Interactions across Englishes

English is a language at the centre of research into language contact, because its global spread has resulted in contact with an enormous variety of different languages worldwide, leading to the creation of many new varieties of English, including second-language varieties, and also pidgins and creoles. This book takes an original look at what happens when speakers of these different varieties interact with one another. Using her own rich fieldwork data from diverse international and South African contexts, Meierkord proposes an innovative approach to how Englishes merge and blend in such interactions, creating further new forms of English, and further changes to the language. Through skilful analyses and descriptions, the book provides fascinating insights into where and who the users of English as a lingua franca are and what English then looks like at the levels of phonetics, morphosyntax, the lexicon and discourse.

CHRISTIANE MEIERKORD is Chair Professor of English Linguistics in the English Department at Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany.
Studies in English Language

General editor
Merja Kytö (Uppsala University)

Editorial Board
Bas Aarts (University College London)
John Algeo (University of Georgia)
Susan Fitzmaurice (University of Sheffield)
Christian Mair (University of Freiburg)
Charles F. Meyer (University of Massachusetts)

The aim of this series is to provide a framework for original studies of English, both present-day and past. All books are based securely on empirical research, and represent theoretical and descriptive contributions to our knowledge of national and international varieties of English, both written and spoken. The series covers a broad range of topics and approaches, including syntax, phonology, grammar, vocabulary, discourse, pragmatics and sociolinguistics, and is aimed at an international readership.

Already published in this series:

Irma Taavitsainen and Päivi Pahta (eds.): Medical and Scientific Writing in Late Medieval English
Elizabeth Gordon, Lyle Campbell, Jennifer Hay, Margaret Maclagan, Andrea Sudbury and Peter Trudgill: New Zealand English: Its Origins and Evolution
Raymond Hickey (ed.): Legacies of Colonial English
Merja Kyto, Mats Ryden and Erik Smitterberg (eds.): Nineteenth Century English: Stability and Change
John Algeo: British or American English? A Handbook of Word and Grammar Patterns
Christian Mair: Twentieth-Century English: History, Variation and Standardization
Evelien Keizer: The English Noun Phrase: The Nature of Linguistic Categorization
Raymond Hickey: Irish English: History and Present-Day Forms
Günter Rohdenburg and Julia Schlüter (eds.): One Language, Two Grammars?: Differences between British and American English
Laurel J. Brinton: The Comment Clause in English
Geoffrey Leech, Marianne Hundt, Christian Mair and Nicholas Smith: Change in Contemporary English: A Grammatical Study
Jonathan Culpeper and Merja Kytö: *Early Modern English Dialogues: Spoken Interaction as Writing*

Daniel Schreier, Peter Trudgill, Edgar Schneider and Jeffrey Williams: *The Lesser-Known Varieties of English: An Introduction*

Hilde Hasselgård: *Adjunct Adverbials in English*

Raymond Hickey: *Eighteenth-Century English: Ideology and Change*

Charles Boberg: *The English Language in Canada: Status, History and Comparative Analysis*

Thomas Hoffmann: *Preposition Placement in English: A Usage-based Approach*

Claudia Claridge: *Hyperbole in English: A Corpus-based Study of Exaggeration*

Päivi Pahta and Andreas H. Jucker (eds.): *Communicating Early English Manuscripts*

Irma Taavitsainen and Päivi Pahta (eds.): *Medical Writing in Early Modern English*

Colette Moore: *Quoting Speech in Early English*

David Denison, Ricardo Bermúdez-Otero, Chris McCully and Emma Moore (eds.): *Analysing Older English: Evidence, Methods and Solutions*

Jim Feist: *Premodifiers in English: Their Structure and Significance*

Steven Jones, M. Lynne Murphy, Carita Paradis and Caroline Willners: *Antonyms in English: Construals, Constructions and Canonicity*

*Earlier titles not listed are also available*
Interactions across Englishes

Linguistic Choices in Local and International Contact Situations

CHRISTIANE MEIERKORD

Ruhr-Universität, Bochum, Germany
Contents

List of figures  page x
List of tables xi
Preface and acknowledgements xiii
Key to transcription symbols xv
List of abbreviations xvi

