

or downslope water quality. Overgrazing is one of the main pressures on biodiversity in Australia. Grazing and various agricultural improvement strategies have modified vast areas of grasslands and open grassy woodlands.

What about pollution? Intensive agriculture is affecting Australia's coasts and oceans, particularly estuaries and environments near the shore. Modeling predictions estimate that each year almost 19,000 tones of phosphorus and 141,000 tones of nitrogen are discharged to rivers flowing to the coast.

Thinning of the ozone layer is another ecological issue. Because the ozone layer acts as a filter, shielding the surface of the Earth from ultraviolet radiation from the Sun, the thinning of this layer is resulting in an increase in the intensity of UV radiation reaching the Earth's surface. This is likely to have an increasingly damaging effect on terrestrial organisms, with serious consequences for the natural environment and for humankind. Increased UV radiation is also likely to destroy the phytoplankton at the surface layers of the oceans. Because phytoplankton is at the base of the oceanic food chain, this change would have a devastating impact on populations of fish and other animal life in and around the sea. Research suggests that the incidence of skin tumors in humans increases by about 5 % for every 1 % decrease in stratospheric ozone.

Water supply. The rate of use of water in many Australian cities and townships is unnecessarily high, and serious water shortages are likely in the future. It is clear that more effective measures must be introduced to reduce the rate of consumption.

And last but not least, enhanced greenhouse effect. The majority of atmospheric scientists predict that, together with the release of greenhouse gases, it will lead to progressive climate change, causing major disturbances in global ecology, with wide-ranging consequences for humankind.

This overview has summarized the major ecological issues encountered in Australia at the present time – ranging from local causes for concern through to some issues of global significance. The necessary motivation to take effective action to achieve ecological sustainability will not come about until there is a vastly improved understanding, right across the community, of the processes of life, the human place in nature and the health needs of people and of the ecosystems on which they depend.

О. Пунько

THE BASIC FEATURES OF SOUTH AFRICAN ENGLISH AND THEIR REFLECTION PRESENTED IN THE NOVEL BY J. M. COETZEE «SCENES FROM PROVINCIAL LIFE»

When the British first came to South Africa, they settled not only into a long-established Dutch-speaking community with its own culture, administration, and a system of relations between its inhabitants but also into society with a vast number of indigenous languages. Moreover, it took a long time for the South African English vernacular to become one of the major official languages in the South African Republic.

Like other languages of the world, South African English is a subject of interest for linguists and writers to be learned and used. Many writers contributed to a better comprehension of the South African Republic and its English variety through fiction and non-fiction.

Among these authors one should give credit to a well-known writer John Maxwell Coetzee, a South African-born recipient of the Booker Prize and the 2003 Nobel Prize in Literature. His fictionalised autobiographical work "Scenes from Provincial Life" relates his years spent growing up in South Africa. The novel is of great significance for serious research because it illustrates the way of life in South Africa and the peculiar features of South African English.

In his novel one may comprehend the realia described by the author and the basic linguistic features of the South African English variety. The following passage may serve as an illustration of important features of South African English:

“...when everyone else is dozing, stunned by the heat, he can tiptoe out of the house and climb the hill to the labyrinth of stone-walled **kraals** that belong to the old days when the sheep in their thousands had to be brought in from the **veld** to be counted or shorn or dipped”.

Thus, from the given selection, kraal is an Afrikaans and Dutch word for an enclosure for cattle or other livestock. Veld (literally “field”) is a type of wide open rural landscape in Southern Africa. Particularly, it is a flat area covered in grass or low scrub.

The given fragment may serve to relate some realia of South African life, which the author describes in his book; and the passage enables the reader to become familiar with the richness of the vocabulary and to be aware of the given variety of English.

M. Razhanets, T. Tikhon

UK CHARITIES AND THEIR ROLE WORLDWIDE

Charity is a system of giving money, food, or help free to those who are in need because they are ill, poor, or have no home, or any organization that has the purpose of providing money or helping in this way.

The word “charity” originated in late Old English. The word originally entered into the English language through the Old French word “charité”, which was derived from the Latin “caritas”. The original meaning of the word was a “Christian love of one's fellows” but over time the meaning has shifted to that of “providing for those in need; generosity and giving”.

In 1741, Captain Thomas Coram set up the Foundling Hospital to look after unwanted orphans. That was the first charity in the world. Today there are over 180,000 registered charities in the UK employing thousands of people to work all over the world on a huge range of issues.

The UK has one of the highest giving levels of any country in the world. As most UK charities don't receive any money from the government, donations from individuals are the most important source of funding for a charity to carry out its