



Otázka: English language

Jazyk: Angličtina

Přidal(a): N

ENGLISH LANGUAGE – history, varieties (British vs. American), global language

HISTORY

Throughout the centuries English has developed from an originally flexible language, using conjugations and derivations like the Czech or the German languages, into an analytical language using words without inner flexion but with a fixed word order.

The Celts can be considered to be the original inhabitants, the language of whom can still be heard in Welsh, Scottish and Irish Gaelic, but later the Celts were driven out by the Romans and other nations.

The English language originates from the old Germanic languages imported into England by the Anglo-Saxons in AD (anno domini) 350, who came from Germany, Denmark and Holland, and thus founded the **Old English**.

The Scandinavians influenced English in the 8th century and introduced words like *sky, skin, they, their, them, kilt*, etc. After the battle of Hastings in 1066, won by William the Conqueror, the Normans introduced French and it began to be spoken by the upper-class (for example; *army, people, crown, nation* and *parliament*). Ordinary folks remained loyal to their Old English.

Old English influenced by French vocabulary turned into **Middle English**, that was used for instance Geoffrey Chaucer.

The classical influence enriched the English language with words from Latin and Greek, and the colonial influence brought words from all over world, for example *alcohol* and *coffee* from Arabic, *chocolate* and *tomato* from American languages, *jungle* and *yoga* from East India etc.

Modern English, spoken since the times of Shakespeare, borrows words from many languages nowadays, like a *denim* from French, *grafitti* from Italian, *yoghurt* from Turkish, *tycoon* from Japanese, *cargo* from Spanish, *hamburger* or *frankfurter* from German, *sputnik* from Russian, *goulash* from Hungarian and there even two words that originate from Czech: *robot* and *pistol*.

English is important language because it is a world language and an official language of technology, politics, sports, culture, communication and several other fields.

VARIETES (British vs. American)

The American English tends to simplify grammar and spelling.

American and British language are different **in vocabulary** for example *secondary school* in british language, *high school* in American language, or *underground* and *subway*.

In grammar are differences too. In England they say „*I’ve just seen her*“, but in America say only „*I just saw her*.“ Or for example „*I haven’t got much time*.“ in English language, in american language „*I don’t have much time*.“.

Next differences are in **spelling**, for example words like *colour* – *color*, or *programme* – *program*.

And American language and English language aren’t the same **in pronunciation**, for instance in British language *city* [siti], in american language is it city [sidi].

I think, that American language is it a little bit easier, but Australian English uses a lot of shortenings too. For example *breckie* for a *breakfast* or *footy* for a *football*.

GLOBAL LANGUAGE

So English language isn’t only in England and in America, but in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and in others countries too. Nowadays, there are about 800 000 words in the English language and some 775 milion use English as their first or second language. It is the second widely spoken language after Chinese, an official language in over 70 countries and the official world language in medicine, science, music, media, technology, tourism, business etc. About



80% (percent) of English words come from other languages and the most common letter is the letter *E*.

To save time and as fashion, many people started to use shorter and shorter words and icons like *L* for expressing their mood. For example ASAP is shortcut for „*as soon as possible*” and *XOXO* means hugs and kisses.

Learning a foreign language, chiefly English, is really important as language is a means of communication and without it our lives would be very difficult. So I’m very glad that I enjoy English language.