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TESTING TIMES

Special American
English Edition

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US PRESIDENT TO ANNEXE BRITISH COUNCIL AND GOETHE- INSTITUT TO **M**AKE **A**MERICAN **E**NGLISH **G**REAT **A**GIN!

Within hours of the 47th US President's inauguration, a wide range of seemingly megalomaniac and kleptomaniac policies were proclaimed in a number of TED (Trump Executive Decree) monologues. According to well-informed sources, the incumbent's antipathy towards Europe has now motivated him to promote the linguistic interests of American English by incorporating and/or re-naming some of the most renowned European language institutions such as the Association for Lauding Trump in English and the Interstate Agency To Eradicate Foreign Lingos).

For worried British and European linguists, the question now is what consequences such a 'trumped-up' executive order might have, especially in view of the extremely discriminatory attitude towards anything and anybody that is considered to be non-MAGEA = Make American (English) Great Again, e.g. the grammar and vocabulary should not only be right, it has to be extremely right. According to insiders at the Council of Europe, as yet unconfirmed rumours (or should that be rumors?) suggest that the following 'tariffic' and 'booty-ful' MAEGA English language amendments may soon well apply unconditionally.

- + American English will with immediate effect be known as the President's English; the alternative name King's English is still under consideration.
- + The concept of EFL will be replaced by EAL (English as an American Language), which by presidential decree has now been declared to be THE only official language in the US.
- + The irregular past tense form of the verb 'to wake' will be banned.
- + All trans-itive verbs will be eradicated from the American English lexicon.
- + To ensure the financial security of the MAEGA movement, all male and female forms of the language will be known as Musk-uline and non-Musk-uline.
- + American English usage will withdraw from 'WHO' and use WHOM exclusively.
- + All DEIctic words and all other forms of DEI-xis are to be prohibited, especially in connection with the past tense of the verb 'wake' (f. above).

- + To protect American English from corruption by alien English dialects, a new version of the TESOL test will be introduced to ensure that only American English is used (TESOL = Test to Eliminate Speakers of Other Languages). Such tests will be known as Dis-placement Tests.
- + American English words such as "elevator", "automobile", "faucet" and "math" that have been stolen by other languages will be subject to copyright tariffs (a beautiful = booty-ful word!).
- + The perpetrators of offenses against US spelling laws, e.g. exams using deviant non-MAEGA forms such as capitalise, centre, defence, humour or programme, will lose their testees, i.e. they will be E-MUSK-ulated.
- + A new agency with the name of DOGE (= the Department of Grammatical Efficiency) will be set up to enforce the new language competence level A0.5, to be known as Presidential Competence. This will be based on a redundancy corpus generated from a compendium of the President's Campaign Speeches.
- + Genuine American-born test-takers who have failed language examinations for using Americanisms will be granted a POTUS (= royal) pardon and receive an alternative post-fact certificate.
- + Words or phrases containing European references will be replaced by American words, e.g. French fries will become Florida fries, German measles will be known as Georgia measles, Dutch courage will be replaced by Don's courage, and Turkish delight will be known as Trump delight.
- + All real estate occupied at present by the British Council or ALTE member organisations will be annexed and repurposed for leisure activities, e.g. British English language courses will be replaced by golf courses.
- + To ensure that POTUS automatically qualifies for C2 linguistic proficiency level, the new Common American English Framework of Reference will no longer include the competence category of coherence.
- + To ensure freedom of speech for all truly American citizens, any grammar rule based on traditional British English usage will be summarily escorted out of the White House.
- + All Cambridge or Oxford grammar books will be declared language cartels and banned in order to eradicate lefty extremist language-teaching materials and to ensure that American English will no longer be 'ripped off'.
- + To stop the increasing liberal use of language, all tenses that are at present known as progressive forms, e.g. past progressive, will be disqualified, and in keeping with the intellectual background of the governing political class, only simple forms will be used.

