

English as a Lingua Franca

English as a Lingua Franca (ELF) is a term used to describe the use of English as a common language for communication between speakers whose first language is not English. Providing a unique and original perspective on this subject, Istvan Kecskes explains the language behavior of ELF speakers, through the lens of Gricean pragmatics. This study successfully brings together the main viewpoints of the Gricean paradigm into ELF research, to discuss and better understand the nature of ELF interactions, as well as explaining how Gricean pragmatics can benefit from investigating and analyzing ELF. Each chapter presents intriguing ideas that put existing knowledge into a new perspective, such as interactional competence, intention, implicatures, the semantics–pragmatics interface, and modality. New terms and viewpoints such as language use mode, deliberate creativity, temporary extension of the system, emergent common ground, and modality continuum are introduced into the ELF debate.

ISTVAN KECSKES is Distinguished Professor of the State University of New York. He is the President of the American Pragmatics Association and the CASLAR (Chinese as a Second Language Research) Association. He is author of *Foreign Language and Mother Tongue* (2000, with Tunde Papp), *Situation-Bound Utterances in L1 and L2* (2003), and *Intercultural Pragmatics* (2013). He is the founding editor of the journal *Intercultural Pragmatics*.

English as a Lingua Franca

The Pragmatic Perspective

Istvan Kecskes

State University of New York, Albany



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-50337-3 — English as a Lingua Franca
Istvan Kecskes
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314-321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi - 110025, India
103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107503373

DOI: 10.1017/9781316217832

© Istvan Kecskes 2019

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2019

First paperback edition 2022

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data

Names: Kecskes, Istvan, author.

Title: English as a lingua franca : the pragmatic perspective / István Kecskés, State University of New York, Albany.

Description: Cambridge ; New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2019. |

Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2019020260 | ISBN 9781107103801 (alk. paper)

Subjects: LCSH: English language – Variation – Foreign countries. | English language – Globalization. | Lingua francas.

Classification: LCC PE2751 .K43 2019 | DDC 427–dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2019020260>

ISBN 978-1-107-10380-1 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-107-50337-3 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Contents

| | |
|--|----------------|
| <i>List of Figures</i> | <i>page</i> vi |
| <i>List of Tables</i> | vii |
| <i>Acknowledgments</i> | viii |
| Introduction | 1 |
| 1 The Nature of English as a Lingua Franca | 15 |
| 2 Linguistic Creativity in ELF | 45 |
| 3 Interactional Competence | 69 |
| 4 Sociocultural Background Knowledge | 91 |
| 5 Speaker’s Intention | 113 |
| 6 The Semantics–Pragmatics Interface | 137 |
| 7 Implicatures | 159 |
| 8 Modality | 184 |
| 9 Dialogic Sequences and Odd Structures | 206 |
| Epilogue | 232 |
| <i>References</i> | 236 |
| <i>Index</i> | 258 |

Figures

| | | |
|-----|--|----------------|
| 1.1 | Recent linguistic theory of language | <i>page</i> 22 |
| 1.2 | Kecskes’ definition of language | 23 |
| 1.3 | The result of the interplay of the English code system with the Chinese sociocultural background: Chinese variety of English | 24 |
| 1.4 | English as a Lingua Franca; native English; outer circle English | 25 |
| 5.1 | The perceptual salience triggered by the brand name | 125 |
| 8.1 | The continuum representing epistemic modality on the one side of the continuum, and deontic modality on the other side | 191 |
| 8.2 | Merging semantic criteria | 198 |

Tables

| | | |
|-----|--|----------------|
| 2.1 | Type-1 and Type-2 creativity | <i>page</i> 58 |
| 8.1 | Modal categories | 188 |
| 8.2 | Modal devices | 193 |
| 9.1 | Criteria for odd structures | 214 |
| 9.2 | Possible hearer- and speaker-strategies in reaction to OSs | 216 |
| 9.3 | Selected MCs and lack-of-clarity markers in VOICE | 218 |
| 9.4 | Speaker strategies in our dataset | 222 |

Acknowledgments

This book has grown out of a classroom experience. In the spring of 2016 I taught a graduate class on English as a Lingua Franca. During some heated debates with my students about the available literature in ELF, I realized that what we were really missing in the discussions was a perspective that reflects the Gricean way of thinking. My students were the first with whom I discussed my views about ELF, and who helped me shape the contour of this book. After that course I started to develop presentations on different aspects of ELF, such as formulaic language use, deliberate creativity, sociocultural background knowledge, and the semantics–pragmatics interface. I made these presentations in many universities all over the world where I received invaluable feedback from researchers and graduate students. I would particularly highlight the support I received at the National Research Tomsk State University, Russia; Sorbonne University, Paris, France; Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition and Behavior, Nijmegen, The Netherlands; Complutense University of Madrid, Spain; University of Messina, Italy; University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia; Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, Guangzhou, China; University of Belgrade, Serbia, just to mention a few. I really appreciated the feedback that I received from scholars such as Rachel Giora, Alessandro Capone, Michael Haugh, Jesus Romero-Trillo, Tatiana Larina, Markus Bieswanger, Olga Obdalova, Robert Sanders, He Gang, José Sánchez Fajardo, and others. I would also like to thank two of my doctoral students, Hahn Dinh, Limei Zhang and Sepideh Yasrebi for their help with the manuscript and references.

But again, my most sincere gratitude goes to my wife, Dr. Tunde Papp, whose intellectual support cannot be compared to anybody else's. Writing a book occasionally makes one's life difficult. You often need someone to discuss some issues with. Tunde was always there for me with her thoughtful suggestions and careful reasoning that always put me back on the right track. You can judge yourself how right that track was.