

English around the World: An Introduction (2nd edition)
Edgar W. Schneider (2020)

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This book reveals to readers the linguistic, cultural, and social effects, which were initiated by the global spread of English, as well as diverse features of different ways of speaking English around the world. Its inclusive nature and striving for the equity of all English speakers are particularly commendable aspects of the book, as it vividly portrays the present time in research and in reality. In Schneider's words in the preface, the book aims to show 'reasons', 'processes', 'results', 'properties', and 'consequences' (p. xix) behind a vibrant spread of English around the world, and the ways in which it affects and is affected, enriches, and is enriched by diverse peoples. Topical division of the contents into an overview of the histories, cultures, and societies on the one hand, and the linguistic examination of the audio samples of the texts on the other, makes it a particularly detailed read. The book not only narrates about the effects of English in a global sense, but also shows readers some technical linguistic characteristics, which play a significant role in the diversification of Englishes spoken around the world.

The book consists of nine chapters and three detailed appendices. Appendices accompany the main text and provide necessary explanations for the audience from diverse professional and social backgrounds. As a result, the book is easily accessible and understandable even to beginners in Applied Linguistics and

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related fields. With an approachable and friendly narrative, vivid photographs, and authentic audio recordings of texts, Schneider brings the book closer to readers and enhances their experience and understanding of the historical, social, cultural, and linguistic development of the English language in even the remotest corners of the globalised world. As such and in the author's words, the book appears as a significant contribution to everyone, but especially to 'students, primarily but not exclusively undergraduates', who 'may be enrolled in a class on "World Englishes", "Varieties of English", or such like' (p. xix). It can, therefore, be used as a textbook for students and a general reading for everyone interested in the history, current spread, and influence of English.

Chapter 1, 'Introduction', provides an insight into what the book is about and what to expect from the following chapters. It also introduces some fundamental ideas and ways of thinking, both of which readers are expected to acquire in order to truly benefit from reading the book. In the first chapter, the author explains 'both globalising and nativizing' (p. 2) and 'both global and local' (p. 5) nature of English while essentially normalising its diverse features in different societies, primarily in those with colonial heritage. Such emphasis on the normalisation of English also reminds us of Dovchin and Lee's (2019) step away from fetishisation and exoticisation of language practices towards their ordinariness. Schneider explains that 'English is no longer just "one language"', as it comes in many different 'shapes and sizes' (p. 2), which simultaneously makes it local and global, with no real owner (Dovchin, 2018). This is the idea that Schneider takes throughout the chapter, but also throughout the book, as he aims to show that English has become much more than a single language for a single nation. It has surpassed the boundaries and truly become the language of the world.

In Chapter 2, 'Basic Notions', the reader becomes familiar with fundamental terminologies, which help them grasp the conceptualisation of different English varieties. It introduces and defines basic notions like *variety*, *standard language*, *accent*, and *register*, as well as discusses some of the ideologies surrounding them. In this chapter, the author presents language variation and different levels of language, in which this variation might take place. Succinct and comprehensible explanations of phonetics and phonology with spelling, transcription, and International Phonetics Alphabet (IPA), morphology, syntax, and pragmatics enable the reader to obtain a greater picture and easily understand different aspects of language variation and why it happens. Chapter 2 also talks about the reality and ubiquities of language contact, bi/multilingualism, borrowings, and transfer, while presenting the modern view on the inclusivity of pidgins and creoles as English varieties. Lastly, it presents World Englishes, as one of the initial models

of English representation in the world, accompanied by the more recent ‘Dynamic Model of the evolution of Postcolonial Englishes’ (p. 34). The chapter ends with the ecology of the language in terms of the internal and external conditions that underlie its development.

Chapter 3, ‘Historical Background’ introduces the reader to Englishes of the world as a product of the European colonisation of the British Empire and narrates the story behind these historical conditions. Above all, Schneider makes sure to emphasise that ‘history tends to be written from the perspective of those in power, so we must be careful to avoid sharing a “triumphant” perspective’ (p. 48) in order to make his moral view of the spread of the English language known. In this chapter, he explains types of colonisation, historical trajectory of the British Empire to the Commonwealth of Nations, and the emergence of the United States as a ‘superpower’ (p. 55), while touching upon the notions of the recent political events, as well as the Americanisation of English. The author focuses on the American and British linguistic ‘epicenters’ (p. 57) and the tension between internationalisation and localisation of English as an emerging trend. Lastly, he discusses the idea that English ought not to be perceived as one language; rather, the focus should be on its different varieties.

Chapter 4, ‘Language Crossing an Ocean: Old World and New World’, is the first of the three core chapters, where the author begins to introduce forms, functions, and characteristics of English in specific regions and countries in the world. The chapter looks into the beginnings of colonisation, which played a significant role in shaping English in the ‘Old World’ and the ‘New World’. Schneider introduces readers to the earliest written traces of the English language. He starts with the arrival of the Germanic tribes to the British Isles, when numerous words were taken from Latin due to the cultural innovation and progress, and continues to write about the emergence of American English in North America and Caribbean Creoles in the Caribbean. Schneider’s portrayal of the ignorance of the cross-linguistic influence, because of nationalistic ideologies of the 19th century and onwards, and the emphasis on “purity” of the Germanic ancestry of English’ (p. 70) reminds us of Canagarajah’s (2013) argument for the translingual practice that transgresses linguistic ideologies of nation-states, and supports the historical notion of language meshing, which colonisers often try to ignore for the sake of the *linguistic pseudo-purism* (see also Tankosić, 2020). Lastly, this chapter shows the development of different American English dialects, with a more detailed focus on the American English in the conservative South and the emergence of Caribbean Creoles in the society that mostly comprised of the descendants of the African slaves.

