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**POROVNÁNÍ ROZDÍLŮ BRITSKÉ A AMERICKÉ  
ANGLIČTINY V NOVINOVÝCH ČLÁNCÍCH**

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**COMPARISON OF BRITISH AND AMERICAN  
ENGLISH IN JOURNALISM**

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Martina Lucká

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## **ABSTRACT**

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This work brings an overview of the differences between British and American English. The theoretical part describes the differences of the two varieties of English in terms of lexicology, specifically the issues of the difference in vocabulary and spelling, phonology and grammar. Diversity of British and American English is very extensive, therefore it is not possible to mention all the differences in this work. There were chosen the most common and well-known individual differences. The theoretical part also contains a short summary of the development of American English.

The practical part is the analysis of the differences in focus on journalism, therefore there are compared individual articles from some British and American newspapers. The results of analysis show that there is a particular differentiation in the use of British and American English in newspapers, although journalists try to use standard language common to both nations, especially in grammar.

Keywords: British English, American English, vocabulary, spelling, phonology, grammar, journalism, analysis

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION .....	1
2 THEORETICAL BACKGROUND .....	2
2.1 English in the New World .....	2
2.2 Vocabulary .....	3
2.3 Pronunciation .....	5
2.4 Spelling .....	7
2.5 Grammar .....	10
2.5.1 Irregular verbs .....	10
2.5.2 Tenses .....	11
1.5.3 Auxiliary and modal verbs .....	11
1.5.4 Expressions with 'have' or 'take' .....	12
1.5.5 Position of adverbs .....	13
2.5.6 'Real', 'pretty' and 'quite' as intensifiers .....	13
2.5.7 Collective nouns .....	13
2.5.8 Prepositions .....	14
2.5.9 Use of 'one' .....	14
2.5.10 Use of 'got' and 'gotten' .....	15
2.5.11 Punctuation .....	15
2.5.12 Form of the date .....	16
3 METHOD OF THE RESEARCH .....	17
4 THE ANALYSIS .....	19
4.1 The analysis of individual items .....	19
4.2 Results of the analysis .....	46
5 CONCLUSIONS .....	48

## INTRODUCTION

This thesis deals with differences between British and American English. I have chosen this topic because I like the diversity of language and its examination. It is very interesting how language can become so different and yet be so similar due to the separation.

The theoretical part, called Theoretical Background, consists of 5 sub-chapters. The first one introduces basic facts of the development of American English. Other chapters deal with individual differences such as vocabulary and its division according to the relation of the words to each variety of English, different ways of spelling and the main points of the differences in pronunciation and grammar.

The third chapter, Method of the research, deals with the material which was used for the research and it will describe what exactly is going to be analyzed.

In the Practical part there is an analysis resulting in 150 differences found between British and American English in British and American newspapers.

The starting point of this thesis is a hypothesis that the varieties might not differ at all in the newspapers. A question arises whether the language used in the British and the American newspapers differ, and if they do in what measure and to what extent they differ.

The fifth chapter contains the conclusions of the whole research and it brings the possibilities for the further research.

The last part of the thesis is Summary written in the Czech language.



## 2 THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

It is well known that the English language is not unified. This language is considered as native language in several countries and it has its own form in each of them. However, there exists so called World Standard English (WSE) which is “strongly unifying force among the vast range of variation which exists” (Crystal, 2003, p.111). It is taught at schools and it is used by highly educated people. There are two most spread varieties of English in the world: American English (furthermore referred to as AmE) and British English (BrE). It is interesting how these two dialects differ from each other. American English (AmE) varies in every layer of language – phonetics, semantics, grammar, syntax and stylistics. However, there are some influences such as internet, television or music which change the usage of English in Britain and blur the differences.

### 2.1 English in the New World

The first British settlers came to North America in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. They brought elements of former English, like rhotic sound in to the New World. “A dialect is called rhotic ... if the ‘r’ is pronounced before a consonant or at the end of a word.” (Davies, 2005, p. 73) It is obvious that new objects came with the new continent. There were new kinds of animals, plants and other things that they had never seen and they had to call them somehow. They either invented new words for those objects or they learnt the names from the native inhabitants (*skunk, chipmunk, moccasin, squash*) or settlers from other countries such as Spain (*marijuana, cockroach, coyote, lasso, cafeteria*), France (*pumpkin, prairie, apache, brave*), the Netherlands (*cookie, waffle, boss, yankee*), Germany (*pretzel, hamburger, check, lager*), Italy (*pizza, spaghetti, zucchini*) etc. Most settlers from Britain arrived to the New World in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Both varieties, BrE and AmE, have been developing separately during the time and this has caused many differences. In fact, AmE is more similar to the English of the 17<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century that nowadays BrE is. There were several patriots who wanted to unite the American language. The most successful linguist was Noah Webster in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He believed that “a monarchy would produce one

kind of language and a republic another” (Finegan, Rickford, 2004, p. 12). He wrote several important works. One of them is “An American Dictionary of the English Language” published in 1828. He introduced new simplified spelling there and he included new words which were or still are unknown to the speakers of BrE.

## 2.2 Vocabulary

As stated by Crystal (2003, p. 308), if we want to compare the vocabulary of BrE and AmE we should distinguish three major groups of words. The first group consists of words that are used in Britain, while in AmE are either rare or not used at all. These words are called Briticisms. The other group are Americanisms. These words are used in AmE, while the British either use them rarely or do not use them at all. The last group consists of the words that have become part of WSE.

Crystal (2003, p. 308) has listed relation between Briticisms and Americanisms as follows: “Some words reflect cultural differences but are not part of WSE: There are no synonyms in the other variety”: AmE *G.I. Joe, hush puppy, drive thru*, BrE *argy-bargy, bobby, A-levels*.

“Some words are straightforward: they have a single sense, and synonym in the other variety”: AmE *counterclockwise* - BrE *anti-clockwise*, AmE *ass* - BrE *arse*, AmE *baggage* - BrE *luggage*, AmE *bartender* - BrE *barman*, AmE *movie* - BrE *film*, AmE *zucchini* - BrE *courgette*, AmE *busy signal* - BrE *engaged tone*, AmE *period* - BrE *full stop*, AmE *jail* - BrE *prison*, AmE *bar* - BrE *pub*, AmE *crosswalk* - BrE *zebra crossing*, AmE *shrimp* - BrE *prawn*, AmE *ladybug* - BrE *ladybird*, AmE *stuffed animal* - BrE *soft toy*, AmE *puzzle* - BrE *jigsaw*, AmE *antenna* - BrE *aerial*, AmE *pants* - BrE *trousers*, AmE *trunk* - BrE *boot*, AmE *hood* - BrE *bonnet*, AmE *streetcar* - BrE *tram*, AmE *band aid* - BrE *plaster*, AmE *sweets* - BrE *candy*, AmE *fall* - BrE *autumn*, AmE *cookie* - BrE *biscuit*, AmE *diaper* - BrE *napkin*, AmE *elevator* - BrE *lift*, AmE *eraser* - BrE *rubber*, AmE *faucet* - BrE *tap*, AmE *flashlight* - BrE *torch*, AmE *gas* - BrE *petrol*, AmE *freeway* - BrE *motorway*, AmE *pitcher* - BrE *jug*, AmE *subway* - BrE *underground*, AmE *stem* - BrE *stalk*, AmE *vacation* - BrE *holiday*, AmE *first floor* - BrE *ground floor*.

“Words which have at least one WSE meaning and one or more additional meanings that are specific either BrE or AmE”: *Accumulator* means ‘one that accumulates’ in BrE and AmE but in AmE it also refers to *parlay*, other examples are *amber* - ‘orange-yellow colour’ – AmE *yellow light*; *bomb* - ‘an explosive weapon’ – AmE *failure* – BrE *success*.

“Some words have one meaning in WSE and a synonym in one or other of the two varieties (sometimes both)”: *throw out* – AmE *kicked out* – BrE *chucked out*; *answering machine* – BrE *answerphone*; *babysitter* – BrE *baby minder*; *payphone* – AmE *phone booth* – BrE *phone box*; *fortnight* is a British term for ‘two weeks’.

“Some words have no WSE meaning, but different meanings in AmE and BrE”:  
AmE *soccer* - BrE *football*, AmE *football* - BrE *American football*; AmE *sidewalk* - BrE *pavement*, AmE *pavement* - BrE *paving*; AmE *attorney* - BrE *solicitor*, AmE *solicitor* - BrE *person who solits money or opinion*; AmE *chips* - BrE *crisps*, AmE *French Fries* - BrE – *chips*; AmE *bill* - BrE *banknote*, AmE *check* - BrE *bill*; AmE *wrench* - BrE *spanner*, AmE *pliers* - BrE *wrench*; AmE *turtle* - BrE *tortoise*, AmE *sea turtle* - BrE *turtle*; AmE *crazy* - BrE *mad*, AmE *mad* - BrE *angry*; AmE *corn* - BrE *maize*, AmE *grain* - BrE *corn*.

“Some words are used in both varieties, but are much more common in one of them”: AmE *apartment* - BrE *flat*, AmE *crib* - BrE *cot*, AmE *sailboat* - BrE *yacht*, AmE *store* - BrE *shop*.

The vocabulary of AmE also consists of words from other languages such as language of Native Americans (*tomahawk, terrapin, papoose, sachem, sagamore, squaw, powwow, tepee, wigwam, raccoon, sequoia*), the Dutch (*cookie, boss, yankee*), the Spanish (*cafeteria, marijuana, cockroach*), the French (*brave, depot, rapids, dime*), the Italian (*pizza, espresso, parmesan*) and the German (*pretzel, hamburger bummer, docent*). It also consists of British words which are no longer used in the UK and ultimately new words for things in the “New world” which were unknown to the colonists.

### 2.3 Pronunciation

There is no perfect way to describe all differences in pronunciation. There are many accent areas in Britain and US. The British and Americans recognize each other primarily through the tone of intonation. If we want to compare BrE and AmE, we have to determine which two varieties of English it is the best to use for the analysis. We can work with the General American (GA) for US and Received Pronunciation (RP) for Britain. In the USA there are three main regional varieties: Southern, Northern and General American. General American is sometimes called Network English, because it is used mainly on TV or on the radio. "... in the United States there is no non-localizable upper-class accent, but presenters in the major networks use a homogenized accent (Network English) that avoids regional associations." (Greenbaum, 1996, p. 17) Received Pronunciation is considered as a dialect of highly educated people. It has been taught at private schools. BBC reporters speak with RP and therefore this variety is sometimes called BBC English or Queen's English.

