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## National, cultural and linguistic peculiarities of New Zealand English (on the basis of aviation-related texts)

**Anna V. Mel'dianova**

PhD in Philology,  
Associate Professor of Department of Linguistics and Translation,  
Moscow Aviation Institute  
125993, 4, Volokolamskoe highway, Moscow, Russian Federation;  
e-mail: meldianova\_av@mail.ru

**Grigorii V. Bogdanovskii**

Student,  
Moscow Aviation Institute  
125993, 4, Volokolamskoe highway, Moscow, Russian Federation;  
e-mail: ggreee\_1@mail.ru

### Abstract

English is a universal language of world communication. On the one hand, it has changed greatly under the influence of other languages, on the other hand, it has had an impact on many world languages. The article analyzes the national-cultural, historical and linguistic features of the New Zealand version of the English language, their relevance in the communication between people of different nationalities and cultures; it compares New Zealand English with American, British and Australian English in terms of historical, orthographical, lexical, and grammatical aspects. The existing distinctive properties of New Zealand English are revealed on the basis of aviation-related texts, which emphasizes the scientific novelty of the current research. Summing up, it can be stated that the differences in the New Zealand version of the English language are very extensive due to its historical component and borrowings from other languages. The uniqueness of New Zealand's sociolinguistic situation lies in the combined influence of British, American, Australian English, local variants of English and the Maori language. It is important to note that understanding different varieties of the language is very important for perceiving the worldview of other people. Studying and describing in detail the differences in grammar, phonetics, spelling and vocabulary in the future will allow to correctly understand and translate the texts of New Zealand authors, including specialized texts, with their inherent features.

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### Keywords

Cultural, national, lexico-grammatical peculiarities; communication, aviation texts, New Zealand English, foreign language, aviation topics.

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## Introduction

English is a universal language of world communication. On the one hand, it has changed greatly under the influence of other languages, on the other hand, it has had an impact on many world languages.

Thus, the appearance of the New Zealand version of the English language was affected by the English language, mostly of the south of England. New Zealand English was also influenced by the Maori language, the Australian variant of English, and later the American version. However, it should be noted that over time, New Zealand English has acquired its own characteristics under the influence of all sorts of factors, both internal and external. These distinctive features require a comprehensive study, which determines the relevance of the current research. Consideration of the linguistic features (both lexical and grammatical) of the New Zealand variant of the English language is carried out in the article on the example of aviation texts.

The aim of the article is a comprehensive linguistic study of aviation publicistic texts written in New Zealand English and an analysis of their linguistic characteristics.

## Research results

Initially, English was not the only European language spoken in New Zealand, taking into account the arrival of early settlers from many other countries. However, most of the early settlers were British. Many of them arrived in New Zealand via New South Wales in Australia, where British interests in New Zealand were presented until 1841. A treaty signed in 1840 declared British sovereignty. Since that time, migration from Britain has increased dramatically.

A further wave of settlement accompanied the gold rush in Otago and on the west coast of the South Island during the 1860s, the influx was mainly from Australia. The third wave of immigration occurred in the 1870s, attracting mainly settlers from the south-west of England, which now allows linguists to believe that the dialect of the south-eastern regions of England served as the basis for the formation of the early national version of English in New Zealand [Pickens, 1977].

The greatest processes in the formation of the national version of the English language in New Zealand took place in the XXth century. Cultural, socio-economic and political transformations have contributed greatly to the rapid growth of national consciousness of the New Zealand linguistic community. The New Zealand version of English acquired linguistic self-identification in 1907, when New Zealand received the status of a dominion [Warren, 2012].

Currently, the status of the English language in the country is defined as the national variant of the English language, and it is spoken by an absolute number of residents. The English language has become a national literary norm, performs a full range of social functions and has a national and cultural identity.

English has surpassed the Maori language in terms of scope, thereby displacing the Maori language into an unequal position. Nowadays English is the language of public administration, office management, education, science and the media. At the same time, the presence of borrowings from the Maori language in New Zealand English is an important feature of its national and cultural identity.

Having acquired an independent status, New Zealand English has received national and cultural characteristics at all language levels. New Zealanders use a lot of dialect words and expressions, due to that the New Zealand version of English is quite difficult to understand. Words sound rather distinct, though their meaning is not always clear. The difficulty of understanding is often connected with the fact that New Zealand English has a recognizable accent with intonation variations and features of

speech timbre.

