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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World Englishes

The Study of New Linguistic Varieties

RAJEND MESTHRIE AND RAKESH M. BHATT
Contents

List of figures  page viii
List of tables  ix
Preface  xi
Acknowledgements  xiv
List of abbreviations  xvi

1 History: the spread of English  1
  1.1. Introduction: the English Language Complex  1
  1.2. The field of ‘World Englishes’  3
  1.3. Language spread: integrating New Englishes into the history of the English Language Complex  12
  1.4. The spread of English in former British colonies  17
  1.5. Models of English  27
  1.6. A controversy in World English studies: the native speaker  36
  1.7. Conclusion  37

2 Structural features of New Englishes I: morphology and phrasal syntax  39
  2.1. A note on method  39
  2.2. A note on terminology and varieties studied  43
  2.3. The Noun Phrase  47
  2.4. The Verb Phrase  58
  2.5. Other function words  73
  2.6. Conclusion  75

3 Structural features of New Englishes II: cross-clausal syntax and syntactic theory  78
## CONTENTS

3.1. Introduction 78  
3.2. Cross-clausal syntax 78  
3.3. New English syntax and sociolinguistic variation 92  
3.4. Optimality Theory 96  
3.5. Conclusion 108  

4 More on structure: lexis and phonology 109  
4.1. The vocabulary of New Englishes 109  
4.2. Phonetics and phonology 118  
4.3. Conclusion 130  

5 Pragmatics and discourse 131  
5.1. Introduction 131  
5.2. The pragmatics of syntactic forms 132  
5.3. The pragmatics of discourse particles 136  
5.4. Speech acts in New Englishes 140  
5.5. Discourse across cultures 144  
5.6. Discourse context in New English literature 147  
5.7. Style shifting and code-switching 149  
5.8. Conclusion 154  

6 Language contact and language acquisition issues in New English research 156  
6.1. Introduction 156  
6.3. Degrees of contact and transmission 175  
6.4. New Englishes and Creolistics 180  
6.5. Historical retentions in New Englishes 188  
6.6. Conclusion 198  

7 Conclusion: current trends in the spread of English 200  
7.1. Introduction 200  
7.2. Some educational issues 200  
7.3. The Expanding Circle again 208  
7.4. Metropolis, Outer Circle and global communication 216
Contents

7.5. Language spread, purism and cultural imperialism again 219

7.6. Conclusion 222

Glossary 225
Bibliography 235
Author index 265
Subject index 271
Figures

1.1 Tom McArthur’s Circle of World English  page 28
1.2 Manfred Görlach’s Circle model of English  29
1.3 Braj Kachru’s Circles model of World Englishes  30
4.1 Five-vowel system: Type 1  120
4.2 Five-vowel system: Type 2  120
## Tables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Past marking of verbs by phonetic type in Singapore English</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>Simplified implicational scale showing copula variability in Singapore English</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Percentage scores for copula realisation by educational level and linguistic environment in Singapore English</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Percentage scores for categorical copula realisation by educational level and linguistic environment in Singapore English</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>Contribution of each factor to the occurrence of <em>be</em> in Singapore English</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>Factors determining social and psychological distance</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 Görler 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
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
Preface

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.
Acknowledgements

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 rethinking 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.

Our past and present students at Urbana-Champaign and Cape Town deserve a special mention for their interest in the subject and contribution to our thinking and presentation. Large parts of the manuscript were tried on students in Cape Town in the spring of 2005 and on an uncomplaining group of Masters students at the University of Regensburg in the cold northern winter of 2005: Rajend Mesthrie remembers them fondly and thanks Edgar Schneider, the facilitator-cum-host.
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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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And finally, to our families. Rakesh gives heartfelt thanks to his wife Barbara, son Ashish and daughter Priyasha, for standing by during the writing process. Rajend thanks his wife Uma and daughter Sapna likewise. It is to them that we dedicate this book.
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

xvi
## Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Phl</td>
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<tr>
<td>pl.</td>
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<td>pro</td>
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<td>S</td>
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<td>sg.</td>
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<td>Sgp</td>
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<td>SLA</td>
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