

DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES IN ENGLISH AND GERMAN

ANNA BELYANINOVA, student

OKSANA O. REZVAN, Professor, Doctor of Science in Pedagogy, Scientific Adviser

ALLA N. KROKHMAL, Associate Professor, PhD (Pedagogy), English Language Adviser

O. M. Beketov National University of Urban Economy in Kharkiv

There are approximately two thousand seven hundred languages in the modern world. Every educated person should know at least one foreign language. And the theme of my research work is "The similarities and differences between English and German". The theme of this research is relevant because learning foreign languages is a process of acquiring knowledge that is vital in contemporary society as it moves towards universal globalization. Knowledge of two or more foreign languages is becoming the norm for people in modern society. By revealing the similarities and differences between the languages studied, it is possible to learn them at a faster pace.

This work provides a clear analysis of the similarities and differences between the two languages, such as English and German. They belong to the Germanic branch of the Indo-European language family. Because of this close affinity, these languages have much in common. Moreover, English is actively and freely introduced into German media and pop culture, so it is no wonder that many Germans learn English so quickly and easily. Nevertheless, there are a number of peculiarities of German that prevent those for whom it is a native language from constructing English phrases correctly. We will consider these features in more detail.

First, the German alphabet is contained quite a few differences. It is composed of the same 26 letters as the English alphabet. But also, the German alphabet is composed of letters with diacritical characters that convey the so-called umlauts ä, ö, ü and ß (double s). They are the ones that present a certain difficulty to English students of German.

According to the Phonology, the sounds in English and German are similar. However, there is no sound in German that is transmitted by the English letter combination «th», so it is often difficult for native speakers to pronounce words like the or thing correctly. German words that begin with the letter «w» are pronounced with the sound [v]. This explains the incorrect pronunciation of English words like us as we *[vi:].

The most differences we can see are in the grammatical aspect. There are significant differences between the tenses that are used in English to convey a special meaning and those in German. For example, there is no long time in German, so it is often possible to have such sentences: "I watch TV now". Another example of inconsistency is the use of the present simple tense in

German in contexts where the English use the future tense with the auxiliary verb will. This leads to errors such as “I phone you when I return (I will call you when I return)”. One more problem for Germans is choosing the right tense when discussing the past. When it comes to past events, the spoken German language uses the currently completed time, e.g. Sie hat an der Universität Literatur studiert (she studied literature at university). Using the same grammatical time in the English language leads to an error: *She has studied Literature at the university. The German language has three features of word order, which are not present in English: first, the conjugated part of the predicate is always on the second place in the main sentence. Often, this requires the inversion of the subject and the predicate. For example: Heute gehe ich ins Theater (Today I go to the Theater). Second, the past participle must be the last element in the main sentence, for example: Sie hat den ganzen Tag nichts gemacht (She did nothing all day). Thirdly, the main verb must be the last element in the appendage sentence. For example: Er schrieb seiner Mutter, als er Geld brauchte (He wrote to his mother when he needed money).

Every language has words that are very similar. That's because languages are constantly evolving. Many historical factors influence the formation of a language. Languages are constantly intermingling, appearing in connection with discoveries, or simply borrows from neighboring countries.

In German and English you can find many related words: Garten/garden, Familie/family, helfen/help. However, in some cases this similarity in pronunciation and spelling is misleading, for example, German Gift is not a "gift" as in English, but "poison or deadly poison".

Spelling is also unfamiliar in English. Nouns in German are written with a capital letter. As a result, German speakers often write capital letters and English nouns. German has stricter punctuation rules than English, resulting in extra punctuation marks in sentences for beginners to learn English, for example: I told her that she was wrong.

To sum up, each language is unique, despite some similarities. Because languages belong to the same Indo-European family, it is not surprising that much is common. Patience and persistence are required when learning any language. It is differences that allow us to improve our professional skills.

References:

1. «Typological similarities and differences in word formation models in English and German», Klimin A. A., 2012.
2. 10 Ways German and English Are Similar/ Posted by Lingoda Team | Feb 19, 2016/ <https://blog.lingoda.com/en/english-german-similarities>.
3. ISAL TEFL/Accepted Worldwide/2010 /<http://www.icaltefl.com/german-vs-english>.