

World Englishes and Miscommunication

Unit 1 Introduction, Michiko Nakano, Director, Distance Learning Center, Waseda University

Unit 2 My current perspective on English as an International Language by Dr Larry E. Smith, Executive Director, International Association of World Englishes, Former Dean and Director at East West Center

Unit 3 English is an Asian Language, by Dr Larry E. Smith, Executive Director, International Association of World Englishes, Former Dean and Director at East West Center

Unit 1 an introduction, Michiko Nakano

This introduction outlines

- Our objectives and teaching method
- Kachru (1992), Modiano(1999a and 1999b) and McArthur(1987) as our basics
- Waseda students Reactions to the on-demand Internet course (OIC) World Englishes and Miscommunication in the first term in 2004

Our reaction report is included here, in order to introduce one aspect of intellectual stance taken by researchers of World Englishes, i.e., a human rights perspective in our use of English, equality in communication and multi-culturalism. Waseda students reactions illustrate the point at issue.

As for our objectives and teaching methods, there are three specific features to be noted. First, it is a joint cyber seminar with universities overseas via PC chat, video-conferencing system and BBS. It is the first large-scale multi-point interaction in Asia which our technology made it possible. Secondly, in our OIC, power point slides and streaming videos are synchronized. Our OIC has three noticeable merits:

-Self-paced Learning

-Anytime and Anywhere

-Use resources to adapt to students' individual projects

Thirdly, we use BBS extensively and the participating students are given more

Chances to

Rethink their ideas, and review the opinions of other students in the group.

No need to adjust their schedules

Faculty will monitor the BBS and respond to questions and make suggestions.

We have welcomed National University of Singapore, Korea University, University of Malaya, De La Salle University, HK Baptist University, Capital Normal University in Pekin and Chulalongkorn University to participate in our cyber interactive seminar. We have asked each presenter to talk about the following points:

- Syntactic features in each variety
- Segmental and Supra-segmental features
- Pragmatic features
- Socio-cultural characteristics
- Para-linguistic features
- Particularly, those which might cause misunderstanding in the international context of speech situations

We are aiming to open up international collaboration in Asia so that we might be able to reach at some consensus about the goals of English Language Education, both Learning and Teaching.

The notion of World Englishes relates to Educational Policy, Planning, Material Development, textbook writing, and testing. It also relates to Sociolinguistic understanding and Global Literacy. It is helpful for our students to know and understand each variety so that when they become business men or they are to engage in any profession which involves transactions with Asian people, they are well prepared to have successful interactions. We also hope that through this OIC, the Asian students will begin to appreciate Asian collaborations and to commit themselves to the future developments of Asian collaborations.

The following researchers are invited to talk about their variety

- Korean English
Prof Kyung-ja Park, Korea University
Prof Hikyoung Lee, Korea University
Prof Kyuntae Jung, Hannam University
- Malay English
Prof Azirah Hashim, University of Malaya
- Chinese English, Prof Yueping Wang, Capital Normal University
- Singapore English

Prof Anne Pakir, National University of Singapore
Dr Low Ee Ling, Nanyang Technological University

- Philippine English
Dr Danilo Dayag, De La Salle University
- Hong Kong English
Prof Tony T. N. Hung,
Hong Kong Baptist University
- Indian English
Prof Tej K. Bhatia, Syracuse University
- Thai English
Prof Sudaporn Luksaneeyanawin, Chulalongkorn University
- Taiwan English (to be recorded)
- Japanese English
Prof Yoji Tanabe, Tokyo International University
Michiko Nakano et.al., Waseda University
Koichi Ano, Ibaraki University

Reading Assignments

- Crystal, D. (1995) *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*, Cambridge University Press.
- Jenkins, Jennifer. (2003) *World Englishes: A resource book for students*, Routledge.
- Kachru, B. (1992) 'Teaching world Englishes', in B. Kachru (ed.) *The Other Tongue, English across Cultures*, 2nd ed. University Illinois Press.
- McArthur, T. (1987) 'The English Languages?', *English Today* 12, pp21-4.
- Modiano, M. (1999a) 'International English in the global village', *English Today*, 15/2, pp22-34.
- Modiano, M. (1999a) 'Standard English(es) and educational practices for the world's lingua franca', *English Today*, 15/4, pp 3-13.

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