- + As the price of eggs was a crucial part of the President's MAEGA election campaign, the spelling of many words will be changed accordingly, e.g. the US will attempt to an-EGGS Canada and Greenland, and MAEGA language tests will be known as EGGS-ams, otherwise the President will impose EGG-onomic sanctions.
- + In keeping with the aims of MAEGA, the Biden regime will always be referred to in the imperfect past tense, and all statements concerning the coming four (if we are unlucky eight or more - cf. below) Trump POTUS years will exclusively use the future perfect continuous, with at least two superlatives to be included in any sentence.
- + All test rooms will be known as White Houses and oral examiners shall be called Vice-Presidents - aka as DeV(i)ances.
- + In all oral tests, candidates who insist on expressing their own opinions that contradict official presidential linguistic policies will not only fail, they will be ceremoniously expelled from the White House.
- + No language that has more than two genders will be allowed to cross the American border except for Russian.
- + As POTUS fails to comprehend international foreign policy, e.g. the difference between invasion (INPUT) and operation (PUTIN), Russian will receive the same diplomatic language status as American English and be known by the acronym ROP (= Russian for Occupation Purposes).
- + In keeping with this new name, POTUS is said to be contemplating annexing the C(A)EFR and introducing new names for the various proficiency levels in Russian, i.e. A1 Marks, A2 Marks, B1 Marks, B2 Marks, C1 Marks or C2 Marks. A new examination system for these proficiency levels is not expected as this would most likely be de-tested!
- + POTUS will apply this new C(A)EFR-oriented system to all future White House Examination Press Conferences with one amendment: there will be no CAN DO statements, only CAN'T DO, e.g. you CAN'T criticize, you CAN'T report the truth, etc.
- + To improve the pass rate on American English tests, all intending candidates will have to prove they are native speakers, e.g. born in the US to parents born in the US with grandparents and great-grandparents born in the US, before taking the test, otherwise they will become borderline candidates, i.e. on the other side of the border.
- + All MAEGA language tests will be required to include a 48 hour break to allow POTUS to fly off to Florida for a round of golf.

- + Government agencies have been ordered to remove, modify, or flag hundreds of words and phrases (not only) in language tests. Some of the most notable terms to be 'white-listed' include: gender, pronouns, female (but not male), and they/them. The list allegedly includes all words that begin with "bi-" with the significant exception of 'billionaire'.
- + The use of sentences dating from the 18th Century to eliminate Venezuelan incursions into MAEGA rules is still subject to confirmation.
- + The use of politeness strategies will be suspended in testing situations, such as whenever a visitor dares to disagree with (e.g. to correct) the Chief Examiner.
- + Despite the centuries-old ruling that MAEGA examiners may act as assessors for no more than two testing sessions, the present MAEGA aims per executive order to allow himself to grant himself permission to elect himself for a third session as his two previous testing sessions have been universally acknowledged as having been particularly testing.
- + All non-US-born MAEGA test candidates will have the option of purchasing a \$5,000,000 'Trump Gold Card', which will allow them to accidentally join a Signal chat group that secretly discloses the answers to all test items.
- + MAEGA supporters are expected to avoid the use of capital letters when producing written texts, and without fear of punishment will write exclusively in small case - a campaign known as the Capitals Riot policy.
- + In line with promises made regarding the ending of international conflicts, MAEGA candidates will receive their test results 'within 24 hours'.
- + Reports from Ottawa suggest that the MAEGA President's Carney-vore wish to devour Canada will not be tolerated.
- + Oral tests in MAEGA American English will be subject to new exorbitant tariffs that will vary according to the country of origin. This has led to a diplomatic row with the penguins on the Heard and McDonald Islands who maintain that these tariffs discriminate against Penguin English (aka as Pinglish). They are threatening to take their case to the United Nations International Court of Animal Rights. A MAEGA spokesperson has denied the accusation that the tariff increases in the oral MAEGA test will restrict the island's residents' freedom to squawk.