Scottish English has its own normalized literary form and a rich literary heritage which permit it to be regarded as a generally acceptable variant of the English language alongside southern educated English or Standard British English, and such other widely recognized variants as American English and Australian English [4].

So, the aim of the given article is to reveal the phonetical and lexical peculiarities of the English language in Scotland. First of all, it is necessary to take a brief look at the historical and linguistic background of the development of English in this part of the world.

Scotland has area of 30,000 sq. miles with population of just over five million. Scotland is old Celtic territory and the ancestors of the modern Scots were Celtic-speaking. The overwhelming majority of the inhabitants of Scotland today speak English and the original Celtic language of Scotland (known as Scottish Gaelic) has more-or-less died out, it is practically extinct except for speakers in some coastal fishing villages and on the Orkney and
Shetland islands to the north and northeast of Scotland. There are today perhaps some 50-70 thousand speakers of Gaelic left. We are not here concerned with Scottish Gaelic except for the influence it has had on the vocabulary of Scottish English [5].

As it is known from history, the English made repeated attempts to annex Scotland. Finally in 1603, England and Scotland were united into one kingdom under the first Stuart monarch, James I, who as the son of the ill-fated Mary, Queen of Scots, was also known as James VI of Scotland. Civil war at the time of the Bourgeois Revolution and the Commonwealth was finally followed by the Act of Union of 1707, and Scotland has been a part of Great Britain ever since [1].

In origin Scottish English is a variety of Northern English which came to be widely spoken in the southern part of Scotland, the Scottish lowlands, already in the 12th century. Up to the 17th century this variety (known as Lowlands Scots or Scots English) was perhaps equal in importance with southern English as a literary language. The golden age of Scottish literature came in the 15th and 16th centuries, but thereafter Scots English declined as a literary medium. At the time of the Reformation, the Renaissance and Shakespeare, southern English began to exert a strong influence in Scotland. During the 18th century Scots English managed to maintain itself as a literary language and indeed it was temporarily revived by Allan Ramsay, Robert Fergusson, the great Robert Burns and others. Since then, however, Scots English has survived mainly in rural communities, in the countryside, in the form of local dialects. Today Standard English is taught in the schools and educated Scottish English is practically identical with Standard British English in everything except pronunciation [10].

The peculiarities of pronunciation are marked even in the speech of educated people and, indeed, it may be said that Scotsmen are proud of their accent and make no attempt to get rid of it. It is interesting to examine some of the better-known features of Scottish English pronunciation. Perhaps the most striking phonetic characteristic of the English language in Scotland is its rolled or trilled r [r] sound. Scottish is an r-full variety of English, i.e. the r is pronounced in a world-final position and when it occurs before another consonant inside a word. Thus the words farmer and writer are pronounced as ['færmə] and ['wraɪtə].

It should be pointed out that the rolled or trilled r is produced by a rapid succession of taps of the tip of the tongue against the upper teeth-ridge or alveoli. In this respect the Scottish consonant resembles our own Ukrainian r, which is likewise articulated by a series of rapid movements or vibrations of the tip of the tongue. The main difference is that whereas in the case of the Ukrainian r the tongue makes an average of three vibrating movements, there are 5-7 vibrations or more in the case of the Scottish rolled r.

It is noteworthy that the quality of the present-day Scottish r is believed to be if not identical then at least very similar to that of the corresponding sound in Old English. Hence the Scottish rolled r may be regarded as an archaic phonetic feature in comparison with southern English Standard or Received Pronunciation. If the rolled r is common to all varieties of Scottish English, the pronunciational peculiarities which will be mentioned next are not universal in Scotland but occur in most or some local varieties only.

Many Scottish speakers of English still use the palatal spirant [ç] and the backlingual spirant [ɣ] (known as the ich-laut and the ach-laut respectively) which disappeared in southern English pronunciation in the 15th century. In the pronunciation of some Scottish people we hear [bricket] for bright, [niect] for night and so on. In written renderings of Scottish dialect speech, such words as bright and night are spelt with a ch instead of gh: bright, night. The Scottish ach-laut is probably familiar to all of us from the Scottish word loch – meaning a lake – as in Loch Lomond or Loch Ness [6].