1 Introduction  1

2 From English as a lingua franca to Interactions across Englishes  12
  2.1 English as a lingua franca: myths and realities  13
  2.2 Challenging the myths about English as a lingua franca  19
  2.3 Facts from historical lingua francas  26
    2.3.1 Evidence from languages other than English  26
    2.3.2 Evidence of IaEs in the history of English  32
  2.4 Present-day realities  41
    2.4.1 Current lingua francas  41
    2.4.2 Variation in present-day English  44

3 Interactions across Englishes and contact phenomena  48
  3.1 Ecologies of language contact, dialect contact, and IaEs  48
  3.2 Processes and products of language contact, dialect contact, and IaEs  52
    3.2.1 Code alternation and nonce borrowing  52
    3.2.2 Mixing and levelling of varieties  57

4 The Interactions-across-Englishes model  61
  4.1 Individuals’ contributions to IaEs  63
  4.2 Selections from the ‘feature pool’  64
    4.2.1 Cognitive constraints on individual selections  64
    4.2.2 Social constraints: prestige, the forces of the linguistic market, and identity construction  65
  4.3 Emerging new varieties?  67

vii
viii Contents

5 Intranational Interactions across Englishes in the Outer Circle  69
  5.1 Africa  73
    5.1.1 Multilingual ecologies in present-day Africa  74
    5.1.2 Regio-ethnic Englishes in Nigeria  75
    5.1.3 Cameroon: where English and French meet local vernaculars  77
    5.1.4 From Sheng to Engsh in Kenya  79
  5.2 Asia  82
    5.2.1 Englishes and IaEs in multilingual ecologies in present-day Asia  82
    5.2.2 Regional Englishes in India  84
    5.2.3 English across ethnicities in Singapore and Malaysia  87
  5.3 The Pacific  91
    5.3.1 Fiji – local islanders and immigrant communities in contact  91

6 Local choices in South Africa  95
  6.1 Englishes and IaEs in South Africa’s multilingual ecologies  95
    6.1.1 A brief history of multilingualism, English, and IaEs in South Africa  96
    6.1.2 Englishes and IaEs in South Africa’s multilingual ecologies today  99
  6.2 Studying IaEs in South Africa  105
    6.2.1 Cape Town as an urban meeting place for South Africa’s Englishes  106
    6.2.2 Individual uses of English in IaEs  110
    6.2.3 Selections at the level of phonology  116
    6.2.4 Grammatical choices in the IaEs: progressive and past tense  123
    6.2.5 Lexical choices in South Africa’s IaEs and ‘strategies’ for lexical gaps  128

7 International Interactions across Englishes – trends and developments  132
  7.1 Current tendencies in the spread of English in Expanding Circle regions  133
  7.2 Functional contexts of international IaEs  138
    7.2.1 IaEs in international organisations and associations …  138
    7.2.2 … in secondary and tertiary education …  141
    7.2.3 … in international business …  144
    7.2.4 … and at the grass roots  147
Contents ix

7.3 Communities engaging in international IaEs 153
  7.3.1 IaEs in discourse communities … 154
  7.3.2 … in communities of practice … 156
  7.3.3 … and in social networks 157

8 Linguistic choices in global IaEs 158
  8.1 Selections at the level of vocabulary 159
    8.1.1 Potential inputs to IaEs and their ’feature pool’ 159
    8.1.2 Factual choices in international IaEs 161
  8.2 Selections at the grammar level 171
    8.2.1 Potential inputs by Outer Circle speakers 172
    8.2.2 Potential inputs by Expanding Circle speakers 173
    8.2.3 Outer Circle speakers’ selections surfacing in IaEs 174
    8.2.4 Selections surfacing in Expanding Circle speakers 175
    8.2.5 Grammatical structures emerging from the interaction: simplification and levelling 178
  8.3 Selections at the discourse level 179
    8.3.1 Selections in the opening and closing phases 179
    8.3.2 Behaviours in the core phase of the conversations 182
  8.4 Tales of hybridity, innovations, and restructuring? 189
    8.4.1 Laughter and pauses as back-channels and topic management devices 190
    8.4.2 Use of word-formation strategies 191
    8.4.3 Ecology-specific hybrid use of languages 191
    8.4.4 Cooperation as an explanatory factor 193