In due course, RP came to symbolize a person's high position in society. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it became the accent of the public schools ... and was soon the main sign that a speaker had received a good education. It spread rapidly throughout the Civil Service of the British Empire and the armed forces, and became the voice of authority and power. Because it was a regionally 'neutral' accent, and was thought to be more widely understood than any regional accent, it came to be adopted by the BBC... (Crystal, 2003, p. 365)

There are some peculiarities which can occur during defining the differences. The main differences are in articulation of vowels and consonants, location of stress and distribution. Americans use word stress differently to be sure to pronounce all syllables. Therefore they put stress on the second or third syllable. In the following paragraphs there are mentioned the main differences in the pronunciation between BrE and AmE.

The “a” sound is pronounced in a long way in Britain, in contrast to the American way of pronunciation which is short. According to Darragh (2000, p. v), English of the southern England began to change from a flat “a” to a broad “a” in near end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The change affected words in which the vowel occurred before “f”, “sk”, “sp”, “st”, “ss”, “th”, and “n” followed by certain consonants. The flat “a” is more typical for American English. Some examples are: *can't* AmE [kænt] - BrE [ka:nt]; *dance* AmE [dæns] - BrE [da:ns], *pass* AmE [pæs] - BrE [pa:s].

There is a group of words which are pronounced with different sounds in BrE and AmE. In Britain the vowel is pronounced as open “o” /ɒ/. This is the sound that AmE does not have. It is used in words like ‘dog’, ‘got’ or ‘stop’. American “o” sounds more like long “a” /ɑ:/ in words such as *cot* AmE [ka:t] - BrE [kɒt], *shock* AmE [ʃɑ:k] - BrE [ʃɒk] or long “o” /ɔ:/: *dog* AmE [dɔ:g] - BrE [dɒg] but a bit shorter. Darragh (2000) claims:

In England, this is still an open “o” pronounced with lips rounded and the tongue at the back of the mouth. In America ... it has commonly lost its rounding and in most words has become a sound very similar in quality to the “a” in ‘father’, only shorter. (p. 10)

In the BrE there is the difference to the AmE caused by the use of notional “y” before the sound “u”. This is not applied in AmE. Examples are: *duty* AmE [du:ti] - BrE [dju:ti], *enthusiastic* AmE [ɪn'θu:zi'æstɪk] - BrE [ɪn'θju:zi'æstɪk], *illuminate* AmE [ɪlu:mɪneɪt] - BrE [ɪlju:mɪneɪt], *new* AmE [nu:] - BrE [nju:], *tune* AmE [tu:ne] - BrE [tju:ne]. “[These words would the Americans] pronounced as though spelled ‘toon’, ‘doo’, ‘enthoosiastic’, ‘noo’ ... only seldom ... would you hear the pronunciations ‘tyune’ and ‘dyuty’...” (Finegan, Rickford, 2004, p. 25)

In RP the “r” sound has almost disappeared. The only exception is when it is located before vowel. It means that it is not pronounced before a consonant or at the end of the word. This accent is called non-rhotic. Exception of the latter is when the next word

begins with the vowel. Generally, in the US the “r” sound is pronounced in all positions and it is called rhotic pronunciation. Here are some examples: *Bird* AmE [bɜ:rd] - BrE [bɜ:d], *court* AmE [kɔ:rt] - BrE [kɔ:t], *first* AmE [fɜrst] - BrE [fə:st], *were* AmE [wɜ:r] - BrE [wə]. “In eastern New England, New York City and most of the South follow the English practice. Americans joke about New Englanders who *pahk the cah in the yahd*. However, elsewhere in the States the “r” is pronounced in all positions.” (Darragh, 2000, p. 9)

The sound “t” is pronounced in proper way in England but in the US are some changes in pronunciation. The sound “t” tends to be eliminated after nasal consonants such as “m”, “n” and “ng”. On the other hand it sounds as “d” between two vowels in the middle of word such as in *Writer* AmE [ˈraɪdr] - BrE [ˈraɪtə(r)], *rider* AmE [ˈraɪdr] - BrE [ˈraɪdə(r)]. “The “t/d” sound is a flap or tap of the tip of the tongue and is represented by [ɾ] in the International Phonetic Alphabet...” (Finegan, Rickford, 2004, p. 23)

Another group of words is pronounced with /aɪl/ in BrE, whereas in AmE they are pronounced with simple /l/. *Fertile* AmE [ˈfɜ:rtəl] - BrE [ˈfɜ:təl], *fragile* AmE [ˈfrædʒəl] - BrE [ˈfrædʒaɪl], *missile* AmE [ˈmɪsəl] - BrE [ˈmɪsaɪl]. “Adjectives like mobile, facile, fertile, missile, and sterile are pronounced as though ending in –al; thus ‘fert-al’ corresponds to BrE ‘fer-tile’.” (Finegan, Rickford, 2004, p. 25)

As Swan (2002, p. 45) stated, in AmE words ending in ‘-ory’, ‘-ary’ and ‘-ery’ have one more syllable than in BrE. The examples are: *Inventory* AmE [ˈɪnvəntɔ:ri] - BrE [ˈɪnvəntri], *laboratory* AmE [ˈlæbrətɔ:ri] - BrE [ləˈbɒrətəri], *library* AmE [ˈlaɪbreri] - BrE [ˈlaɪbrəri], *military* AmE [ˈmɪlɪteri] - BrE [ˈmɪlɪtəri], *secretary* AmE [ˈsekrateri] - BrE [ˈsekrəri].

## 2.4 Spelling

According to Daragh (2000, p. 2) it is impossible to write a full list of spelling differences because even the authors of dictionaries are not able to agree about which alternative of spelling is preferred in the particular variety of English. Another problem is usage of spacing or hyphen in compound words. Because of the frequency of the

compound words, it would be an endless list. It is more common for AmE to omit the hyphen: AmE *bookkeeper* – BrE *book-keeper*, AmE *ultramodern* – BrE *ultra-modern*, AmE *to backpedal* – BrE *to back-pedal*.

Another frequent difference in spelling of British and American words is group of words ending in ‘-re’/’-er’. In the examples such as AmE *center* – BrE *centre*, AmE *fiber* – BrE *fibres*, AmE *liter* – BrE *litre*, AmE *saber* – BrE *sabre*, AmE *scepter* – BrE *scepter* we can see the usage of these suffixes. AmE is not as unified in usage of ‘-er’ as British is in usage of ‘-re’. It is possible to encounter the suffix ‘-re’ in the AmE as well. For example the word ‘theatre’ in this form is frequently used in the US. Darragh (2000, p.3) writes that “most GB words ending in ‘-tre’, usually deriving from French, end in ‘-ter’ in the US.”

Group of words with suffixes ‘-or’ and ‘-our’ is well known among the people probably because of words as: AmE *arbor* – BrE *arbour*, AmE *behavior* – BrE *behaviour*, AmE *color* – BrE *colour*, AmE *favor* – BrE *favour*, AmE *harbor* – BrE *harbour*, AmE *neighbor* – BrE *neighbour*, AmE *tumor* – BrE *tumour*. Davies (2005, p. 90) summarized it as “most words ending in ‘-our’ in British spelling end in ‘-or’ in American spelling.”

Another group of words with different spelling can be considered as one of the largest groups. These are the words with suffixes ‘-ize’ and ‘-yze’ in AmE and ‘-ise’ and ‘-yse’ in BrE. As stated by Davies (2005, p. 90): “The suffix –ize is preferred by some British dictionaries for these words. However, most Britons prefer –ise suffix, which reflects French influence.” Some of words which are covered in this group are AmE *apologize* – BrE *apologise*, AmE *criticize* – BrE *criticise*, AmE *finalize* – BrE *finalise*, AmE *realize* – BrE *realise*, AmE *symbolize* – BrE *symbolise*, AmE *analyze* – BrE *analyse*, AmE *paralyze* – BrE *paralyse* and the word AmE *cozy* – BrE *cosy* can be included as well.

Words of Greek origin are spelled differently in BrE and AmE. BrE preserves the same or the similar spelling as the original words with the vowel ‘e’ after vowels ‘o’ or ‘a’. Americans write the words only with ‘a’ or ‘e’: AmE *anemia* – BrE *anaemia*, AmE *cesarean* – BrE *caesarean*, AmE *diarrhea* – BrE *diaerrhea*, AmE *hemoglobin* – BrE *haemoglobin*, AmE *edema* – BrE *oedema*, AmE *maneuver* – BrE *manoeuvre*. Davies (2005) described it as:

Most words that have an ‘a’ directly followed by an ‘e’ in British English ... are spelled without the ‘a’ in American English. Similarly, the ‘o’ is omitted in words such as ‘oedema’ ... and ‘oesophagus’ in American English.” (p. 90)

The three following groups are not as common as the previous ones. One of them consists of the words with ‘-gram’ or ‘-gramme’. The latter spelling is used in BrE in words such as *programme* – AmE *program*, *telegramme* – AmE *telegram* and *gramme* – AmE *gram*. The other group of words is with suffixes ‘-og’ or ‘-ogue’: AmE *catalog* – BrE *catalogue*, AmE *dialog* – BrE *dialogue*. The last of the three groups is the one with difference of letters ‘-s-’ or ‘-c-’. It concerns only a few words: AmE *defense* – BrE *defence*, AmE *license* – BrE *licence*, AmE *offense* – BrE *offence*, AmE *pretense* – BrE *pretence*. The examples are taken from Longman Dictionary (2005).

It is a rule in both varieties that the final consonant of the base is doubled after stressed vowel when the suffixes ‘-ed’, ‘-ing’ or ‘-er’ are added. However, there is an exception in BrE. The final consonants are doubled even if the perceiving vowel is unstressed: AmE *canceled* – BrE *cancelled*, AmE *groveling* – BrE *grovelling*, AmE *kidnaper* – BrE *kidnapper*, AmE *signaled* – BrE *signalled*, AmE *traveling* – BrE *travelling*, AmE *worshiper* – BrE *worshipper*. Darragh (2000, p. 6) claims that “in American spelling, when you add a suffix like ‘-ing’, ‘-ed’, or ‘-er’ to a word, you double the final consonant only if the stress falls on the second syllable of the root word.” There is another exception in BrE. According to Darragh (2000, p. 6) “A certain number of disyllabic verbs stressed on the second syllable are written in British English with a single ‘-l’ but in American English with ‘-ll’.” Here are some examples: AmE *enroll* – BrE *enrol*, AmE *fulfill* – BrE *fulfil*, AmE *instill* – BrE *instil*.