At the same time, it is worth noting that the actual linguistic processes are reflected in the "deviation" from the British norm. The New Zealand version of English differs from other national varieties of English in terms of preferences, rather than categorically different linguistic rules.

The main language features of the New Zealand version of the English language will be considered further in the article.

As in many other varieties of the English language, New Zealand has a non-standard second-person plural form of *youse* (alternatively spelled <*yous*>). There are alternative forms of *yous guys* and *you guys*. The *youse* form is probably of Irish origin, although it is also found in some parts of Scotland and in the north of England [Hickey, 2004].

The pronoun "she" can refer to inanimate things. This is also a feature of Australian English, with the difference that some varieties of Australian English also allow "he" in similar usage (Bauer, 2007).

The use of "us" in the singular is very widespread in colloquial speech in New Zealand English, often in fixed expressions such as "Give us a go", "Give us a chance", "Okay then, give us a call later on", where we often find an assimilated form that can be colloquially represented as "gissa" [Bauer, 2007].

A double degree of comparison such as "more easier" is common in New Zealand English.

The form "them" as an indication (them people/ them things) is widely used in the United Kingdom, the United States and Australia in colloquial speech. It is difficult to find evidence of this use in New Zealand English. Nevertheless, it can be heard in New Zealand, so it is mainly used in colloquial language [ibid.].

In New Zealand English, as in the American version, there is no clear distinction between *shall* and *will*, although according to the general rules, *shall* in many contexts is close in its meaning to "must". However, New Zealanders predominantly use *shall*: «Shall I go there?» [Bauer, 1987].

The analysis of aviation texts in New Zealand English was also carried out in the current research in order to reveal their lexico-grammatical and orthographical peculiarities.

First of all, it should be noted that in the current texts the "-self" forms are quite widely employed as well as a large number of ing-forms (participial and gerundial) in various functions:

But sometimes, if I'm visiting a training organisation, I'll invite myself into the briefing room, and after listening for a while, I've posed a question or two about slow flight [Vector, 2020].

In addition, there is a frequent use of the verbs *do/does* to reinforce statements and questions, which is generally more typical for colloquial speech, rather than for scientific, technical and publicistic aviation texts:

But, as the AC advises, the CAA does expect an ELA to be updated or created whenever the aircraft is electrically altered [ibid.].

It's true that many aircraft manufacturers do include an electrical load chart in the maintenance manual for all possible OEM configuration options [ibid.].

In words that can be written either with the suffix *-ise* or with *-ize* (for example, *ordinise/organize*), it is acceptable to use either one or the other in New Zealand English, but *-ise* has had priority for several decades, which can be proved by the above-given examples from aviation-related texts. This contrasts with American and Canadian English, where *ize* is usually preferred.

Moreover, in American magazines, the use of the *aircrafts* variant is typical, while in the British version this noun does not have a plural form and does not take the ending *-s*. As it can be seen from the example above, the use of the British version is inherent in New Zealand aviation publicistic texts.

Americans use the word *airplane* to refer to an air mode of transport. In the UK, it is written and pronounced with the sound "o" – *aeroplane*, the same trend persists in New Zealand English, in

particular in New Zealand aviation texts:

Instructors teach the stall with four arms: for the student to be able to control the aeroplane to the point of stall; to recognise the symptoms of the approaching stall; to experience the stall itself; and to recover with minimum height loss [ibid.].

It is worth remarking, that in general there are two cases of agreement in New Zealand English, both of which reflect the differences that exist in all dialects. With collective nouns such as *committee, team, government, army, family, staff*, which are grammatically considered singular, but refer to a group of people, it is possible to use the singular when the group is considered as a whole, and the plural when the group is considered as a set of people. So, "*The family was huge*" and "*The family were huge*" are not the same thing. However, there are distinct differences between the expression of singular and plural in different varieties, it is clear that this is not only a matter of perception, but also a matter of grammar. Thus, New Zealand magazines prefer the plural form:

Safety objectives are what you're going to do to get there (e.g., staff are aware of their safety responsibilities and accountabilities).

All staff need to receive training on SMS as it applies to their position [ibid.].

The New Zealand spelling of words such as *centre, fibre, litre, theatre* has always corresponded to the British spelling, unlike the American *center, fiber, liter*:

Have you included contacting the rescue coordination centre as an initial action in your emergency response plan for an overdue aircraft? [ibid.].