9 Conclusion and outlook 195
  9.1 The picture so far 195
  9.2 English as a lingua franca on the Internet 199
  9.3 Beyond Interactions across Englishes 201

Notes 205
References 215
Index 245
Figures

1.1 Visualisation of Kachru’s model adapted from Kachru (1992)  page 5
2.1 McArthur’s 1987 and Görlach’s 1988 models  21
2.2 Modiano’s 1999 model  22
2.3 Map of regions in which Kiswahili is used as a lingua franca  27
2.4 Map of regions in which Malay is used as a lingua franca  29
2.5 Map of regions in which Quechua has been used as a lingua franca  31
4.1 Interactions across Englishes  62
5.1 Outer Circle countries in the world  70
5.2 Locations of attested hybrid codes  73
5.3 Language families in Nigeria  76
5.4 Language families in Cameroon  78
5.5 Language families in Kenya  80
5.6 Language families in India  85
5.7 Language families in the Singapore and Malaysia region  87
5.8 Language families in Fiji  93
6.1 Distribution of South Africa’s official languages  96
6.2 Map of South Africa, indicating speakers of dominant home languages and of English as an L1 in percentages  98
6.3 Population estimates for mid year 2010 by population group  100
6.4 IaEs in South Africa  106
6.5 Map of the Cape peninsula  109
6.6 TRAP and GOOSE in the different South African Englishes  118
6.7 TRAP in Black and Coloured SAE in interaction  120
6.8 GOOSE in Black and Coloured SAE in interaction  122
6.9 Progressives across speakers in the corpus  126
6.10 The zero past-tense morpheme across speakers in the corpus  129
7.1 Signpost at an international tourist resort in the Philippines  151
7.2 Notice in a local bus on the Seychelles  152
7.3 Sign at a Japanese restaurant in Düsseldorf, Germany  153
8.1 Potential inputs to global IaEs  159
## Tables

2.1  Middle English regionalisms (based on Lass 1992: 33) 33  
2.2  Languages used as lingua francas and their second-language speakers 42  
2.3  Current spread and status of some languages used as lingua francas 43  
2.4  Official and/or working languages in international economic organisations 45  
2.5  Official and/or working languages in international political organisations 46  
5.1  Multilingualism in the Outer Circle countries of Africa 74  
5.2  Multilingualism in the Outer Circle countries of Asia and East Asia 83  
5.3  Multilingualism in the Outer Circle countries of the Pacific 92  
6.1  Selected Acts enforcing race segregation in South Africa 99  
6.2  Distribution of home language by population group in Cape Town 2001 107  
6.3  Most common home languages in Khayelitsha and Mitchell’s Plain in percentages 108  
6.4  Speakers by language background, sex, and occupation 110  
7.1  Selected regions in which English was banned or discouraged 134  
7.2  Selected international organisations using English 139  
7.3  Shares of incoming students’ countries of origin in selected Expanding Circle nations 142  
7.4  Top export nations of selected Expanding Circle countries 145  
8.1  Phrasal verbs and idioms in the present corpus 167  
8.2  Formulae in GREETs 181  
8.3  Formulae in LEAVE-TAKEs 183  
8.4  Turn length in different speaker groups 184  
8.5  Back-channels in comparison 188  

© in this web service Cambridge University Press  www.cambridge.org
Preface and acknowledgements

This volume is the result of my continuing interest in intercultural interpersonal communication, which has grown ever since my childhood, which I spent in a house together with people who were at the time considered ‘guest workers’. It may have been the influence of those extremely friendly people, who would give stamps, sweets, and other souvenirs from their original home countries to us children, which sparked my attraction to other cultures and languages.

Later, at an academic level, fascination turned into professional occupation, initially with interactions in a multicultural residence in the UK, and later with interactions taking place in English in various ecologies on the African continent and in Europe. As diverse as the people in these interactions are the linguistic processes that can be observed, and these are at the very centre of this volume. It is rooted firmly in the World Englishes paradigm with its belief in the equality of all varieties of English and discusses the use of English as a lingua franca as contact between individuals speaking these various Englishes.