Other words which vary in spelling can be those which differ only in one letter. As Finegar, Rickford (2004, p. 36) say, some of these spelling distinctions cause differences in pronunciation. These are words like AmE *aluminum* – BrE *aluminium*, AmE *behoove* – BrE *behave*, AmE *donut* – BrE *doughnut*, AmE *draft* – BrE *draught*, AmE *pajamas* – BrE *pyjamas*, AmE *plunk* – BrE *plonk*, AmE *mom* – BrE *mum*, AmE *naught* – BrE *nought*, AmE *tire* – BrE *tyre*.



## 2.5 Grammar

Grammar and syntax of BrE and AmE is similar. It is caused by the big influence of AmE on BrE which is constantly growing. The language of American films, television, music and Internet web sites has an effect on British grammar and vocabulary as well. Therefore there is possible to have two forms of a word in one variety of English. Division of differences is in accordance with Darragh, (2000).

### 2.5.1 Irregular verbs

Verbs are of two classes, regular and irregular in the past simple tense. There are some cases where are two forms of the verb used in one variety of the language. Regular form is usually preferred in AmE, while BrE prefer the irregular form. There are some exceptions like everywhere else. Here are the forms: AmE *burned, burnt* - BrE *burnt, burned*, AmE *busted* - BrE *bust*, AmE *dived, dove* - BrE *dived*, AmE *dreamed, dreamt* - BrE *dreamt, dreamed*, AmE *dwelled* - BrE *dwelt*, AmE *fit* - BrE *fitted*, AmE *forgot, forgotten* - BrE *forgotten* (past participle), AmE *gotten, got* - BrE *got* (past participle), AmE *hewn* - BrE *hewed* (past participle), AmE *knelt, kneeled* - BrE *knelt*, AmE *leaned* - BrE *leaned/leant*, AmE *leaped, leapt* - BrE *leaped/leapt*, AmE *learned* - BrE *learned/learnt*, AmE *mowed* - BrE *mown* (past participle), AmE *proven, proved* - BrE *proved* (past participle), AmE *quit* - BrE *quitted*, AmE *sawed* - BrE *sawn* (past participle), AmE *sewed* - BrE *sewn* (past participle), AmE *shaved* - BrE *shaven* (past participle), AmE *smelled, smelt* - BrE *smelt/smelled*, AmE *spelled* - BrE *spelt/spelled*, AmE *spilled* - BrE *spilt/spilled*, AmE *spit* - BrE *spat*, AmE *spoiled* - BrE *spoilt/spoiled*, AmE *spotlighted* - BrE *spotlighted/spotlit*, AmE *stank, stunk* - BrE *stank*, AmE *strived/strived* - BrE *strove/striven*, AmE *woke, waked* - BrE *woke*, AmE *wet* - BrE *wetted*. Crystal (2003, p. 311) says that “Gotten is probably the most distinctive of all AmE/BrE grammatical differences.”

According to Darragh (2000, p. 16) “verbs “*fit*”, “*quit*” and “*wet*” are irregular in American English where they have all three forms the same. In Britain these forms can be found too, because of the influence of American English.”

### 2.5.2 Tenses

Where AmE uses present progressive, present perfect or future tense, BrE sometimes uses passive present tense: “*Anthony Caro is made a knight.*” (Algeo, 2006, p. 24)

Where the British always use present perfect tense, Americans uses either present perfect or past simple tense. This happens if the past action has a result in present. It can be also seen with words like already, just, yet or ever and never. A few examples by Darragh (2000, p. 17): AmE *I’ve lost my keys. Have you seen them?* or *I lost my keys. Did you see them?* - BrE *I’ve lost my keys. Have you seen them?*, AmE *John isn’t here. He’s gone to the bank.* or *John isn’t here. He went to the bank.* - BrE *John isn’t here. He’s gone to the bank.*, AmE *I’m not hungry. I’ve just had breakfast.* or *I’m not hungry. I just had breakfast.* - BrE *I’m not hungry. I’ve just had breakfast.*, AmE *You can’t speak to him. He’s already left.* or *You can’t speak to him. He already left.* - BrE *You can’t speak to him. He’s already left.*, AmE *Have you finished the letter yet?* or *Did you finish the letter yet?* - BrE *Have you finished the letter yet?*, AmE *Have you ever read Macbeth?* or *Did you ever read Macbeth?* - BrE *Have you ever read Macbeth?*, AmE *I’ve never seen this man before in my life.* or *I never saw this man before in my life.* - BrE *I’ve never seen this man before in my life.*

In the matter of the second conditional BrE uses ‘was’ while AmE ‘were’: AmE *If I were you I wouldn’t do it.* - BrE *If I was you I wouldn’t do it.*

### 1.5.3 Auxiliary and modal verbs

In BrE “will” can be substituted by “shall” or “shan’t” when pronouns “I” or “we” are used. According to Darragh (2000, p. 18) “‘shall’ and its contracted negative ‘shan’t’ can be substituted for ‘will’, indicating the future...” If “shall” in BrE has a meaning of asking for advice, AmE uses should instead: AmE *I will write the paper tomorrow.* - BrE *I will/shall the paper tomorrow.*, AmE *It won’t be done by Wednesday.* - BrE *It won’t/shan’t be done by Wednesday.*, AmE *Which chair should I buy?* - BrE *Which chair should/shall I buy?*

In BrE it is common to use *can* and *could* with verbs of perception. However, it is possible in AmE too: AmE *I saw John skiing.* - BrE *I could see John skiing.*, AmE *I smelled his breath.* - BrE *I could smell his breath.* “To talk about seeing, hearing etc at a particular moment, we often use *can see*, *can hear* etc, especially in British English.” (Swan, 2002, p. 110)

In BrE “*needn’t*” can be found as a substitute for “*don’t need to*”. In American English it is not common (Darragh, 2000, p. 18): AmE *I don’t need to sell it.* - BrE *I don’t need to/ needn’t sell it.*

Subjunctive structures are common in English, but Britons prefer use of *should* before the infinitive: Swan (2002, p. 566) claims that “[The subjunctive] is sometimes used in that-clauses in a formal style, especially in American English, after words which express the idea that something is important or desirable...” Here are some examples: AmE *Is it necessary that the dog be killed?* - BrE *Is it necessary that the dog should be killed?*, AmE *What do you suggest we go?* - BrE *Where do you suggest we (should) go?*, AmE *He recommended that I be promoted.* - BrE *He recommended that I (should) be promoted.*

In BrE “*do*” can be used as substitute after an auxiliary verb. This cannot be found in AmE: AmE -Will you buy it? -I may. - BrE -Will you buy it? -I may/may do. “In British English, but not American, ‘do’ can be used alone as a substitute verb after an auxiliary verb.” (Swan, 2002, p. 164)

#### **1.5.4 Expressions with ‘have’ or ‘take’**

In some cases of phrases BrE prefers ‘*have*’ instead of ‘*take*’ which is more common in AmE as Darragh (2000, p. 19) stated: AmE *take/have a shower* – BrE *have a shower*, AmE *take a bath* - BrE *have a bath*, AmE *take a look* – BrE *have a look*

### 1.5.5 Position of adverbs

In AmE it is common to use certain adverbs such as *'always'*, *'certainly'*, *'definitely'*, *'never'*, *'often'* and *'sometimes'* before the auxiliary verbs, while in BrE this position is emphatic. "In American English..., mid-position adverbs are often put before auxiliary verbs and *'am/are/is/was/were'*, even when the verb is not emphasized." (Swan, 2002, p. 26) These adverbs in BrE are placed between the auxiliary verb and full verb. AmE *She often has no work to do.* - BrE *She has often no work to do.* (normal) *She often has no work to do.* (emphatic), AmE *It probably will take ages.* - BrE *It will probably take ages.*, AmE *She absolutely was responsible for that.* - BrE *She was absolutely responsible for that.*, AmE *He long has been dreaming about her.* - BrE *He has long been dreaming about her.*

### 2.5.6 'Real', 'pretty' and 'quite' as intensifiers

Use of adjective *'real'* as an intensifier is characteristic for AmE. BrE asserts the word *'really'*. Therefore we can see or hear *'real fast'*, *'real good'*, *'real nice'*, *'real big'* in AmE and *'really fast'*, *'really good'*, *'really nice'*, *'really big'* according to Finegan, Rickford (2004, p. 31) Intensifiers *'pretty'* and *'quite'* can be considered as synonyms. *'Pretty'* is used in AmE while Britons prefer intensifier *'quite'* (Finegan, Rickford, 2004, p.32) : AmE *pretty good* – BrE *quite good*, AmE *pretty funny* – BrE *quite funny*.

### 2.5.7 Collective nouns

Collective nouns and some names of countries and companies have singular verb in AmE. In BrE these nouns can have verbs either in singular or plural form. Singular form is common when the group is considered as a unit. Plural form is used when people talk about the group consisting of individual members. Here is a few examples by Darragh (2000, p. 20): "AmE *The committee hasn't made a decision yet.* - BrE *The committee hasn't/haven't made a decision yet.*, AmE *Italy is scheduled to play Brazil in the opening match.* - BrE *Italy is/are scheduled to play Brazil in the opening match.*, AmE *Air France*

*has announced additional flights.* – BrE *Air France have/has announced additional flights.*” “The AmE subject-verb agreement pattern is determined by the singular or plural form of the noun rather than by its sense. ... British publications increasingly use the AmE pattern.” (Finegan, Rickford, 2004, p. 28)

### 2.5.8 Prepositions

Crystal (2003, p. 311) says that BrE and AmE also differ in the use of prepositions. Here are some of the differences: AmE *seven after four* – BrE *seven past four*, AmE *ten of eight* – BrE *ten to eight*, AmE *half past two* – BrE *half two*, AmE *have done it in ages* – BrE *have done it for ages*, AmE *to have an appointment (on) Monday* – BrE *to have an appointment on Monday*, AmE *on the weekend/ weekends* – BrE *at the weekend/ weekends*, AmE *on American street* – BrE *in American street*, AmE *in the course* – BrE *on the course*, AmE *different than* – BrE *different to/from*, AmE *come over* – BrE *come round*, AmE *in back of the building* – BrE *behind the building*, AmE *do it over* – BrE *do it again*, AmE *toward* – BrE *towards*, AmE *around* – BrE *round*, AmE *to meet with sb* – BrE *to meet sb*, AmE *to talk with sb* – BrE *to talk to sb*, AmE *to write (to) sb* – BrE *to write to sb*.

