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World Englishes

The spread of English around the world has been and continues to be both rapid and unpredictable. *World Englishes* deals with this inescapable result of colonisation and globalisation from a social and linguistic perspective. The main focus of the book is on the second-language varieties of English that have developed in the former British colonies of East and West Africa, the Caribbean, South and South-East Asia. The book provides a historical overview of the common circumstances that gave rise to these varieties, and a detailed account of their recurrent similarities in structure, patterns of usage, vocabulary and accents. Also discussed are debates about language in education, the rise of English in China and Western Europe, and other current developments in a world of global travel and migration.

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The Study of New Linguistic Varieties

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Preface

The study of varieties of English that began as second languages under the experience of British colonialism is not new, going back to the nineteenth century. As in all matters pertaining to language contact the name Hugo Schuchardt comes to mind, with his 1891 study *Das Indo-Englische*, which examines the properties of varieties of English in India, in the light of the author's interest in Creole and other contact languages. Within the colonies, some scholars had also tried to inculcate the serious study of the local varieties of English, as opposed to satirical works or grammars, promising to weed out the unconventional in these varieties. The influence of Firoz Dustoor in the middle of the twentieth century at Allahabad and later Delhi is cited by Braj Kachru. It is safe to say that until the 1980s most work tended to discuss individual varieties of colonial English in isolation. The comparative study of what has more or less come to be called 'World Englishes' is due to the pioneering efforts of many scholars. ('New Englishes' is a near-synonym, which we occasionally employ.) Of these scholars Braj Kachru, once of Kashmir, then Edinburgh and finally Urbana-Champaign, probably deserves the most credit for establishing this subfield. It is due to his enthusiasm, vigorous insights and charisma that the area of study entered the mainstream of Sociolinguistics. Other scholars have played important pioneering roles. Manfred Görlach at Cologne has been equally vociferous in his role as researcher and publisher, and it is thanks largely to his efforts (and that of his successor, Edgar Schneider, at Regensburg) that German universities are important centres for World English studies today. His edited collection with another pioneer, Richard W. Bailey (1982), remains a primary resource. John T. Platt at Singapore wrote important articles and books in the late 1970s and 1980s which tried to integrate the study of New Englishes with the field of Pidgin and Creole studies, which had become established as the major branch of Contact Linguistics at the time. The tradition of World English studies as a result continues to thrive in Malaysia and (especially) Singapore. A fourth figure

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of influence is Tom McArthur who established the popular magazine-cum-journal *English Today* in Cambridge. In Africa early interest in the subject was sparked by the writings of John Spencer, K. A. Sey and Ayo Bamgbose.

The major impact of international migration and globalisation in the late twentieth and current centuries has made World Englishes an essential part of modern culture and sociology. Creative writing in English from the former colonial territories is an essential part of this prominence (e.g. those of Ben Okri, Vikram Seth and Arundhati Roy, to name a few). In this book we have endeavoured to give a sense of the main concerns of the field, drawing in large part upon the foundational writings of the linguists cited above. We have also included some discussions of the debates surrounding the ideology of the spread of English. However, as the main focus of our interest is on linguistic structure, space allocated to the themes of ideology, neocolonialism and even New English literature is not as large as they might deserve. That space belongs to another kind of book. We have brought some of our own interests within Linguistics into the book too: a section on what linguistics might make of the variable structures in stable second-language varieties is offered in a section on Optimality Theory (written by Rakesh Bhatt), and a major part of a chapter is devoted to parallels with Pidgin and Creole studies (written by Rajend Mesthrie). In addition, we have tried to bridge the paradigm gap between studies of Second Language Acquisition (which often focuses on individuals) and New Englishes. Inevitably our coverage has come from varieties we are most familiar with: Indian English (Bhatt) and Black and Indian South African Englishes (Mesthrie). But we have not neglected the major second language varieties of English to be found in West and East Africa, Singapore and Malaysia, and what have become first languages in Ireland and in places like the US reservations. Finally, in respect of areal coverage, we examine the current growth of English in China and Europe.

In terms of organisation, the first chapter covers the history of the spread of English. The second and third chapters give a broad overview of the recurrent morphological and syntactic features that differentiate New Englishes, at a prototypical level, from standard metropolitan varieties. These two chapters double up as an introduction to why New Englishes deserve linguistic attention, and as a reference grammar. A concluding section introduces a more integrated analysis from other branches of Linguistics, namely Variation Theory and Optimality Theory. The second half of this section on Optimality Theory is aimed at readers with some familiarity with modern approaches to

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Syntax and Phonology. It can be skimmed over by readers without this background. Chapter 4 continues the structural overview, with respect to recurrent aspects of vocabulary and phonetics. Chapter 5 moves from structure to discourse, pragmatics and code-switching, with some applications from literary and colloquial sources. Chapter 6 offers an overview of how the diverse structures found in New Englishes can be viewed from frameworks offered by Second Language Acquisition Theory and Creolistics. In Chapter 7 we conclude by looking at more practical and applied aspects of the field of World Englishes, covering issues relating to education, communication in the era of global air travel, and the continuing post-modern linguistic interfaces between Centre and Periphery. Truly this is an important global subject that deserves rigorous sociolinguistic investigation. We hope we have made a small dent in this direction.