In Chapter 5, ‘Settlers and Locals: Southern Hemisphere Englishes, Transported and Newly Born’, readers are told about the arrival of the English language and its development in the Southern hemisphere countries, such as Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa. Following Blommaert’s (2010:49) view of languages as ‘mobile resources’, the chapter, in the author’s words, shows how indigenous nations – ‘Aboriginals in Australia; Maoris in New Zealand; Africans, Afrikaners, and later also Indians in South Africa’ (p. 118) – embraced and adapted English to their own cultural ethos. Schneider discusses the assimilation of the Indigenous peoples and the death of Indigenous languages. He also portrays the country where the end of *apartheid* presented possibilities towards democratisation and a unified society. This detailed observation of the historical settlement of British to *Down Under* shows the significant role of English in the sociopolitical life of people in the Southern hemisphere. Linguistic, social, cultural, and political negotiation between Indigenous peoples and settlers resulted in diverse dialects and forms of English, which have, until today, signalled social hierarchies and stratification (Silverstein, 2003).

Chapter 6, ‘Missionaries, Merchants, and More: English Is Useful, English Is Ours’, explores modern-day conditions and use of English in Kachru’s *Outer Circle*, namely Sub-Saharan Africa, East, South and South-East Asia, and the Pacific, where English retained a role of the second and sometimes even the first language. Readers become aware of the difference between the East and West African linguistic ecology, where English acquired a status of power and elitism. The most remarkable linguistic process in Sub-Saharan Africa was, as Schneider puts it, ‘indigenization’ of ‘African English’ (p. 149), where it adapted to the local context and became used by the local communities. The portrayal of the South and South-East Asia follows English development in India, ‘the “jewel” of the British Empire’ (p. 159), as well as Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Sultanate of Brunei, Philippines, Singapore, and later Malaysia. The chapter shows how English in those places has had elitist status and exhibited political dominance. Exploration, missionaries, and trading brought English to the Pacific, where it eventually became a co-official language with indigenous languages, and in some, even resulted in English-based pidgins. Lastly, the author explores the arrival and development of English in East Asian countries, predominantly representative of Kachru’s *Expanding Circle*, namely, Japan, China, and Korea. He explains how English borrowings represent a significant percentage of Japanese; in South Korea, English is a powerful social capital (Bourdieu, 1986); and in China, the status of English changed from being the language of an enemy to eventually attaining a higher status.

In Chapter 7, 'Language Development: A General Perspective', the author's development of linguistic features of World Englishes towards New Englishes leads to a conversation about socially determined 'superstrate' and 'substrate' streams, where the first one represents English, as 'coming "from above" and from those in power, while the second 'denotes the contributions made by indigenous languages' (p. 201). Such sociolinguistic interplay shows that languages are much more complex than they appear, and they are co-constructed by numerous factors in the local and global space. Schneider's exploration and tentative critique of the ideologies of the simplicity of New Englishes shows that complexity of a language variety ought not to be reduced to simple factors, as there is so much more to consider in terms of other linguistic and social markers, which he defines and exemplifies further in the chapter. Lastly, the chapter shows that differences between speakers of different English varieties, in terms of pronunciation, linguistic innovations and coinage, as well as their local ethos are examples of language-internal and language-external *variability* and *unpredictability* in the world where English belongs to everyone.

Chapter 8, 'Issues and Attitudes', explores more socially determined factors and behaviours, and the cultural and political significance of English in different parts of the world, as well as ideologies surrounding the English language. 'Grassroots multilingualism' (p. 223), as Schneider puts it, seems to be the focus of the chapter. Often being neglected and overseen, it is presented as significant factor in the spread of the English language among the general population that has not acquired it through the means of proper and formal education. The author explains how the integrative role of English in a global sense is still overpowered in the contexts in which it represents an elitist asset. Apart from the dichotomy between integration and elitism, Schneider explores purist ideologies surrounding English as a 'killer language' (p. 226), which influences the eradication of endangered languages. Blurring language boundaries under the umbrella of transnational and translanguing orientations in online and offline worlds becomes the author's response to the postcolonial influence of homogenous English in the world. Canagarajah's (2013) *translanguaging* is used to portray the linguistic and cultural reality of a world where indigenous and the western interact, merge, and co-construct one another. In that vein, the chapter ends with pedagogical implications of English of the world, and the need for the revolutionisation of English curriculums by putting forward endonormative teaching and indigenous instructors to make English instruction more inclusive and representative of the transnational world we live in.

The objective of Chapter 9, 'Conclusion', was to summarise the main aim of the book, which is to advocate for the importance of 'communication to our mutual benefit' and focusing attention on 'the fact that essentially all of this is

about people and their desire to communicate with each other' (p. 247). Schneider has achieved what he was aiming for from the beginning. He managed to show English as the language with no real owner, but rather in the ownership of every culture and society in the world, completely open to negotiation, interaction with other languages, creative linguistic games, and linguistic and cultural expression. Globalisation and localisation of English is most certainly, in author's words, 'not only a most fascinating process but also an encouraging perspective' (p. 248), as English simultaneously becomes the global language, but also a part of indigenous discourse.

On a final note, we would like to emphasise the global importance and broad nature of this reading in the present times, when the role of English is more important than ever before. The world is currently facing a common threat, a pandemic, which is why we need a common way of communication to overcome difficulties and find a successful solution. Therefore, we should not restrict ourselves with limiting ideologies. Such shared way of communication supports advancements in technology and medicine; it brings together cultural diversities; it enriches linguistic expression; and finally, it brings global to local and local to global.

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