### 2.5.9 Use of ‘one’

When ‘one’ is used in BrE as the general subject, it is used in the whole utterance as the subject or object, while in AmE they prefer using personal pronouns later in the sentence: Darragh (2000, p. 21) claims “The pronoun ‘one’, used to talk about people in general, including the speaker and the listener, is much less used in the US than in GB.” AmE *One should be careful about his stuff.* - BrE *One should be careful about one’s stuff.*, AmE *One cannot be smart unless he studies.* - BrE *One cannot be smart unless one studies.*

### 2.5.10 Use of 'got' and 'gotten'

In the view of Finegan, Rickford (2004, p. 29), AmE uses both forms but in the different cases. *Got* is used as the verbs *become* or *arrive*. In the sentences with present or past perfect, Americans prefer the form *gotten*: *I have gotten a new bag.*; Speakers of BrE would never use *gotten*. It is archaic and it is no more used in Britain. Algeo (2006) describes different uses of *got* and *gotten* as follows:

American uses both participles, but often in different senses: *got* typically for static senses like “possess” in *I’ve got it* = “I have it” and “be required” in *I’ve got to go* = “I must go”; and *gotten*, typically for dynamic senses like “acquire” in *I’ve gotten it* = “I have received it” and “be permitted” in *I’ve gotten to go* = “I have become able to go.” The American use of *gotten* is more common in conversation than in written registers ... (p. 14)

### 2.5.11 Punctuation

One of the differences in punctuation is the use of the full stop (AmE period). According to Swan (2002, p. 2) the British do not use full stop after or in abbreviations, Americans do: AmE *Mr.* - BrE *Mr*, AmE *Ltd.* - BrE *Ltd*, AmE *kg.* - BrE *kg*, AmE *a.m.* - BrE *am*, AmE *p.m.* - BrE *pm*, AmE *U.S.* - BrE *US*. Another difference is in the use of the quotation marks. The Americans prefer double quotation marks, while the British use single quotation marks; however it is common to use double quotation marks in Britain too. It depends on the regional preferences. Swan (2002) claims that:

We use quotation marks when we quote direct speech. Single quotation marks (‘...’) are more common in British English, and double quotation marks (“...”) in American English. For quotations inside quotations, we use double quotation marks inside single (or single inside double).” (p. 471)

AmE “*It is a nice day,*” said Peter. - BrE ‘*It is a nice day,*’ said Peter.; AmE “*He told me, ‘It is a nice day.’*” said Peter. – BrE ‘*He told me, “It is a nice day.”*’ said Peter.

### **2.5.12 Form of the date**

Even date is written in different manners in the two varieties. The Americans write the number of the day after the month and comma before the year. (Swan, 2002, p. 142)

BrE *30 March 1995* AmE *March 30, 1995*

In conclusion, BrE and AmE differ in vocabulary, spelling, pronunciation and grammar. All the differences mentioned in this work can be found in the spoken language and/or in the written form of the language. Because of the disunity of speakers of both BrE and AmE, there can be some inconsistencies in the use of the individual examples of the differences between these two varieties of the English language.

### 3 METHOD OF THE RESEARCH

This chapter describes the process of acquisition of data important for the theoretical part as well as the methods used in the analysis.

There are used a few books about the differences between BrE and AmE. The most helpful one, *A to zed, A to zee*, was written by Glenn Darragh. The whole work deals with all categories of diversity between BrE and AmE. Another book was written by two professors of linguistics, Finegan and Rickford. It is called *Language in the USA*. There is beneficial a chapter called *American English and its distinctiveness*. Although the chapter does not involve all issues of diversity between BrE and AmE, it provides some other facts that are not described in other books. Michael Swan wrote a reference guide, *Practical English usage*, which also explains some elements of the English language important for this thesis. *Divided by a common language* by Christopher Davies is another book dealing with differences between BrE and AmE. It contains an extensive British-American dictionary. It brings a description of some cases of diversity between BrE and AmE. Unfortunately, there is not lot of space devoted to grammar and in the chapter about pronunciation are used some special signs for explanation of the sounds. Despite these deficiencies the book is useful for our purpose. The individual examples of diversity between BrE and AmE were taken from Longman dictionary of English language and culture. The last but not least book used for the description of differences between BrE and AmE was written by David Crystal and it is called *The Cambridge encyclopedia of the English language*. The elements of the diversity are briefly mentioned there as well.

For the analysis only respectable newspapers were chosen, three British newspapers and several American newspapers. They were chosen because of publishing frequency. One of the British newspapers is *The Guardian*. This newspaper is a national daily newspaper. Its political inclination is centre-left liberalism. Another British paper used for the aims of the analysis is *The Observer*, sister papers of *The Guardian*. It is published only on Sundays. Its political focus is also on centre-left liberalism. *The Daily Telegraph* is the last British newspaper which was examined. This newspaper is a national daily



newspaper which is rather conservative. One of the American newspapers searched for the elements of diversity between BrE and AmE is called *The Wall Street Journal Europe*. It is a European edition of The Wall Street Journal. This is a daily newspaper which brings news for Europe, the Middle East and Africa. The newspaper primarily deals with American and international business and it is considered to be conservative from the political point of view. Another newspaper is *The Washington Post*, which covers mostly national politics and it is published daily. The paper is not unified in political opinion, although the majority of editors lean to the Democratic Party. *The New York Times* newspaper was also examined. This is a daily newspaper which seems to have no political opinion or slight slant to the left. The last American newspaper used for the analysis was *USA Today*. It is a national daily newspaper with liberal political focus.

All the articles were published on the Internet. The newest ones are from April 2012 and the oldest article is from July 1999. These articles were selected for currency of use of individual linguistic expressions. It was needed to examine a large number of newspaper articles to obtain necessary material for the analysis. The individual units of diversity between BrE and AmE were compared and the difference between them was described.

## 4 THE ANALYSIS

This chapter presents individual expressions which differ in BrE and AmE. They are compared and the differences are described. The following analysis is based on items extracted from American newspapers. Each such word or expression is completed by its British equivalent taken from the British press. The sample contains 300 items which have been put into 150 pairs consisting of one AmE word and one BrE word. Because of analyzing of written text, there are not included differences in pronunciation.

### 4.1 The analysis of individual items

I The New York Times (Cooper, March 4, 2012)

1. Mr. Obama said: “.....Israeli leaders also know all too well the costs and consequences of war, even as they **recognize** their obligation ....”

Mr. Obama said: “... .. Israeli leaders also know all too well the costs and consequences of war, even as they **recognise** their obligation ....” The Guardian (McGreal, March 5, 2012) věty je možné zkrátit, nechat nejnutnější kontext

Disparity in spelling: AmE -z- / BrE -s-

2. Mr. Obama said: “... such talk has only benefited the Iranian government by driving up the price of oil, which they depend on to fund their nuclear **program**.”

Mr. Obama said: “... such talk has only benefited the Iranian government, by driving up the price of oil, which they depend upon to fund their nuclear **programme**....” The Guardian (McGreal, March 5, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: Removal of ending *-me* in AmE

3. ...while the intensions of the Iranian regime remain opaque, we don't believe they have made the decision to **weaponize**.

Pyongyang has claimed it has already **weaponised** enough plutonium for four or five warheads. The Guardian (26 May, 2009)

Disparity in spelling: AmE -z- / BrE -s-

4. ...delivered by a president who was initially **criticized** for pushing Israel too hard to make concessions for peace with the Palestinians.

China rarely **criticises** Pyongyang publicly... The Guardian (26 May, 2009)

Disparity in spelling: AmE -z- / BrE -s-

5. ...that could serve to speed Iran **toward** a nuclear weapon.

Despite moves last night **towards** a new resolution, most analysts say the UN security council can do little more... The Guardian (26 May, 2009)

Disparity in spelling and sound: removal of -s in AmE

II The New York Times (Menkes, March 2, 2012)

6. Mr. Gaytten is wedded to Christian Dior's grand era: The signature pale **gray** and pale pink palette of the 1950s....

The colour palette was muted in tones of **grey**, rose and plum. The Guardian (Fox, March 2, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE -a- / BrE -e-

7. His **color** palette of pink, mauve and burgundy might have been sugary...

The **colour** palette was muted in tones of grey, rose and plum. The Guardian (Fox, March 2, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE -o- / BrE -ou-

8. ...yet never making the dresses or jackets and **pants** seem overworked.

"There's a zip in these **trousers**," I say to myself. The Guardian (Chilvers, March 15, 2012).

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *pants* / BrE *trousers*

9. An apron front to a sleek outfit turned to reveal a slim skirt with a bold **zipper**...

"There's a **zip** in these trousers," I say to myself. The Guardian (Chilvers, March 15, 2012).

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *zipper* /BrE *zip*.

10. ...in order to **modernize** what could have seemed like a costume party...

Our Sultan, Sultan Qaboos, he has **modernised** our country... The Observer (Thorpe, August 30, 2009)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-z-* / BrE *-s-*

11. Because the designer has always **leaned** to the delicacy of lingerie for Ricci...

...I **leant** out of the car window and smelt the air... The Observer (Thorpe, August 30, 2009)

Disparity in grammar: Verb *lean* is regular in AmE while in BrE it is irregular.

12. This young woman's **mom** must have lived in tweedy Chanel-esque suits, for that knobby fabric kept popping up as inserts in chiffon or lace.

Jenko has to move in with Schmidt at his **mum** and dad's and experience the full horror of the kiddie photos on the wall. The Guardian (Bradshaw, March 15, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: The words differ only in one vowel. AmE *-o-* / BrE *-u-*

III The Washington Post (AP, March 14, 2012)

13. On day five of the **vacation**, a teacher posted a note meant to reassure parents back at home.

14., 15., 16. The **bus** carrying 52 people, including students of around age 12 from two different Belgian schools, hit the tunnel wall shortly after 9 **p.m.** Tuesday night on a **highway** near the southern town of Sierre, Switzerland, in an area of popular ski resorts.

The group was returning from a skiing (13) **holiday** at the resort of Val d'Anniviers to Belgium when their (14) **coach** struck a wall in a (16) **motorway** tunnel at around 9.15 (15) **pm** yesterday. The Daily Telegraph (Holehouse, March 14, 2012)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *vacation* / BrE *holiday* and AmE *bus* / BrE *coach* and AmE *highway* / BrE *motorway*

Disparity in punctuation: AmE *p.m.* / BrE *pm*

17. A government spokesman said a crisis **center** has been set up and an emergency number provided for families.

We have set up a crisis **centre** for pupils. The Daily Telegraph (Holehouse, March 14, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-er* / BrE *-re*

18. ... the speed limit was 100 **kilometers** per hour...