For the research administrators whose task it is to catalogue and evaluate research, it is necessary to stress that this work, like its predecessors in the series, is an original, research-based work that draws on existing studies and extends them via the intellectual leanings and academic stamp of the authors. We envisage a readership that covers researchers in the field, academics, their advanced undergraduate and beginning graduate students.

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This text is a collective product of the myriad influences that have shaped our thinking on the subject of New Englishes, and which can be easily deduced from the preface and the text that follows. Rakesh Bhatt owes a professional debt to Professors Yamuna and Braj Kachru who have been most active in his training in this field. They have also been gracious and stimulating hosts to Rajend Mesthrie on his several trips to Urbana-Champaign. We also owe thanks to Professors Ramakant Agnihotri and Rajendra Singh who have provoked a re-thinking on some of the taken-for-granted concepts and consequences of this relatively new field within Contact Linguistics. Many thanks to other colleagues and friends in the field with whom one or both of us have had the opportunity to discuss parts of our work over the years: Gillian Sankoff, John Singler, Salikoko Mufwene, Suresh Canagarajah, Vaidehi Ramanathan, S. N. Sridhar, Monica Heller, K. P. Mohanan, Tara Mohanan, Miriam Meyerhoff, Meena Sridhar, Rajeshwari Pandharipande, Hans Hock, James Yoon, Abbas Benmamoun, Karlos Arregi, Silvina Montrul, Eyamba Bokamba, Nkonko Kamwangamalu, Jean D'Souza, Anne Pakir, Tammy Valentine, Tej Bhatia, Vijay Bhatia, Kimberley Brown, Peter Lowenberg, Margie Berns, Agnes Bolonyai, Rick Hallett, Shahrzad Mahootian, Matt Ciscel, Roger Lass, Joan Swann, Ana Deumert, Kay McCormick, Bertus van Rooy, John Baugh, Edgar Schneider, Manfred Görlach, Bernd Kortmann, Christian Mair, Tom McArthur, Chris Jeffery, Jan Blommaert and others.

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Some sections from our previous writings occur here in a revised form, for which we express our gratitude to the original publishers. The section on Optimality Theory draws on Rakesh Bhatt's article 'Optimal Expressions in Indian English', *English Language and Linguistics* 4 (2000): 69–95. The following articles/chapters were originally authored by Rajend Mesthrie: parts of Chapter 1 appeared as 'World Englishes and the Multilingual History of English', *World Englishes* 25/3–4 (2006): 381–90; parts of the section on pidgin and Creole linguistics in Chapter 6 do double duty with sections in Singler and Kouwenberg (eds.), *A Handbook of Pidgin and Creole Linguistics* (2007); and the section on phonology in Chapter 4 is adapted from Schneider *et al.*, *A Handbook of Varieties of English*, vol. I (2004). We are grateful to Manfred Görlach, Braj Kachru and (especially) Tom McArthur for permission to reproduce the circles diagrams in Chapter 1.

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Abbreviations

AAE	African American English
Af	African
Am	American
ATC	Air Traffic Control
AUX	auxiliary
Bl	Black
Cam	Cameroons
CFl	Cape Flats
colloq	colloquial
Comp	Complement
CP	Complement Phrase
E	East
EAL	English as an Additional Language
EFL	English as a Foreign Language
EIL	English as an International Language
ELC	English Language Complex
Eng	English
ENL	English as a Native Language
ESL	English as a Second Language
Ghan	Ghanaian
HKng	Hong Kong
Ind	Indian
Ir	Irish
L1	first language
L2	second language
Mal	Malaysian
N	North
Nig	Nigerian
NP	Noun Phrase
OT	Optimality Theory
Pak	Pakistani
PD	Pro Drop

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Phl	Phillipines
pl.	plural
pro	pronoun
S	South
sg.	singular
Sgp	Singaporean
SLA	Second Language Acquisition
Spec	Specifier
SrLnk	Sri Lankan
Std	Standard
TL	target language
V	verb
W	West
WE	World Englishes
Φ	zero
*	ungrammatical

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