

Exploring World Englishes with GloWbE

Peter Collins (UNSW)

In this seminar I present findings from several recent studies – reported in recent publications – which have been based primarily on data extracted from the 1.9 billion word Global Web-based corpus of English (“GloWbE”). The design of GloWbE is described and comparisons drawn with other English corpora. The studies discussed, all of which are pursued within a World Englishes framework, focus on cultural key words, hypercorrection, grammatical variation, modals/quasi-modals, and negation phenomena. Explanations advanced for general patterns identified invoke, inter alia, Kachru’s “concentric circles” and Schneider’s “dynamic” models of World Englishes, colloquialisation, prescriptivism, SLA, and epicentrality.

Bio

Peter Collins (BA hons, MA hons, PhD University of Sydney, DipEd University of New England) is Honorary Professor in Linguistics, University of New South Wales, having retired as Professor of Linguistics in 2014. He has published approximately 150 journal articles, book chapters and books (monographs, edited volumes, and textbooks). He founded the Linguistics Department at UNSW, served as Editor of the *Australian Journal of Linguistics*, and was a contributor to the authoritative *Cambridge grammar of the English language* (2002). His primary research interests are the grammar of English, corpus linguistics, World Englishes, and English usage. Books include: *Cleft and pseudocleft constructions in English* (Routledge 1991), *Modals and quasi-modals in English* (Rodopi 2009), *Grammatical change in English World-Wide* (Benjamins 2015), (with Hollo) *English grammar: An introduction* (Macmillan 2017).