...100 **kilometres** per hour... The Daily Telegraph (Holehouse, March 14, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-er* / BrE *-re*

#### IV The Wall Street Journal (Bolick, February 18, 2012)

19. As my father's daily routine suggests, even a small town's **sidewalk** culture can be a rich source of belonging and community.

He said the coach is believed to have clipped the **pavement** of the tunnel before ploughing into the wall. (Holehouse, March 14, 2012)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *sidewalk* / BrE *pavement*

20. He sent a copy to me, his unmarried, apartment-renting daughter, in case I ever found my thoughts **traveling** in a similar direction.

The accident happened in a motorway tunnel running from east to west and exiting at Sierre as the bus was **travelling** towards Sion. (Holehouse, March 14, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-l-* / BrE *-ll-*

#### V The Washington Post (DeYoung, March 13, 2012)

21. But early retreat has its own drawbacks, both politically and for **U.S.** national security.

Britain's ambassador to the **US**, Sir Peter Westmacott, said that he did not believe recent negative incidents,... The Daily Telegraph (Winnett, Foster, March 12, 2012)

Disparity in punctuation: AmE *U.S.* / BrE *US*

22. Polls indicate that the majority of Americans **favor** a quicker end to the war.

...the President was thought to **favour** closer ties with Asian countries rather than traditional allies in Europe. The Daily Telegraph (Winnett, Foster, March 12, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-o-* / BrE *-ou-*

VI The Washington Post article (Wilber, March 13, 2012)

23. ...a 23-year-old robber wanted for skipping a court appearance — leaps from the **apartment**'s third-floor window.

Her third-floor **flat** was spare but airily comfortable, painted in faded shades of yellow, blue, and green. The Guardian (Eaves, October 14, 2011)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *apartment*/ BrE *flat*

24. ...he pulled a blue dossier from his bullet-resistant **vest** and restudied his notes.

Then a man in a fluorescent **waistcoat** came over to me and said:... The Guardian (Morris, October 20, 2010)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *vest*/ BrE *waistcoat*

25. The woman, the deputy **realized**, was probably the fugitive's girlfriend.

The regime must **realise** that hosting glitzy events such as Eurovision won't mask the extent of the country's human rights violations. The Guardian (McVeigh, March 11, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-z-* / BrE *-s-*

VII The Washington Post (Hopler, March 9, 2012)

26. "Turn off your **cellphone**, Honor,"...

Industry analysts predict that one third of Britons will be using **cellular phones** by end of the year. The Guardian (Teather, July 8, 1999)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *cellphone* / BrE *cellular phone*

27. We give in and spend a day at the park, hoping that what they **learned** among the redwoods and sequoias won't be erased by their re-immersion in entertainment land.

"This is something of a paradox since we have just **learnt** that Northern Ireland is the happiest region of the UK," ... The Guardian (McDonald, March 26, 2012)

Disparity in grammar: Verb *learn* is regular in AmE while in BrE it is irregular.

VIII The Washington Post (Thomas, March 9, 2012)

28. Brendan is in the **movie** business and knows Los Angeles better than I do.

...after he directed the older man in the **film** version of Mojo... The Guardian (Dickson, March 26, 2012)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *movie* / BrE *film*

- 29., 30. With the Stanley Rose bookstore right next door, the 6600 block of Hollywood Boulevard was **L.A.**'s literary **epicenter**.

...you just don't wear fancy outfits during the day in (29) **LA**... The Guardian (Forrest, November 30, 2007)

Disparity in punctuation: AmE *L.A.* / BrE *LA*

And given Europe's history, in which weaker regions of the continent have become the (30) **epicentres** of conflict, Germany would not thrive in a sea of failing member states. The Guardian (Hill, March 21, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-er* / BrE *-re*

31. Musso's back room — the writers' unofficial hangout — was later taken over by a **theater**, but some important artifacts survived.

You don't go to the **theatre** to choose your neighbours. The Guardian (Dickson, March 26, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-er* / BrE *-re*

32. Many were exiles from the East Coast, and the dimly lit steak-house was a refuge from the glittery Hollywood they **satirized** in their novels and stories.

"I am the son of a humble coal miner" or, as Stephen Colbert **satirised** it, "My grandfather was a humble goat-ball licker." The Guardian (Forrest, November 30, 2007)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-z-* / BrE *-s-*

33. "Tough **neighborhood**," Schave says.

The European **neighbourhood** must be maintained by all, each according to their abilities, or the whole will suffer. The Guardian (Hill, March 21, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-o-* / BrE *-ou-*

34. It's the same now as it's always been: the same **liquor stores**, barbershops and pastel-colored houses with bars on the windows.

It's easy to get fake ID that works in (47) **off licenses**, though not in big pubs or clubs. The Guardian (Robertson, September 10, 2008)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *liquor store* / BrE *off license*

35. "Cabernet, merlot or pinot noir?" asks the **bartender**.

Mikey Harrington, 21, from Leeds and a **barman**, says peer pressure decreases with age. The Guardian (Robertson, September 10, 2008)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *bartender* / BrE *barman*

IX The Wall Street Journal (Sissons, March 9, 2012) [1]

- 36., 37. Harry Collins of Royal Tunbridge Wells-based family firm G. Collins & Sons, who as the current crown **jeweler** cares and maintains the crown jewels and makes the queen's personal **jewelry**, says he isn't disclosing his plans for the Jubilee year.

The son of a (36) **jeweller** who grew up in Cricklewood in north London... The Guardian (Kollewe, July 28, 2011)



Disparity in spelling: AmE *-l-* / BrE *-ll-*

...girls with tattoos or peculiar (37) **jewellery**, boys with long hair, could all be swept up. The Guardian (Long, March 18, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-lry* / BrE *-llery*

38. ...the pendant (priced from £4,500) has a diamond on the top of the crown and, to make it more **personalized**, one's birthstone can be added on the side.

... but seeing how well Sam is responding to his **personalised**, post-school timetable.... The Guardian (Moore, March 24, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-z-* / BrE *-s-*

39. "So instead of naff gold-medal jewelry, we wanted to capture some of the cool bits of being British: London, the **humor** and dry, sophisticated wit."

That and a sense of **humour**. The Guardian (Moore, March 24, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-o-* / BrE *-ou-*

40. ... and special services at **St.** Paul's Cathedral.

The property mogul has done the deal of his life – for historic **St** Katharine Docks in the heart of the city. The Guardian (Kollewe, July 28, 2011)

Disparity in punctuation: AmE *St.* / BrE *St*

41. ...hearts and clovers, **symbolizing** the themes of luck and love.

Kids don't just **symbolise** social change... The Guardian (Long, March 18, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-z-* / BrE *-s-*

X The Washington Post (Saslow, March 9, 2012)

42. It was "JOBS DAY," the words **capitalized** and bolded on their official White House calendars,...

They didn't need to be taken over by a £5m business **capitalised** at £2bn. The Guardian (Kollewe, July 28, 2011)

Disparity in spelling: AmE -z- / BrE -s-

43. A **labor** specialist double-checked the data.

Spanish unions call walkout over **labour** law reforms at heart of austerity budget to be handed down on Friday The Guardian (AP, March 29, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE -o- / BrE -ou-

44. The key for his candidate was to **emphasize** not the growth but the sluggishness.

The academics involved in the latest research say their study **emphasises** what students actually do, rather than how much work the school has set. The Guardian (Vasagar, March 29, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE -z- / BrE -s-

45. I'm looking at this thing to see if there's some **favoritism** in the methodologies for this administration.

Oxford accused of postgraduate **favouritism**. The Guardian (Curtis, March 11, 2004)

Disparity in spelling: AmE -o- / BrE -ou-

XI The Wall Street Journal (Marcotti, January 16, 2012)

46. "I will try to **honor** the shirt of Kabuscorp."

...“I was never any good at maths at school” as if it were a badge of **honour**. The Daily Telegraph (Stanford, March 6, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE -o- / BrE -ou-

47. My time belongs to God now... my life in Angola is about more than **soccer**.

...real men should be out drinking booze and playing **football**. The Daily Telegraph (Stanford, March 6, 2012)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *soccer* / BrE *football*

XII The Washington Post (Evans, March 10, 2012)

48. But why not simply raise the **gasoline** tax?

The news came as the **petrol** retailers' association, the RMI, wrote to the energy secretary,... The Guardian (Milmo, April 2, 2012)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *gasoline* / BrE *petrol*

- 49., 50. Sen. Bob Corker's op-ed provided clear evidence for the truth of the conjecture that children in **elementary school** who are destined to be Republicans are placed in special **math** classes, ...

The study underlines the importance of a good (49) **primary school**. The Guardian (Vasagar, March 29, 2012)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *elementary school* / BrE *primary school*

Are girls really worse at (50) **maths** than boys? The Daily Telegraph (Stanford, March 6, 2012)

Disparity in spelling and sound: removal of *-s* in AmE

### XIII The Washington Post (DeYoung, March 6, 2012)

51. And Russia's veto has blocked **U.N.** approval even for demands that Assad step down.

She said these attacks have continued despite Assad's acceptance of **UN** mediator Kofi Annan's plan to end the crisis. The Guardian (Pearse, March 31, 2012)

Disparity in punctuation: AmE *U.N.* / BrE *UN*

52. He called for the United States to **organize** and lead airstrikes to "protect key population centers".

People were so incensed by the inequity that they were more than ready to **organise**. The Observer (Templeton, Carnwath and Rice, October 26, 2008)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-z-* / BrE *-s-*

53. We know that many of Syria's immediate **neighbors** remain cautious...

The chancellor, the pasty, the wife, the **neighbour** ... how to mend these crumbling worlds? The Guardian (Kingsley, March 28, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-o-* / BrE *-ou-*

XIV The New York Times (Chang, March 2, 2012)

54., 55., 56. He had to shape the body panels, bending the **aluminum** sheets into a **hood** and **trunk** by hand.

