PROFESORES DE ENSEÑANZA SECUNDARIA · INGLÉS · JUNTA DE EXTREMADURA

TEMA

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The Cultural Dimension of the English-Speaking World Today. British English and American English. The Presence of English in Spain. Anglicisms

Dimensión cultural de la anglofonia en el mundo actual. El inglés británico y el inglés americano. Presencia de la lengua inglesa en España. Los Anglicismos.

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Material de elaboración propia a partir de las fuentes oficiales que se citan al final del tema. No es un temario oficial ni sustituye a la normativa publicada.

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1. INTRODUCTION

"The empires of the future are the empires of the mind." Winston Churchill said these words at Harvard on 6 September 1943, when he received an honorary degree and spoke of Anglo-American unity and of his interest in Basic English. Eight decades later his sentence reads almost like a description of the English-speaking world: no army holds it together, but a language, a set of institutions, a vast body of literature, music, films and ideas, and a habit of using English as the common code of science, business, diplomacy and the internet.

This topic asks four connected questions. First, what is the cultural dimension of the Anglophone world today, that is, who speaks English, where and in what roles, and through which institutions and media English-speaking culture reaches the rest of the planet? Secondly, how do the two great standard varieties, British English and American English, differ in their history, pronunciation, spelling, vocabulary and grammar? Thirdly, how present is English in Spain, in schools, in society and in the media? Finally, what are anglicisms, how do they enter Spanish, how are they classified and how does the Spanish norm treat them? I will close with the pedagogical and didactic implications of all this for the Secondary classroom, and with a conclusion that returns to Churchill's idea.

Before moving on, I would like to mention the sources consulted. For the language I have relied on David Crystal's English as a Global Language (Cambridge University Press, second edition, 2003), Randolph Quirk, Sidney Greenbaum, Geoffrey Leech and Jan Svartvik's A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language (Longman, 1985) and Peter Roach's English Phonetics and Phonology: A Practical Course (Cambridge University Press, fourth edition). For American English I have used H. L. Mencken's The American Language (1919), and for anglicisms Chris Pratt's El anglicismo en el español peninsular contemporáneo (Gredos, 1980) and Fernando Lázaro Carreter's El dardo en la palabra (Galaxia Gutenberg, 1997), together with the Real Academia Española and FundéuRAE. The legal framework is Ley Orgánica 3/2020 (LOMLOE), Real Decreto 217/2022, Real Decreto 243/2022 and, in Extremadura, Decreto 110/2022 and Decreto 109/2022, modified in 2023.