

economic and financial matters; the separately funded youth programme; women and development; science and technology. There is also an information and publication programme. The official Commonwealth organizations include the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Commonwealth Institute, the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau, the Commonwealth Science Council.

A chief reason for the popularity of the Commonwealth is that it is an international forum that lacks the formality and the pomposity of the UN, at its meetings prime ministers of member states have direct contact with each other. The Commonwealth operates rather by consensus than by voting. In many independent countries of the Commonwealth the British cultural influence survives and some of the educational systems still reflect this influence. Britain tries to hold onto its international position through the Commonwealth which the former colonies were invited to join as free and equal members. This partnership allows all members to follow own policies without pressure.

Britain no longer “rules the waves” but still remains an influential industrial power playing an important role in world politics and the position it takes on crucial international issues matters for the stability in the world.

It is mutual respect and once proclaimed principle of peaceful co-existence of states irrespective of their religious and political allegiances and affiliations that can save the world from being blown out of existence. Nowadays it is impossible to “keep your head when all the others are losing theirs”, it can very well result in the loss of one in the inflammable world.

D. Kozikis

CONTEMPORARY SOCIO-POLITICAL VACILLATIONS: THEIR SOCIO-CULTURAL CONNOTATIONS AND CHALLENGES OF TRANSLATION

Language being one of the characteristic constituents of national culture is an independent social phenomenon which reflects and conveys common traits of humankind as well as specific features of national culture. Background knowledge embraces information inherent of all humankind and of the specific region which any member of the given ethnic and linguistic community possesses. Thus in teaching a foreign language and the process of interpretation one should be well aware of the rapid changes which occur within a given society, or beyond it.

As a result of the UK referendum on Britain’s membership of the European Union held on 23 June 2016 Leave supporters won by 52 %. The former Home Secretary Theresa May took over from David Cameron who resigned thus becoming the new Prime Minister of the UK. The incumbent Prime Minister was set to tackle awesome problems which the country faced with its departure from the European Union (Britain joined the Common Market only in 1973). Moreover, one should remember that in the 2016 referendum Northern Ireland and Scotland voted to remain. About 33 % of the British public according to the latest-opinion

polls want the UK to leave the EU. They believe Britain is being held back by the EU which they say imposes too many rules on business and charges billions of pounds a year in membership fees for little in return. They also want Britain to take back full control of its borders and reduce the number of people coming to Britain to work. Today in the UK 3,2 million EU citizens live and work and the estimated 1,2 million Britons live in the EU countries. Among those living in Britain the Poles are most numerous (over one million) followed by those from the Irish Republic, Romania, Portugal, Italy and other European states, especially from Eastern Europe. Perhaps the greatest uncertainty associated with leaving the EU is that no country has ever done it before so no one can predict the exact result.

As regards big business it tends with a few exceptions to be in favour of Britain staying in the EU because it makes it easier for them to move money, people and products around the world. Many small and medium-sized firms want a cut in red tape and what they see as petty regulations imposed by the EU, thus leaving it.

The border issue between the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland where there was free movement of people and goods between the two countries is another headache to be dealt with as the Republic of Ireland remains in the European Union while the UK withdraws.

The UK government cannot also disregard the fact that in the UK referendum Northern Ireland voted to remain in the European Union while the UK withdraws. Thus the border issue is to be tackled to the interests of all parties involved.

In the meantime, as the clock keeps ticking to the March 29 2019 deadline there is much talk about the future status of English in the European Union as every country is deemed to retain its right to maintain its language as one of the official languages accepted in the European Union. With Britain's departure this issue remains to be solved, though British English is widely spoken in Europe, as well as among the staff and employees servicing the European Union organizations.

Any person involved in interpreting, mastering, or teaching English is well aware of the new challenges associated with the rapid changes taking place in contemporary Britain due to the fundamental objectives pursued by the British government concerning its relationship with the European Community and beyond. A major problem is to keep pace with the changes experienced by languages associated with neologisms and acquisition of new meanings of traditional words. These changes occur on all stylistic levels and in every sphere of language usage. Tony Thorne, the reputed researcher of non-traditional English, was correct to observe that "attitudes to the use of language have changed profoundly over the last three decades, and the perceived boundaries between "standard" and "unorthodox" are becoming increasingly fuzzy" (T. Thorne Dictionary of Contemporary slang, 2007).

No wonder leading politicians when dealing with unpopular policy issues revert to non-traditional lexicon to attain a positive approval of pursued policy targets by the audience.

As a result of the June 2017 general elections in Britain the Conservative party failed to attain an absolute majority in the House of Commons and thus it

was forced to sign a “confidence and supply agreement” with the minor Unionist party in Northern Ireland reducing the prime minister to becoming “damaged goods” surviving on borrowed time.

Jeremy Corbyn, the leader of the Labour party referring to Shelter figures concerning contemporary Britain, noted that “rough sleeping” among Children had increased considerably – another important reminder of the changing social scene in Britain which is to be adequately interpreted by the student mastering contemporary English. Referring to the inadequate social security reform in Greece one comes across such an evaluation as the “Greece Scrooge Card” reminding the reader of Charles Dickens and his character Scrooge.

During tense political campaigns, elections, hearings of scandals one comes across numerous examples which should be adequately interpreted and translated: “a basket of deplorables”, “a basket-case president”, “to be in the cross-hairs” etc. The failure of the talks between David Cameron and the European Union President was interpreted as a “Catch 22” taken from Joseph Heller’s wartime novel, which related a deadlock.

The given examples coupled with other numerous references which saturate the language of contemporary mass media and everyday speech should be in the fore of professionals immersed in the mainstream of English in the twenty-first century.

А. В. Ломовая

СПЕЦИФИКА ДВУАЗЫЧИЯ В РЕСПУБЛИКЕ ИРЛАНДИЯ (на материале антропонимов)

Официальное двуязычие существует во многих странах мира, в том числе и в Республике Ирландия. Согласно статье 8 Конституции Ирландии, ирландский язык как язык национальный объявляется первым официальным языком, а английский язык признается вторым официальным языком. Однако та же статья разрешает исключительное пользование одним из указанных языков в одной или нескольких официальных отраслях на всей территории государства.

Одна из общественно значимых сфер, где применяется этот закон, касается антропонимов – имен собственных, идентифицирующих человека. Большинство ирландцев использует английские формы или аналоги своих имен в англоязычном контексте, а ирландские – в целях национальной самоидентификации и при общении на ирландском. При этом **ирландские фамилии** имеют свою специфику, которая отражается лишь частично или вообще не отражается в английской версии.

1. Для различения отца и сына, носящих одно и то же имя, к личному имени может прибавляться прилагательное *Mór* ‘старший’ или *Óg* ‘младший’. В английском языке им соответствуют аббревиатуры *Sr* (*senior*)