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Political Correctness in American English

At the present stage of the development of international relations, it is necessary to note the increased interest in the study of cultures of different peoples. Besides, it is becoming more and more important to research the use of politically correct language in intercultural communication.

In American English, it is possible to highlight the following types of political correctness:

- racial political correctness, which is connected with names of different ethnic groups (e.g. African Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Americans are politically correct unlike Negroes, Orientals, and Indians, respectively);
- gender political correctness, which arose under the influence of the feminist movement (e.g. Ms., spokesperson, and camera operator are neutral alternatives to Mrs. or Miss, spokesman or spokeswoman, and cameraman or camerawoman, respectively; wimmin or womyn are used instead of women to avoid the word ending -men);
- social political correctness, which is connected with names of different social groups (e.g. physically challenged people, vertically challenged people, and senior citizens are politically correct unlike invalids, short people, and old age pensioners, respectively) [2].

There are several reasons for the use of politically correct language: the desire to resolve a difficult emotional situation, concealing the truth, giving social status, and the desire to depict a situation as being more acceptable [1].

Political correctness in American English arouses the interest of linguists; at the same time there are opponents who advocate a ban on political correctness. However, the use of politically correct language in intercultural communication contributes to the dialogue of cultures and guarantees comfort and safety for people.

Литература

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