Nouns such as *defence, licence, practice* are usually written in New Zealand English with suffix *-ce*, unlike American ones (*defense, license, practise*):

Not only could this affect their flying if they enter the airlines, it's also not good GA practice" (Vector, 2020).

With words ending in *-our/or*, such as *colour/color* or *favor/favor*, the British spelling with *-our* is predominantly used in New Zealand English.

The British spelling is also preserved in relation to words such as *manoeuvre, anaemia* (instead of the American *manuver, anemia*):

Carlton says this manoeuvre is taught well in the GA environment, but the 'law of primacy' is causing a headache for airlines [ibid.].

New Zealand English also retains the difference between *programme* and *program* (*disc* and *disk*, *analogue* and *analog*) as found in British and often in Australian English. The former prevails in aviation publicistic texts:

Keep your audit programme real [ibid.].

In British English some forms of the past tense and the past participle in verbs are formed using *-t*, not *-ed*. For example, *learn* becomes *learnt*, *burn* becomes *burnt*, *smell* becomes *smelt*. These verb forms are pronounced with a final voiceless sound. This contrasts with American English, where *-ed* is much more common. The same applies to verbs ending in *-l*. When the past tense form is formed in British English, the last consonant is doubled, for example *cancelled, fulfilled*, etc. Americans write *cancelled, fulfilled*, etc. New Zealand English adheres to the British norm, in particular, in aviation publicistic texts:

Or they/re not planning a top od descent appropriate to that, or they haven't considered that they could just do controlled VFR to get there [ibid.].

In that recovery the check forward is 'installing' the aircraft

The problem is that some of this equipment may not be installed, and more importantly, the charts don't perform a load analysis of the data [ibid.].

In the British version of the English language, the word *data* has both plural and singular (*datum*).

In New Zealand, this noun is used only in the plural. In addition, the analyzed aviation publicistic articles in New Zealand English are abundant in a large number of abbreviations, which is generally typical for New Zealand, known for its long, complicated names; as well as abbreviated forms of verbs and omitted conjunctions in complex sentences.

## Conclusion

Summing up, it can be stated that the differences in the New Zealand version of the English language are very extensive due to its historical component and borrowings from other languages. The uniqueness of New Zealand's sociolinguistic situation lies in the combined influence of British, American, Australian English, local variants of English and the Maori language. It is important to note that understanding different varieties of the language is very important for perceiving the worldview of other people. Studying and describing in detail the differences in grammar, phonetics, spelling and vocabulary in the future will allow to correctly understand and translate the texts of New Zealand authors, including specialized texts, with their inherent features.

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## Национально-культурные и лингвистические особенности новозеландского варианта английского языка (на примере авиационных текстов)

**Мельдианова Анна Валерьевна**

Кандидат филологических наук,  
доцент кафедры лингвистики и переводоведения,  
Московский авиационный институт,  
125993, Российская Федерация, Москва, Волоколамское ш., 4;  
e-mail: meldianova\_av@mail.ru

**Богдановский Григорий Владимирович**

Студент,  
Московский авиационный институт,  
125993, Российская Федерация, Москва, Волоколамское ш., 4;  
e-mail: ggreee\_1@mail.ru

**Аннотация**

В статье анализируются национально-культурные, исторические и лингвистические особенности новозеландского варианта английского языка, их значимость в общении между людьми разных национальностей и культур; проводится сравнение новозеландского варианта английского языка с американским, британским и австралийским английским с точки зрения исторического, орфографического, лексического, и грамматического аспектов. Существующие отличительные свойства новозеландского английского выявляются на основе текстов авиационной тематики, что подчеркивает новизну исследования. Подводя итог, можно констатировать, что различия новозеландского варианта английского языка весьма обширны, что обусловлено его исторической составляющей и заимствованиями из других языков. Уникальность социолингвистической ситуации Новой Зеландии заключается в совокупном влиянии британского, американского, австралийского английского, местных вариантов английского и языка маори. Важно отметить, что понимание разных разновидностей языка очень важно для восприятия мировоззрения других людей. Изучение и детальное описание различий в грамматике, фонетике, правописании и лексике в будущем позволит правильно понимать и переводить тексты новозеландских авторов, в том числе специализированные, с присущими им особенностями.

**Для цитирования в научных исследованиях**

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**Ключевые слова**

Культурные, национальные, лексико-грамматические особенности; коммуникация, авиационные тексты, новозеландский вариант английского языка, иностранный язык, авиационная тематика.

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