An artist in steel and (54) **aluminium**, he became a member of an inner circle,... The Guardian (Williams, November 24, 2011)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-u-* / BrE *-iu-*

Bertani was an expert in shaping sheet metal and taught Scaglietti the technique of hammering out (55) **bonnets** and mudguards. The Guardian (Williams, November 24, 2011)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *hood* / BrE *bonnet*

Not with the wooden club or the metal pipe in the car (56) **boot**, next to a box of live ammunition and a cassette of Springsteen's Born to Run. The Observer (Horn, October 13, 2002)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *trunk* / BrE *boot*

57. He replaced the folding Brooklands **windscreen**...

In his LA building car park, neighbour Anthony Catter once left a note on Moore's **windshield**,... The Observer (Horn, October 13, 2002)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *windscreen* / BrE *windshield*

58. He will put on his sunglasses and step into the car, following a carefully orchestrated **maneuver**.

However, children did admit that Mum is more likely to stall the car, and get in a pickle over basic **manoeuvres**, such as parking. The Observer (Love, March 18, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-e-* / BrE *-eu-* and AmE *-er* / BrE *-re*

59. ...(but not the **tyres**, because of federal regulations).

The team estimate that they'll use half the fuel and **tyres** of the conventional cars... The Observer (Love, March 18, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-i-* / BrE *-y-*

60., 61. **On weekends** when the roads are dry ... **Mr.** Kaplan ... will walk down to his garage,...

Another teenager who agrees the system is complicated was Emma Davies, 18, from Boston Spa in north Yorkshire, who drinks Strongbow (60) **at the weekends**:... The Guardian (Robertson, September 10, 2008)

Disparity in grammar in usage of different prepositions: AmE *on weekends* / BrE *at weekends*

"I think (61) **Mr** Zimmerman will be arrested very, very soon," he said. The Guardian (Luscombe, March 30, 2012)

Disparity in punctuation: AmE *Mr.* / BrE *Mr*

XV The Wall Street Journal (Druckerman, February 4, 2012)

62. We picked a coastal town that's a few hours by train from Paris, where we were living (I'm American, he's British), and booked a hotel room with a **crib**.

...you can borrow anything from a travel **cot** for a baby, to a doll's house for an older child to play with. The Guardian (O'Connell, June 20, 2012)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *crib* / BrE *cot*

63. She pointed out that Leo didn't appear to be **traumatized**.

The youngsters did not require hospital treatment but were said to have been **traumatised**. The Guardian (Carter, August 1, 2011)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-z-* / BrE *-s-*

64. Delphine said that she sometimes bought Pauline **candy**.

... he used to spoil him and bring **sweets** every Sunday and play Michael's LPs for him. The Observer (Stevens, November 13, 2011)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *candy* / BrE *sweets*

XVI The Wall Street Journal (Chung, February 10, 2012)

65. ... says John McIlwain, a senior resident fellow **specializing** in housing issues at the Urban Land Institute.

said Mark Harrington, chief executive of Check Safety First, a company **specialising** in food hygiene checks. The Daily Telegraph (Starmer-Smith, February 3, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE -z- / BrE -s-

66. Critics of such mega-mansions "want to **penalize** people for being successful," says Mr. McCoy, the builder of the estate.

... we weed them out, and we **penalise** business owners accordingly," he said. The Daily Telegraph (Starmer-Smith, February 3, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE -z- / BrE -s-

67. ... creating a compound of more than 30,000 square feet with a stand-alone ice-cream **parlor**...

Pistachio, apricot and lemon, the ice-cream **parlour** colours... The Guardian (Cartner-Morley, March 9, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE -o- / BrE -ou-

XVII The New York Times (Hymowitz, March 23, 2012)

68. Then Deena gives Mike a piece of her mind for spreading **rumors** about her sister,...

... he of the latest Dior **rumours** ... The Guardian (Chilvers, December 15, 2011)

Disparity in spelling: AmE -o- / BrE -ou-

69. Then the 1973 ruling in Roe v. Wade **legalized** abortion as a backup plan.

...of **legalisation** and regulation... The Observer (Hayward, September 5, 2010)

Disparity in spelling: AmE -z- / BrE -s-

70. ... they are still higher than in any other **industrialized** country.

What is **industrialised** drug use in athletics..? The Observer (Hayward, September 5, 2010)

Disparity in spelling: AmE -z- / BrE -s-

XVIII The Wall Street Journal (Greene, February 4, 2012)

71. The trick is to avoid stalling out—or becoming too **paralyzed** to start.

Holt, an ex-professional yachtsman who was **paralysed** in a swimming accident in 1984... The Guardian (Quinn, April 2, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE -z- / BrE -s-

72. When Jean Dorrell, a Summerfield, Fla., estate planner, **traveled** to Texas...

...I had successfully **travelled** from earlier that morning. The Guardian (Quinn, April 2, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE -l- / BrE -ll-

73. ...she sneaked eight photo albums out of her parents' apartment and chucked them in a **dumpster**.

...the New Wild Garden were gathered from **skips** and charity shops. The Guardian (Bradbury, September 9, 2011)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *dumpster* / BrE *skip*

74., 75. When **Ms.** Krall hired an **attorney** to help her handle the estate...

(74) **Ms** Brooks, a former editor of The Sun... The Daily Telegraph (Holehouse, March 13, 2012)

Disparity in punctuation: AmE *Ms.* / BrE *Ms*

Her (75) **solicitor**, Claire Kirkpatrick... The Guardian (Carter, August 1, 2011)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *attorney* / BrE *solicitor*

76. ...professional organizers charge an hourly rate but typically offer more **customized** help.

...bring out the laser and the **customised** mouth trays filled with whitening gel. The Observer (Hoggard, February 29, 2004)

Disparity in spelling: AmE -z- / BrE -s-

77. ... not to throw out any uncashed **checks** or stock-sale records,...

He made and broke reputations with his **cheque** book. The Observer (Lewis, July 10, 2011)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *check* / BrE *cheque*

78. ...than a coin collection with some monetary value, says **Prof.** Stum.

As **Prof** Anne Fogarty said:... The Guardian (Gibbons, June 17, 2012)

Disparity in punctuation: AmE *Prof.* / BrE *Prof*

XIX The New York Times (Haberman, April 3, 2012)

79., 80. Each **fall**, the **organization** sponsors a “penny harvest,”...

... raising the possibility of strikes in the (79) **autumn** term. The Guardian (Mulholland, April 7, 2012)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *fall* / BrE *autumn*

...teachers and their (80) **organisations**... The Guardian (Mulholland, April 7, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE -z- / BrE -s-

XX The Wall Street Journal (Barrett, March 27, 2012)

81. There's a kind of **willful** desire not to admit how bad things are...

But perhaps **wilful** ignorance is worse... The Observer (Bennett, July 18, 2010)

Disparity in spelling: AmE -ll- / BrE -l-

82., 83. ... and what we've found is that the **offense** outpaces the **defense**...

...they would be charged with immigration (82) **offences**. The Guardian (Shah, March 8, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE -s- / BrE -c-



Polanski's 'genius' is only a (83) **defence** to the morally vacuous. The Observer (Bennett, July 18, 2010)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-s-* / BrE *-c-*

XXI The Wall Street Journal (Gallegos, February 4, 2012)

84. Attending an elite college is one of the most powerful **socializing** experiences...

I know I can stop drinking so it doesn't worry me; it's **socialising** for me.

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-z-* / BrE *-s-*

85. ...new book **analyzes** the increasingly separate upper and lower classes in America.

...Baise has fearlessly **analysed** the grins... The Observer (Hoggard, February 29, 2004)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-z-* / BrE *-s-*

86.,87. ...people are debasing themselves with the lowest common denominator of **behavior**; wearing **pajamas** as clothes, foul language in public, etc.

"his (86) **behaviour** is not my business" The Observer (Bennett, July 18, 2010)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-o-* / BrE *-ou-*

...and yes to print (87) **pyjama** bottoms... The Guardian (Chilvers, March 15, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-a-* / BrE *-y-*

88. ...it is fostered by the **demoralization** of the upper middle class...

It can be **demoralising**... The Guardian (Asher, March 26, 2011)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-z-* / BrE *-s-*

89. Do you think that we'll see a politician in the next two decades speak with **candor**...

This should be synonymous with a duty of **candour**. The Guardian (Brain, March 10, 2011)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-o-* / BrE *-ou-*

XXII The Washington Post (Davidson, June 12, 2012)

90. That's a bad rap on the officers, who screen airline passengers and **baggage**,...

Tan was then travelling to West Hampstead to collect **luggage**... The Guardian (PA, June 12, 2012)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *baggage* / BrE *luggage*

91. ...a GOP push for greater **privatization** of the workforce.

**Privatisation** means that the police will be less accountable to the public. The Guardian (Travis, Williams, March 2, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE -z- / BrE -s-

XXIII The Wall Street Journal (Gardner Jr., April 22, 2012)

92. You couldn't put a **ladybug**.

...this led to a doubling of natural insect predators such as **ladybirds**, lacewings and spiders. The Guardian (Carrington, June 13, 2012)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *ladybug* / BrE *ladybird*

93. ...as well as a **sailboat** and a rubber ducky.

None of them, however, owns football clubs, country mansions or multimillion-pound **yachts** moored on the Cote d'Azur. The Guardian (Levy, Scott-Clark, May 8, 2004)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *sailboat* / BrE *yacht*

XXIV The Wall Street Journal (Woo, April 10, 2012)

94. Mr. Ahn looks clearly embarrassed and throws the Angry Bird **stuffed animal**...

There are even **soft toys** among the filth. The Guardian (Kharkiv, June 8, 2012)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *stuffed animal* / BrE *soft toy*

XXV The Washington Post (Sullivan, June 15, 2012)

95. ...divided over how best to pay for a **streetcar line** through the congested corridor...

...like Moscow **tramlines**, but intertwined. The Observer (Kellaway, March 25, 2012)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *streetcar* / BrE *tram*

XXVI The Wall Street Journal (Hotz, June 13, 2012)

96. We can put this **puzzle** together of how black holes and the galaxies grow together...

...small player-cams that project their antics on to a **jigsaw** of screens behind the stage. The Observer (Empire, December 17, 2006)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *puzzle* / BrE *jigsaw*

XXVII The Wall Street Journal (Chaker, June 5, 2012)

97., 98. Pricing for standard services — typically **diapers**, a diaper pail, liners and **deodorizing** discs — doesn't vary much across the country.

