

Cambridge Elements

Elements in World Englishes

edited by

Edgar W. Schneider

University of Regensburg

UNIFORMITY AND VARIABILITY IN THE INDIAN ENGLISH ACCENT

Caroline R. Wiltshire

University of Florida



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-82327-2 — Uniformity and Variability in the Indian English Accent
Caroline R. Wiltshire
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
79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

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/9781108823272
DOI: 10.1017/9781108913768

© Caroline R. Wiltshire 2020

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 2020

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

ISBN 978-1-108-82327-2 Paperback
ISSN 2633-3309 (online)
ISSN 2633-3295 (print)

Additional resources for this publication at www.cambridge.org/wiltshire

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.

Uniformity and Variability in the Indian English Accent

Elements in World Englishes

DOI: 10.1017/9781108913768
First published online: November 2020

Caroline R. Wiltshire
University of Florida

Author for correspondence: Caroline R. Wiltshire, wiltshir@ufl.edu

Abstract: The sounds of Indian English are distinct and recognizable to outsiders, while insiders perceive variations in how English has developed in this large diverse population. What characteristics mark the unity? Which are clues to a speaker's origins or identity? This Element synthesizes research over the past fifty years and adds to it, focusing on selected features of consonants, vowels, and suprasegmentals (stress, intonation, rhythm) to understand the characteristics of Indian English accents and sources of its uniformity and variability. These accent features, perceptible by humans and discoverable by computational approaches, may be used in expressing identity, both local and pan-Indian.

Keywords: Indian English, dialect variation, accents, second language acquisition, language contact

© Caroline R. Wiltshire 2020

ISBNs: 9781108823272 (PB), 9781108913768 (OC)
ISSNs: 2633-3309 (online), 2633-3295 (print)

Contents

1 Introduction	1
2 Linguistic Situation in India	2
3 Consonants	17
4 Vowels	36
5 Suprasegmentals	51
6 Variation: Perception(s) and Attitudes	63
7 Conclusions	70
Appendix	75
References	77