A fairly widespread local feature of Scottish pronunciation is the use of a long [ə:] sound instead of the southern English diphthong [æı]. Thus, in Scottish pronunciation the sentence They came two days ago would sound something like this [ðeı: kɛm tə: dɛı: z ə ˈgoʊ]. The sentence It is a great shame but I am afraid I have no time at all today becomes [ɪt ə ˈdɛət nəʊ ˈtaɪm æt ˈtæd ə dəı:]. That is why in some local varieties of Scottish English there are stane and bone instead of Standard English stone and bone. The regular development in southern English was OE stān > ME stôn > EME (Early Modern English) stone. This peculiarity of the Scottish variant of English has resulted in the addition of a word to the general vocabulary of English. This is the word raid (meaning a sudden attack or surprise visit). The word is a Scottish dialect counterpart of the Standard English road. Both road and raid can be traced back to OE rād signifying ‘a ride, a riding expedition, a journey, a road’ [8].

In some Scottish rural dialects the ME (Middle English) long [u:] did not change into EME (au). Hence words such as mouse and house are still occasionally pronounced locally as [møs:] and [haʊs:].

Scottish dialect speech is characterized by numerous so-called clipped forms of words, that is some sounds, especially those which are dropped in a final position in a word. Thus, one can meet an’ for and, what’ for what, gie for give etc. These spellings as well as nicht for night and so on are familiar from the poems of Robert Burns [9].

The lateral consonant l is also frequently dropped in a final position in Scottish dialect speech, e.g. all, pull become [ɔl, ˈpʊl]. The Scottish vocabulary can be described as varied and colourful. The chequered history of Scotland is reflected in the numerous words of Celtic, Old English, Scandinavian and French origin which are specific to the vocabulary of Scottish English [7].

In view of the fact the Scots are mainly Celtic in origin, it is no wonder that Scottish English contains numbers of Celtic words not generally used south of the Border, that is south of the boundary separating Scotland from England.

One of the best examples of Scottish English is the famous poem by Robert Burns Auld Lang Syne. The title is in Scots dialect and means literally ‘Old long ago’ or more frequently rendered – ‘the good old times’. This poem contains several other local Scottish words or Scotticisms, among them (in the third stanza) gowm [ˈgaʊm] or [ˈɡuːm], a celtic word meaning a daisy or a wild flower.
The first two lines of the third stanza run as follows: «We twa hae run about the braes, // And pu’d the gowans fine» [2]. These lines turned into Standard British English would be: «The two of us have run about the hillsides, // And pulled (i. e. gathered) the pretty daisies».

Some other examples of Celtic words in common use in Scotland are strath and glen (both denoting different kinds of valley), ingle meaning a fire or a fireplace, and fynne which means a waterfall or a pool. Words denoting specifically Scottish things and phenomena such as plaid and clan should also be mentioned in this connection.

Old English words surviving in Scottish usage include, e.g. mickle in the sense of great or much (cf. OE micel, mycel). In Scotland a man of mickle strength is simply a strong man, a man of great strength [9].

The Scottish dialect word bairn ‘child’ goes back to OE beorn. The pronoun ilk ‘the same’ is a direct descendant of OE ylc.

The contacts between the Old Scandinavians and the Scots were close in the early Middle Ages. Many of the Scandinavian words used in the northern English dialects are also well – known in Scotland, e. g. to laik meaning ‘to play’; to big ‘to build’, fell a Scottish word for a ‘hill’, croft ‘small farm’ etc [3].

In the course of her centuries – long struggle against the English kings and feudal lords, Scotland often allied herself with France. The political and cultural ties with the French left their mark on the vocabulary in such words as ashet ‘dish’ (from French ‘assiette’); bonne ‘attractive, handsome, fine’; brave (a modification of French ‘brave’) ‘good, fine, well – dressed’. The Scottish word gerty ‘(cognate with ‘gentle’ and ‘gentiel’) means ‘fine, delicate’.

