

The inevitability of Canadian English

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If we attempt to explain why colonial Englishes are different from the English of Britain, whence they originally came, it is reasonably clear what explanatory factors should be proposed.

- 1) The new Englishes adapted to new topographical and biological features unknown in Britain.
- 2) Since the departure of English for the colonies, linguistic changes have occurred in Britain which have not occurred in the colonies.
- 3) Since the arrival of English from Britain, linguistic changes have taken place in the colonies which have not occurred in Britain.
- 4) Most Colonial Englishes experienced forms of language contact with indigenous languages which were not experienced by British English.
- 5) Many colonial Englishes experienced forms of language contact with other European languages in the colonial situation which were not experienced by British English.
- 6) Nearly all colonial Englishes were subject to processes associated with dialect contact –in most cases, anglophone colonies were not settled from a single location in the British Isles.

In this paper I concentrate on factor 6, and examine the extent to which outcomes of dialect mixture are deterministic.