This book would not have been conceivable without the many friends and colleagues who have helped shape my ideas in many ways. Thanks are therefore due to Lienhard Legenhausen, who originally caused my interest in English Linguistics with a seminar on pidgins and creoles and who supervised my early work. Along the way, many others have provided company and advice and influenced my thinking through discussions of their and my own work: Beyza Björkmann, Beatrix Busse, Zubeida Desai, Bettina Dresemann, Stephan Gabel, Markus Kötter, Ágnes Lésznyak, Gunnel Melchers, and Philip Shaw. Thank you so much. Over the years, I have also benefited greatly from many discussions with Juliane House and Andy Kirkpatrick, both of whom have very much inspired this book through their own empirical investigations into English as a lingua franca and through sharing their views with me.

Special thanks are due to Kay McCormick, who wholeheartedly invited me to meet her at Cape Town University and discuss my project ideas with her back in 2001. This, as well as our subsequent meetings, dinners, etc. proved highly valuable not only in shaping the project but also at a personal
xiv  Preface and acknowledgements

level. Raj Mesthrie, his wife, and daughter deserve a special mention. Without them I would not have been able to understand the complexities of South Africa’s society. Thank you also to Bertus and Susan van Rooy for sharing data, expertise, and food. I am also very grateful to Lillian Kaviti, who generously supplied me with material and background information on Sheng and Engsh in Kenya.

Particularly warm thanks are due to two more people. To Kingsley Bolton for continuing to be a friend, host, and discussant, and for making many things possible – earlier in Stockholm and later in Hong Kong. And especially to Karlfried Knapp, who will realise when reading the individual chapters how much his early and pioneering work on English as a lingua franca has influenced my own writings. To him I am also indebted for providing me with a very supportive environment at Erfurt University.

I am most grateful to Merja Kytö, the Series Editor, for her support of this book and her critical reading of the manuscript, and to Helen Barton, Commissioning Editor (Linguistics) at Cambridge University Press, for her continuing advice and encouragement during the project. Many thanks also to the anonymous reviewers commissioned by Cambridge University Press for their highly constructive feedback on the initial proposal for the volume, and to Salikoko Mufwene for many valuable comments and discussions that helped streamline my thoughts. The editing process benefited highly from the very careful work of Zahra Amirsad, Bridget Fonku, Verena Minow, Heiko Schittek, Jude Ssempuuma, Barbara Stauch, and Eva Zumhasch.

Thanks are also due to Cambridge University Press for permission to reproduce the diagram ‘The Circle of World English’, from McArthur (1987: 11), Kachru’s rendition of his Three Circles model from Kachru (1992: 3), and the figure ‘English as an international language (EIL) illustrated as those features of English which are common to all native and non-native varieties’, from Modiano (1999: 10); De Gruyter for permission to reproduce the diagram ‘Status von Varietäten des Engl. und verwandter Sprachen weltweit’, from Görlach (1988: 161).

Most of all, however, it is my family without whose loving support I couldn’t have written this book. Thank you, Christof, Simon, and David for bearing with me during the process of writing this volume, for tolerating many physical and mental absences, and for reminding me of the many other joys of life.

I dedicate this book to those ladies and gentlemen who were willing to share their personal histories with us and who provided me with such precious data. Without them, this book would not have been possible. For ethical reasons, they must remain anonymous here, and all their names have been replaced by nicknames in the various transcripts.
Victoria: I'm Victoria Samtaka. I'm a waitron here, like anyway a waitres. @@
I'm a year now and I'm happy in this industry. (...) So I hope (...) to be
here long.

Anja: Mh.

Victoria: Mhm, yeah

Anja: So what does a restaurant supervisor do? (...) Does she/ she supervises
you?

Victoria: Yes. Thanks.

Anja: Mh.

Victoria: She's directing us what to do. And she's telling us what to do. And
she's helping us out also.

Anja: Mh, [mh.]

Victoria: [Yes.]
Abbreviations

EU European Union
IaEs Interactions across Englishes
L₁ first language
L₂ second language
Ln a co-participant’s L₁
FL foreign language (in the sense of Kachru 1982, i.e. a language learnt through formal instruction and mainly used in a classroom context)