...he was changing the baby's (97) **nappy**... The Guardian (Asher, March 26, 2011)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *diaper* / BrE *nappy*

The (98) **deodorising** and cleaning techniques... The Guardian (Renton, January 13, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-z-* / BrE *-s-*

XXVIII The Wall Street Journal (Nassauer, June 12, 2012)

99. Just like they love **chips** and dip.

...brown rice and carrots rather than chocolate and HP sauce (George) or **crisps** and icing (Sam). The Guardian (Moore, March 24, 2012)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *chips* / BrE *crisps*

100. Chicken "doesn't have a lot of **flavor** itself, but is a great flavor carrier," says Mr. Lynch of Popeyes.

A look at the United States of America gives a **flavour** of what is to come. The Guardian (Hill, March 21, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-o-* / BrE *-ou-*

101. ...but "the challenge was to get it **commercialized** at speed and for the right price," says Mr. Lynch.

Maybe the Dome, in its soiled and **commercialised** vacuity... The Guardian (Young, December 23, 1999)

Disparity in spelling: AmE -z- / BrE -s-

XXIX The Wall Street Journal (Chin, May 28, 2012)

102. ...I'm going to recharge the batteries in my **flashlight**.

The full network will come into effect on 25 July, when the **torch** enters central London. The Guardian (Gibson, June 12, 2012)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *flashlight* / BrE *torch*

XXX The Wall Street Journal (Schoenberger, May 18, 2012)

103. There's even a **faucet** for mixing baby formula.

The youth of Britain have magnificent molars thanks to a plentiful supply of fluoride in the nation's **tap** water. The Observer (Hoggard, February 29, 2004)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *faucet* / BrE *tap*

104. ...especially when **stores** are aimed at working parents....

Company **shops** sprang up in Noyabrsk and Muravlenko... The Guardian (Levy, Scott-Clark, May 8, 2004)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *store* / BrE *shop*

XXXI The Wall Street Journal (Beck, June 12, 2012)

105. That alerts the chef to stop, **sanitize** his work station and change his gloves and apron.

It feels a little **sanitised**, but even the sleek new brickwork can't detract from the sheer scale of the fortifications... The Observer (Thorpe, August 30, 2009)

Disparity in spelling: AmE -z- / BrE -s-

106., 107 **French fries** can't be called gluten-free if they are cooked in the same oil as chicken, **shrimp** or onions rings that are battered.

He said it was like giving children (106) **chips** with every meal. The Guardian (Morris, October 20, 2010)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *French fries* / BrE *chips*

We could dine at a foreigners' restaurant that served (107) **prawns**... The Guardian (Eaves, October 14, 2011)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *shrimp* / BrE *prawn*

XXXII The Wall Street Journal (Obe, June 7, 2012)

108. Local governors throw a **wrench** into reactor restart works

Outside the airport stands a Soviet-style concrete obelisk on which an oil worker wields a raised **spanner**. The Guardian (Levy, Scott-Clark, May 8, 2004)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *wrench* / BrE *spanner*

XXXIII The Wall Street Journal (Wang, April 30, 2012)

109., 110. ...**Dr.** Barabási's team identified a cluster of diseases, including diabetes and **anemia**, or coronary heart disease and hypertension...

... said (109) **Dr** Rachel Sutcliffe... The Guardian (Campbell, April 3, 2012)

Disparity in punctuation: AmE *Dr.* / BrE *Dr*

Some women with ovarian cancer have been wrongly diagnosed with other conditions, such as (110) **anaemia**... The Guardian (Campbell, April 3, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-e-* / BrE *-ae-*

XXXIV The Wall Street Journal (Benoit, May 31, 2012)

111. And to those looking for that quick pop, Gorman said "you're naive" and "you bought under the wrong **pretense**."

...the government will soon have to abandon the **pretence** that it was right all along.  
The Guardian (Clark, February 2, 2004)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-s-* / BrE *-c-*

XXXV The Wall Street Journal (Taranto, May 8, 2012)

112. Riley mocked them as "left-wing **victimization** claptrap.

...to speak out without fear of **victimisation**... The Guardian (Brain, March 10, 2011)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-z-* / BrE *-s-*

113. The McMillen post announcing Riley's hypovehicularation is a classic of **groveling**...

Blair may have cowed the BBC into a **grovelling** apology, but at what cost? The  
Guardian (Clark, February 2, 2004)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-l-* / BrE *-ll-*

114. I sincerely **apologize** for the distress...

...an unforgivable act of dishonesty for which he ought now to **apologise**. The  
Guardian (Clark, February 2, 2004)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-z-* / BrE *-s-*

XXXVI The Washington Post (Boyle, June 1, 2012)

115. But the **agonizing** question — Is Metro cheaper than driving?

Stopping for millennial **agonisings** would only dampen the insouciant energy ... The  
Guardian (Young, December 23, 1999)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-z-* / BrE *-s-*

116. ...so much so that it might **behoove** you to drive every once in a while.

...it would **behoove** people to pay a bit more attention to it. The Guardian (Edemariam,  
December 5, 2009)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-oo-* / BrE *-o-*

XXXVII The Washington Post (Shin, Sun, March 7, 2012)

117. And the headstones in the **cemeterly** next to Eastern United Methodist Church bear the names...

...I buried my father in a dark Belarussian forest **graveyard**. The Guardian (Kilkerr, August 14, 2010)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *cemetery* / BrE *graveyard*

118. ...the **mailboxes** that line the roads near the church.

... describing himself simply as a "**postbox**". The Guardian (Mulholland, July 19, 2011)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *mailbox* / BrE *postbox*

119. ...they were **hospitalized** with upper respiratory symptoms.

I saw him once during the time he was **hospitalised**... The Guardian (Kilkerr, August 14, 2010)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-z-* / BrE *-s-*

XXXVIII The Wall Street Journal (Dagher, March 26, 2012)

120. ...the government is making a concerted effort to **cozy** up to its fellow Arab nations.

... keeping the group's Aberdeen office **cosy**.

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-z-* / BrE *-s-*

121. ... they are to fully **normalize** relations with Baghdad.

...the Vichy regime attempted to **normalise** the situation... The Guardian (Seaton, June 10, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-z-* / BrE *-s-*

122. ... the splits within the **factionalized** Iraqi government...

... the coalition becomes fatally fractured and **factionalised**. The Observer (Rawnsley, April 22, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-z-* / BrE *-s-*

XXXIX The Washington Post (Charles, February 22, 2012)

123. ...the headmaster orders Rosenberg to **memorize** a long passage...

...having to **memorise** 20 pages of dialogue a day... The Observer (Horn, October 13, 2002)

Disparity in spelling: AmE -z- / BrE -s-

124. the way for biblical criticism that will eventually remake Western **civilization**.

... the point where it symbolises **civilisation**... The Guardian (Renton, January 13, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE -z- / BrE -s-

125. How could Goethe, “the eternal German genius,” have **worshipped** the work of a Jew?

... he'd spent the night morris dancing or frenziedly **worshipping** the woodland gods.  
The Guardian (Dickson, March 26, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE -p- / BrE -pp-

126. ...tendency to **anthropomorphize** God.

In The Deaths, for example, Shapcott **anthropomorphises** death... The Guardian  
(Cochrane, January 27, 2011)

Disparity in spelling: AmE -z- / BrE -s-

127. His **authorized** textbook...

Yeltsin **authorised** Neftyanaya Finansovaya Kompanya (NFK)... The Guardian  
(Levy, Scott-Clark, May 8, 2004)

Disparity in spelling: AmE -z- / BrE -s-

128. Yalom’s fantasy of the psychotherapist-**savior** is at once grandiose and fatalistic.

Her **saviour** was the US poet... The Guardian (Cochrane, January 27, 2011)

Disparity in spelling: AmE -o- / BrE -ou-

XL The Washington Post (Singletary, March 11, 2012)



129. Touch your finger to a register, vending machine or **subway** turnstile...  
 ...years of living in an **underground** tunnel... The Guardian (Griffin, June 8, 2012)  
 Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *subway* / BrE *underground*
130. ... we ought to ditch our dollar **bills**...  
 ...the only coins and **banknotes** they could find in the house were denominated in pesetas... The Guardian (Tremlett, June 1, 2012)  
 Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *bill* / BrE *banknote*
131. A fire or natural disaster can obliterate your **meager** savings.  
 It's to be powered by a **meagre** 1.6-litre DIG-T engine... The Observer (Love, March 18, 2012)  
 Disparity in spelling: AmE *-er* / BrE *-re*
132. ... lives are financially **marginalized**...  
 ... **marginalised** stories of significant public interest... The Guardian (Greenslade, March 22, 2012)  
 Disparity in spelling: AmE *-z-* / BrE *-s-*
- XLI The Wall Street Journal (Quinn, April 6, 2012)
133. ...the country had stopped "**hemorrhaging**" jobs...  
 ... promising 27-year-old actor **haemorrhaging** from a stab wound to his chest. The Observer (Horn, October 13, 2002)  
 Disparity in spelling: AmE *-e-* / BrE *-ae-*
134. ...the Irish economy was **stabilizing**...  
 Once Yeltsin had been re-elected and the country **stabilised**... The Guardian (Levy, Scott-Clark, May 8, 2004)  
 Disparity in spelling: AmE *-z-* / BrE *-s-*
- XLII The Wall Street Journal (Silverman, April 3, 2012)

135. A worker can **plunk** all his options onto one colleague...

... and one of her **plonked** unceremoniously on a kerb, immersed in a book. The Guardian (Edemariam, December 5, 2009)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-u-* / BrE *-o-*

XLIII The Washington Post (Ellison, March 30, 2012)

136. **Pediatricians** make the majority of ADHD diagnoses.

...**paediatricians** used blanket diagnoses that covered behavioural problems and learning difficulties. The Observer (Stevens, November 13, 2011)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-e-* / BrE *-ae-*

XLIV The Wall Street Journal (Levinson, Trofimov, Frotan, March 22, 2012)

137. ...after a roadside bomb hit a U.S. **armored** vehicle nearby.

Warrior (89) **armoured** fighting vehicle was struck on Tuesday in Helmand province. The Guardian (Siddique, Graham-Harrison, March 7, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-o-* / BrE *-ou-*

XLV The Wall Street Journal (Lurie, May 6, 2012)

138. ... burritos filled with Banzai vegetables (which includes cabbage, **zucchini**...)

Years ago I used to make a brown rice pilaf with shredded **courgettes** and broad beans. The Observer (Slater, August 7, 2011)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *zucchini* / BrE *courgette*

XLVI The Washington Post (AP, March 14, 2012)

139. ... there were boxes of **donuts**...