On the whole, it might be pointed out that Scottish English has a fondness for diminutives ending in –ie or –y. Thus, besides bonne and gerty, there are laddie, lausie, petticoatie, mousie and many others.

The popularity of writers such as Robert Burns and Walter Scott is largely responsible for the spread of Scottish words in general English. The words that the English language owes to Robert Burns include ploughing meaning twilight, eerie ‘causing a feeling of mystery or fear’ (as in an eerie shriek), flunkie ‘a lackey’. Sir Walter Scott was an enthusiastic collector of dialect words and expressions. In his younger days he spent his summer vacations in the Scottish Highlands gathering old legends and ballads and writing down dialect vocabulary. Drawing on this fund of material in his novels and poems, Walter Scott enriched the English language with many picturesque terms, including glamour, gruesome, sleuth, bogie and slogan (originally a Celtic war cry).

A number of Scottish words and expressions are familiar to all speakers of English from certain holidays and the customs and traditions associated with them.

Probably the most important holiday in Scotland is Hogmanay, a holiday which covers New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day. An exclusively Scottish dish served during Hogmanay is haggis. This is a pudding prepared from the entrails of sheep mixed with oatmeal, suet, etc. served in the sheep’s stomach in which they were boiled. Haggis is as popular in Scotland as plum pudding is in England. Another well – known national dish is cockaleekie, a soup made of chicken boiled with leek [5].

Connected with Hogmanay is the ceremony of first footing. It is an ancient superstition in Scotland (going back perhaps to pre-historic Celtic times) that the first person to cross one’s threshold in the New Year ought to be dark-haired and a man. In order to bring the household good luck in the New Year this first-footer (as he is called) should have with himself a lump of coal (symbolizing warmth and shelter), a silver coin (standing for prosperity) and an apple (as a symbol of health). The traditional greeting pronounced by the first-footer is Lang may your lum reek which is the Scottish English for Long may your chimney smoke.

The anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns falls on the 25th of January. Scots all over the world observe the occasion – known as Burns Night – with parties where the great poet’s verses are recited and where everybody present joins in singing Scottish folk songs. Such occasions end traditionally with a singing of Auld Lang Syne.

In the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries many people emigrated because of difficult economic conditions in Scotland. It is said that there are over 20 million Scots outside Scotland today, mainly in Canada, the United States and New Zealand. The Scottish communities in these countries have set up so-called Caledonian societies and associations (Caledonia, is the old Roman name for North Britain and is still used especially in poetry) [10].

Scotland has given the world many outstanding writers. In addition to Burns and Scott the names of Robert Louis Stevenson, Arthur Conan Doyle, James Barrie (the creator of Peter Pan) and Compton Mackenzie immediately spring to mind.

So, in the course of the carried out research, we have come to a conclusion that one of the main peculiarities of Scottish English is its marked archaic quality in comparison with southern English. Such features as the rolled r-sound and the ach-laut as well as the ich-laut are a direct link over the centuries with the pronunciation of Anglo-Saxon times. The Scottish vocabulary is extremely rich, colourful and abounds in various expressions and special dialect words or Scottishisms. It goes without saying that it deserves to be a subject of special scientific research.

The famous Scottish writers, representatives of millions of hardworking, serious-minded and economical Scotsmen in Scotland and abroad, have made a significant contribution to the development of the English language, helping it to become the fine medium of literary expression and international communication that it is today.

Finishing this brief survey of peculiarities of Scottish English attention should be also drawn to the fact that with greatly improved communications and increasing contacts, different forms of English spoken in the world, including Scottish English, are now influencing each other as never before. Many of the grammatical and lexical differences which characterize regional dialects are dying out as Standard English becomes more pervasive through the influence of newspapers, radio, television and other media. Nevertheless, people still retain a distinctive kind of pronunciation, i.e. they speak Standard English but with a local accent. To prevent from the gradual disappearance of the old regional dialects, scholars should do their best in studying different local dialects which provide a wide field for research. And, of course, ordinary people should be proud of their history and of their unique regional accent or dialect.
Фердинанд де Соссюр, бесспорно, является основателем современной лингвистики. «Курс общей лингвистики», вопрос об авторстве которого на протяжении многих десятилетий не обсуждался, выдержал бесчисленное количество переизданий и переводов. О мысли Соссюра судят по «Курсу общей лингвистики», труду, который не был написан его рукой. Парадокс, господствующий в истории с соссюрской мыслью, состоит в том, что «Курс общей лингвистики» является продуктом совершенно своеобразной издательской истории.


