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THE PECULARITIES OF MULTICULTURAL LONDON ENGLISH

Multicultural London English (also known as MLE) is a modern variety of English spoken predominately by young people of all ethnicities in and around London. It came about 30 years ago, and it's heavily influenced by African black communities and Asian communities that have come to London. It's a blending of a cockney accent and accents mentioned above. MLE has a negative stereotypical image and is associated with antisocial behavior, being a gangster, uneducated and intimidating. Let's look closer at its phonetic features:

1. Sound [θ] is replaced with [f] e. g. *think* [fɪŋk]. Sound [ð]. It is replaced with [v] when 'th' is in the middle of a word e. g. *either* ['aɪvə(r)], *brother* ['brʌvə(r)], thus showing the influence of a cockney accent. Sound [ð] is replaced with [d] when 'th' is at the beginning of a word e. g. *those* [dəʊz], *this* [dɪs], *that* [dæt].

2. Sound [t] is dropped or becomes glottal when it appears in the middle or end of a word: *water* ['wɔ:ə(r)].

3. Sound [l] is usually dropped out at the end of a word e. g. *tall* [tɔ:], *wall* [wɔ:], *ball* [bɔ:] etc.

4. The first element of some diphthongs is very wide e. g. diphthong [aɪ] in the word *high*, *dry* etc, diphthong [əʊ] in words *go*, *don't*, *phone* etc.

5. People usually say *nah* [næ:] instead of *no* [nəʊ].

It's important to point out that stress and intonation play an important role in MLE. It is used to show emphasis and highlight key information. Unlike in RP where stressed and unstressed syllables alternate, here every word gets its stress.

Speaking about grammar aspect, MLE speakers use non-standard grammar structures e. g.:

1. *You was/you wasn't, he don't.*

2. *Innit.* It is a tag of a question that corresponds to *isn't it* in Standard English. It is added to questions regardless of the tense of the verbs in them, e. g. *He's gone out, innit?*

Let's look closer at MLE vocabulary:

1. *For time.* It is an ellipsis. It is an informal way to say *for a long time.*

2. Addresses *bruv*, *man*, *blud*, *fam*. It is an abbreviation. These are the words used as greeting term of endearment, e. g. mate or friends.

3. Excessive usage of the phrase *oh my days*. It is an informal phrase to show surprise.

4. A word *sick* is an informal adjective that means 'great' or 'cool'.

5. A word *bare* is used instead of *many*, *a lot*, *very* or *so*.

6. Words *buff*, *peng* mean *attractive*.

7. A word *safe* has 3 meanings: used as a greeting, an expression of gratitude or appreciation, describes someone or something cool.

8. A word *allow* means to *leave the situation as it is, forget something*.

Thus, it was shown that Multicultural London English has its peculiarities in phonetics, grammar and vocabulary.