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## **CHANGES IN ENGLISH GRAMMAR ON EXAMPLE OF USING**

### **IRREGULAR VERBS FORMS**

*Аннотация:* в статье идёт речь об изменениях в грамматике английского языка, в частности об употреблении некоторых неправильных глаголов в правильной форме. Цель исследования – проследить употребление неправильных глаголов в правильной форме в британских и американских средствах массовой информации.

*Ключевые слова:* неправильные глаголы, грамматика английского языка, британский вариант английского языка, американский вариант английского языка.

*Abstract:* the paper deals with the changes in grammar that reveal the usage of irregular verbs in regular form. The goal of the study is to trace the applying of regular form for several irregular verbs in popular newspapers.

*Keywords:* irregular verbs, English grammar, British English, American English.

A language is a living system. Living system changes constantly and adopts to environment [1]. First of all, language starts changing in speaking of lower social stratum, but grammar changes slowly and as a rule, people cannot see those changes.

Changes do not touch every native speaker. They come step by step. Choice of used variants in any form depends on social status of speaker, their role in this conversation and many other factors. The speech of children and uneducated people is

characterized by forms like *eated*, *knowed*, *goed*, though these forms are not confessed by norms of grammar. These variants may coexist during long time [2].

This brings up the question: why do uncomfortable irregular historical forms still exist during long time? Firstly, their usage indicates social status of speaker; secondly, in age of universal literacy people learn them from the tender age; thirdly, frequency of usage does not promote changing.

In this research we will concentrate on changes in system of English verb because history of English verb progress is characterized by different and conflicting tendencies which affect modern English language grammar.

Article written by American scientists says that speed of changing English irregular verb to regular verb depends on usage of the verb [3]. The study, carried out at Harvard University, found that irregular verbs are under intense pressure to change into regular verbs as language develops. The team identified that different classes of verbs in ancient English language («Beowulfs' language that was used before Christ) had different ways of forming past tenses [4]. During next 12 centuries these verbs had their past tenses changed to the most used past tense. This past tense was formed with adding ending -ed. In our time 97% of English verbs are regular: in past tense and past participle all of them have ending -ed. Remained 3% have different endings, so they are irregular. So, ancient English language had had 177 irregular verbs. To 14<sup>th</sup> century English had only 145 irregular verbs. To 20<sup>th</sup> century they count 98 ones, and linguists say that number of them gets lower and lower. The less commonly used they are, the more they are likely to change [4]. The scientists predict that 15 of the 98 irregular verbs in the study will have evolved into regular verbs within the next 500 years [5].

All above mentioned has lead us to purpose of this research: to analyze use of the irregular verbs in regular form studying examples from British and American popular newspapers that reveal the social life.

To reach the goal we define the tasks:

- to study list of irregular verbs and write out verbs;
- to analyze their usage in American press;
- to analyze their usage in British press.

We have studied several books on English grammar where the irregular verbs are given. After that, the list of irregular verbs with regular forms is written out and presented in the table 1.

Table 1

*List of irregular verbs to be analyzed*

Infinitive	Past tense	Past participle
Awake	awoke/awaked	awaken/awaked
Dream	dreamt/dreamed	dreamt/dreamed
Light	lit/lighted	lit/lighted
Bum	bumt/bumed	bumt/bumed
Chide	chid/chided	chid/chided
Bless	blessed	blest/blessed
Bust	bust/busted	bust/busted
Cleave	clove/cleft/cleaved	cloven/cleft/cleaved
Leap	leapt/leaped	leapt/leaped
Lean	leant/leaned	lent/leaned
Plead	pleaded/pled	pleaded/pled
Quit	quit/quitted	quit/ quitted
Rid	rid/ridded	rid/ridded
Saw	sawed	sawn/sawed
Sew	sewed	sewn/sewed
Shred	shred/shredded	shred/shredded
Show	shew/showed	shown/showed
Shear	sheared	shorn/sheared
Shave	shaved	shaved/shaven

To analyze the use of irregular verbs in regular form we will use Internet resources: [thedailybeast.com](http://thedailybeast.com), which is an everyday newspaper publishing in USA and [dailymirror.com](http://dailymirror.com) which is a newspaper in the UK.

Firstly, we have analyzed usage of irregular verbs in regular form using American press. It showed that the most used verbs in regular form were verbs dream, sew and show (more than 20 times every 2 days). So we can say that these verbs became regular in American variant of English language but 2 verbs (awake and quit) weren't used from the end of <sup>19<sup>th</sup></sup> but grammar allows to use them in regular form.

Secondly, we have analyzed usage of irregular verbs in regular form using British press. It showed that the most used verbs in regular form were verbs *busted*

(225000 times from 2008 to December 2017), *bless* (24700 times during 2017) and *show* (136000 times during November 2018). Therefore, we can say that these verbs became regular in British variant of English language but verb *rid* was not used at all but grammar allows to use it in regular form.

Having analyzed frequency of usage irregular verbs in regular form we can say that British variant of English language is more flexible and open to using regular forms than American one.

In our opinion, verbs that we have studied will become regular in 5 or 6 years except verbs *quit* and *awake*, because we haven't found them in American or British press.

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