is totally because of the change in dialect and accent. While analyzing the American, British and Australian English we came to know that their occurrence was due to reasons on individual level which later became a societal norm and finally got accepted by a large number of people in a community, giving rise to a new variety. We deduced the analysis by taking in regard the three inner circle varieties, which were American English, British English and Australian English, we came to know that all of them differed from one another in terms of pronunciation (vowel pronunciation), syllabification, intonation of asking questions, vocabulary, spelling and grammar. The Australian English variety was somehow like a mixture of both the other varieties and was more inclined towards the British accent whereas the other two differed on many levels. The basic difference was noted in the pronunciation, specially the vowels. There's a prominent difference in the pitch when a speaker from each variety asks a question. Moreover, there is variance in the everyday vocabulary and spellings of the three of the varieties. With that said, British, American and Australian English cannot be called languages, rather these are varieties formed in accordance with dialect differences which occurred on community level.

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