Britons showed a fondness for sickly sweet glazed **doughnuts** last year... The Guardian (Moulds, March 7, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *donut* / BrE *doughnut*

XLVII The Wall Street Journal (Yang, March 5, 2012)

140. ...Oreo-style peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwich **cookies** that melt in your mouth...

She suggested alternatives such as porridge oats, grated cheese, cooked rice and pasta or crumbs of **biscuits** or pastry. The Guardian (Morris, October 20, 2012)

Disparity in vocabulary: AmE *cookie* / BrE *biscuit*

XLVIII The Wall Street Journal (Westerman, April 2, 2012)

141. ...IT can help the company **fulfill** its goals...

...seeking franchise partners to reach smaller towns and cities – **fulfils** such high octane expansion plans. The Observer (Wood, January 29, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-ll-* / BrE *-l-*

XLIX The Washington Post (Richburg, March 11, 2012)

142. ...the flow of goods includes an increasing volume of American soybeans, cars, **airplanes** and medicine...

...a thought as how would I ever manage to get on an **aeroplane**, though. The Guardian (Edemariam, December 5, 2009)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *air-* / BrE *aero-*

L The Washington Post (Schneider, Birnbaum, March 9, 2012)

143. ... the sacrifices of the Greek people in this historic **endeavor**...

... we join hands across so many **endeavours**. The Daily Telegraph (Winnett, Foster, March 12, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-o-* / BrE *-ou-*

LI The Washington Post (Kelly, March 25, 2012)

144. They were **specters** snatched back from the past...

Wait for the **spectre** of the afternoon play... The Guardian (Gibbons, June 17, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-er* / BrE *-re*

LII The Washington Post (Sonmez, Dennis, March 11, 2012)

145. ... supporters did not **materialize** in great numbers on Saturday.

... interpreters failed to **materialise**. The Guardian (Bowcott, Midlane, March 2, 2012)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-z-* / BrE *-s-*

LIII The Wall Street Journal (Haddon, April 4, 2012)

146. We've clearly seen a change of **demeanor**...

His **demeanour** changes... The Observer (Horn, October 13, 2002)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-o-* / BrE *-ou-*

LIV The Washington Post (Ruane, March 13, 2012)

147. But the **dialog**, moderated by the elegant white blossoms, between King...

...having to memorise 20 pages of **dialogue** a day... The Observer (Horn, October 13, 2002)

Disparity in spelling: Removal of ending *-ue* in AmE

LV The Wall Street Journal (Moffett, April 2, 2012)

148. ... neighboring Latin American countries to deny **harbor** to ships...

Nick Leslau brings his millions to London's ancient **harbour**. The Guardian (Kollewe, July 28, 2011)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-o-* / BrE *-ou-*

LVI The New York Times (Bangert, April 28, 2011)

149. We were singing and cheering when a meager 10 **liters** of rationed gasoline was pumped into the tank...

... he unloaded eight **litre** bottles onto the floor. The Guardian (Eaves, October 14, 2011)

Disparity in spelling: AmE *-er* / BrE *-re*

LVII The Wall Street Journal (Sissons, March 9, 2012) [2]

150. ... rather than **patronize** the jewelry boutiques of Bond Street...

... he never sounded like a pompous, **patronising** politician as Cameron did today.

The Guardian (Whelan, October 4, 2006)

Disparity in spelling: AmE -z- / BrE -s-

## 4.2 Results of the analysis

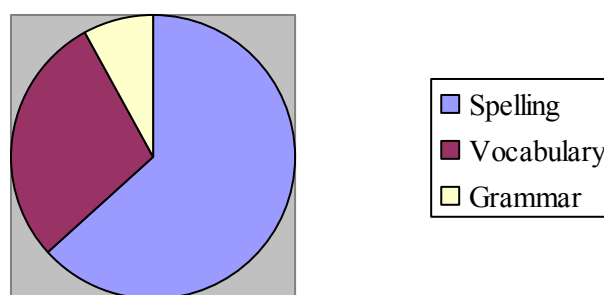
From the analysis arises that the most common difference in usage of individual language means in American and British newspapers is in spelling. There have been found 95 pairs of differences in spelling. The most frequent difference seems to be in alteration of consonants -z- and -s- as in e.g. *recognize* vs. *recognise* or *civilization* vs. *civilisation* or *cozy* vs. *cosy*. Another common difference in spelling is in absence of vowel -o- in BrE as in e.g. *color* vs. *colour* or *armored* vs. *armoured* or *behavior* vs. *behaviour*. Other case of alteration in spelling is swap of vowel -e- with consonant -r- as in e.g. *center* vs. *centre* or *meager* vs. *meagre*. There are also individual cases of difference in spelling such as *aluminum* vs. *aluminium* or *pajamas* vs. *pyjamas* or *anemia* vs. *anaemia*.

There have been found 43 pairs of differences in vocabulary. It can be considered as the second most common difference in usage of the language means in American and British newspapers. The category of vocabulary is not as clearly divided as the category of spelling. AmE and BrE influence each other and it is not easy to tell exact relation of particular units. Therefore vocabulary can be considered as one broad group of items. Here are some examples of difference in vocabulary: e.g. *pants* vs. *trousers* or *bartender* vs. *barman* or *shrimp* vs. *prawn* or *dumpster* vs. *skip*.

The usage of language means in American and British newspapers do not differ in grammar a lot. There have been found only 12 pairs of grammar difference. There was just one disparity based on different preposition such as *on weekends* vs. *at weekends*. Another case of difference in grammar was in conjugation of verbs, because some verbs are regular in AmE while in BrE they are irregular such as *leaned* vs. *leant* or *learned* vs. *learnt*. Punctuation is another kind of grammar disunity between AmE and BrE. There have been

found 9 pairs of difference in punctuation based on usage of periods in abbreviations as in e.g. *U.S.* vs. *US* or *Mr.* vs. *Mr* or *St.* vs. *St*.

Percentage distribution of differences between AmE and BrE in analyzed articles is demonstrated in the following graph.



The analysis has shown that most differences are in spelling (63,35%). It is followed by lexical differences (28,65%) and fewest differences are in grammar (8%).

## 5 CONCLUSIONS

It is well known that English language is not unified. It differs among the countries which have English as native language but it also differ inside one country. In this thesis we focus on disunity of English used in the United Kingdom and English used in the United States. Both national varieties have been developing separately although the influence of the varieties on each other has been quite strong lately. AmE and BrE vary from lexical, phonetical and grammatical point of view. Both varieties have their own dialects that are used by highly educated people and people on television and radio. In the United States it is called “Network English” and in the United Kingdom it is called “BBC English”. Their purpose is to be unified in usage of lexical, phonetical and grammatical elements, because English in the United Kingdom and even in the United States is not used the same all over the countries. There also exists so called “Standard English” which is a kind of English that should be common to all varieties of English. It is formal, especially written English. This is an important fact in the focus of the analysis, because many journalists use this very variety. Therefore it was not easy to collect needed amount of excerptions. There had to be searched and analyzed a large number of newspaper articles. The basis of analysis is built on American articles and their British equivalents were subsequently sought.

Results of analysis show us that AmE and BrE used in journalism do not differ a lot. From grammatical point of view there are differences rarely. However, they always differ in use of dots in abbreviations. Lexical differences form an extended group of disunity of AmE and BrE in journalism. The separated development of the language and miscellaneous influences resulted in diversity of vocabularies of these two varieties. In the analysis we found expressions such as *streetcar*, *diapers*, *soccer*, *apartment*, *store*, *cemetery*, *bill*, *hood*, *trunk*, *elementary school* and others. These are a few examples of American words used in analyzed American newspaper articles. The British equivalents to them were also found in the British articles as *tram*, *nappies*, *football*, *flat*, *shop*, *graveyard*, *banknote*, *bonnet*, *boot* and *primary school*. Because of mutual influence there

are some cases when American word is used in British article and vice versa. One of them is a unit *movie* which often occurs in British articles and an item *dialogue* can be found in some American articles. There were also cases where e.g. British expression did not have American equivalent, therefore it was not possible to compare it with some American expression. Some examples of these elements are *A-level*, *A-roads*, *cagoules*, *jellied eels* and *kerfuffle*. The most numerous group of differences between AmE and BrE consists of spelling variations. The most frequent difference is in use of consonant *-z-* in AmE and consonant *-s-* in BrE such as in *organize*, *recognize*, *realize*, *analyze*, *criticize*, *traumatize*, *memorize*, *materialize*, *socialize*, *hospitalize* and others. The British equivalents are *organise*, *recognise*, *analyse*, *criticise*, *traumatise*, *memorise*, *materialise*, *socialise* and *hospitalise*. It applies to all word classes, naturally. Next spelling difference is in extra use of vowel *-u-* in some British words such as in *colour*, *parlour*, *harbour*, *honour*, *favour*, *flavour*, *neighbour*, *rumour* and others. In AmE these words are spelled *color*, *parlor*, *harbor*, *honor*, *favor*, *neighbor* and *rumor*. There are also items that vary only in one vowel such as AmE *gray* - BrE *grey*, AmE *pajamas* - BrE *pyjamas*, AmE *plunk* - BrE *plonk*, AmE *tires* - BrE *tyres* and others. There are further differences in spelling with a little representation such as swapping of vowel *-e-* and consonant *-r-* in e.g. AmE *liter* - BrE *lite*, AmE *meager* - BrE *meagre*, AmE *theater* - BrE *theatre* and others.

This thesis was beneficial for me. It has clarified the individual differences between AmE and BrE. This topic is very extensive and it would be necessary to spend at least a few years studying only this field. However I am really glad that I have focused on this topic because it displays the present situation of the English language.



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## SUMMARY IN CZECH

Tato bakalářská práce přináší shrnutí rozdílů mezi britskou a americkou angličtinou. Teoretická část popisuje rozdíly těchto dvou typů Angličtiny z hlediska lexikologického, především problematiku ve slovní zásobě a pravopisu, fonetického a gramatického. Rozdílnost britské a americké angličtiny je velice rozsáhlá, proto není možné zmínit všechny rozdíly v této práci. Vybrány byly ty rozdíly, které jsou nejběžnější a nejznámější. Teoretická část také zahrnuje krátké shrnutí vývoje americké angličtiny.

Praktická část je analýzou rozdílů v žurnalistice. Proto jsou porovnávány články z britských a amerických novin. Výsledky analýzy ukazují, že je zde určitá rozdílnost v užívání britské a americké angličtiny v novinách, přestože se novináři snaží používat standardní jazykové prostředky, které jsou společné pro oba typy angličtiny, a to hlavně v gramatice.