Странный заговор молчания окружал издательскую историю «Курса», которая прояснилась с помощью недавно найденных документов. Сегодня известно, что Антуан Мейе, выдающийся парижский лингвист и давний друг Соссюра, задумал вскоре после его смерти в феврале 1913 года опубликовать конспекты женевских лекций в сотрудничестве со старейшими из этих лекций Полем Регаром. Однако в мае 1913 года Балли энергично возражает против этой идеи в письме к Мейе. Последний в ответном письме пишет: «Проект, который я наметил с молодым Регаром, оставлен. Этот проект все время зависел от вашего одобрения, и с того момента, как у вас появились другие видения, другие цели, он не должен быть вопросом» [1]. Никто никогда, казалось, больше не заговорит об этом проекте. И только общественный отклик несоизмеримо старательно незамечавшийся, пролился реакций Регара на издание «Курса» в предисловии к его диссертации, опубликованной в 1919 году: «Ученик, слышавший большую часть лекций Фердинанда де Соссюра по общей лингвистике и знающий материала, на которых основана публикация, неизбежно испытывает разочарование, не найдя изысканной привлекательности лекций учителя. Сохраняла ли публикация конспектов лекций мощную и оригинальную мысль Фердинанда де Соссюра? А сами изменения, которые издатели, кажется, боятся выпустить в свет, не представляют ли именно они их единственный интерес?» [1]. Нужно считать эти строки вожделенным выражением очень серьезного несогласия.

Молчание другого слушателя женевских лекций еще более тягостное, поскольку речь идет о Ридлингере, коллеге Балли и Сеше. В 1957 г. он высказывает свое мнение о «Курсе» в письме (оставшемся неизданным до 2000 г.) к товарищу по школе, в котором он объясняет свой отказ написать статью по его просьбе для Tribune de Genève: «Для меня будет невозможным дать представление об истинной величине Ф. де Соссюра бессенняя его с Балли... Балли сильно сократил общую лингвистику, что в работе Годеля будет бесспорно доказано... Еще более серьезным является полное уничтожение великолепного введения на 100 страниц во вторых лекциях... Годель видит в этом введении квинтэссенцию соссюрской мысли. Но Балли, очень способный к наблюдению лингвистических фактов, не имел философского чувства своего учителя» [1].

Не было ли единственной причиной афиширования «сотрудничества» с Ридлингером редакторами «Курса» — «стирание» их отсутствия на лекциях и делание правдоподобной апостериори их концепции по сравнению с концепцией Регара — Мейе? В 1954 году ученик Ш. Балли, профессор Женевского университета Робер Годель опубликовал часть обнаруженного им материала — дополнительные записи лекционных курсов Соссюра и хранившихся в библиотеке Женевского университета черновики самого Соссюра — под названием «Тетради Ф. де Соссюра». В 1957 году вышло в свет исследование Робера Годеля — «Рукописные источники «Курса общей лингвистики»» [5], в котором открывает простор для исследований оригинальных соссюрских текстов. В эту книгу включены ранее обнаруженные автором материалы и ряд других соссюрских документов, а также студенческих записей, не использованных издателями «Курса». «Надо прямо сказать, что со страниц «Рукописных источников...» на нас смотрит несколько иной Соссюр, чем тот, которого мы привыкли видеть в каноническом тексте. Да и образ Соссюра — лектора вырисовывается более масштабным, обращенным не только к проблемам внутренней лингвистики, но и широким областям филологии, где есть место не только общей проблематике и сравнительной грамматике индоевропейских языков, но и отдельным вопросам романтизма... и германистики, включая литературоведческие работы и несколько загадочных... изыскания в области антаргатами» [6, с. 15].