1. Scoping of VEIP-EIC research 2015-16

Since the endorsement of VEIP by the Union Academique Internationale (May 2015), and by the Conseil International de la Philosophie et des Sciences Humaines (September 2015), two meetings of the VEIP research network have been held: ---in Sydney at Macquarie University (November 2015) and ---in Freiburg at the Institute of Advanced Studies (June 2016) with members from several teams participating in person or attending via Skype.

At both two-day meetings, multiple research projects on post-colonial Englishes were introduced (see #2 below), with discussions on the wealth of linguistic issues relating to language contact in each region. The expanded acronym VEIP-EIC brings this to the surface; and several key issues inherent in language contact, past and present, were identified as common focuses of research interest, identified thematically in #3 below.

The ongoing VEIP-EIC agenda was discussed, including presentations at regional conferences, and a third VEIP meeting to be held in Sydney in February 2017. This will allow us to prepare for the CIPSH-UNESCO conference in August 2017, where we will be presenting innovative humanistic and sociocultural research on new Englishes, and involving emergent researchers in the Indo-Pacific region. VEIP-EIC research and its concern with language contact and change in regional contexts lends itself to the CIPSH themes of cultural identity and diversity, and coincides with UNESCO’s interest in engaging with social transitions in post-colonial contexts.

Other ways of communicating VEIP-EIC research were also discussed, including the website now being developed at Macquarie University, and monographs to be prepared during the next three years; see below #4. A list of relevant research papers produced by VEIP-EIC members in 2015/6 is attached as an Appendix #6.

2. Regional collaborative projects associated with VEIP research partners, starting from the Pacific

1. Melanesian English: descriptive and theoretical aspects of Englishes of Papua New Guinea, Torres Strait Islands, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Leaders: Jeff Siegel, Bernd Kortmann
3. Fiji: sociolinguistics of Fiji English, the Indian diaspora. Leader: Marianne Hundt et al.
4. The Philippines: codeswitching patterns and sociolinguistic profiles among bi- and multilingual students, and multilingual education policy. Leaders: Loy Lising, Pam Peters
5. Hong Kong + Mainland China, Taiwan: From post-colonial English to the “expanding” circle; China English and English education. Leaders: Carolin Biewer, Kathleen Ahrens
7. ASEAN: English as a regional lingua franca, as a tool in Asian education. Leader: Andy Kirkpatrick
8. India/Sri Lanka: epicentral relationships between Indian English and other Englishes of South Asia. Leaders: Joybrato Mukherjee, Tobias Bernaisch, Sandra Goetz.
9. Uganda: African and Indian Englishes in contact, then and now: sociolinguistic, attitudinal constraints and outcomes in a multilingual, postcolonial context. Leader: Christine Meierkord
11. Australia: codeswitching among bilingual and heterolingual Australia students and citizens. Leaders: Pam Peters, Kate Burridge
3. Shared VEIP-EIC thematic interests across the Indo-Pacific regions

Common research themes emerged from the papers and discussions at the two VEIP meetings, inviting interregional comparisons on the nature and extent of contact between English and other languages/varieties in individual contexts, and its linguistic and cultural impacts; the role of bilingual and multilingual speakers in different age groups; and the role of written records as evidence of language contact past and present (in newspapers, translations, official records). Six themes have so far been identified as focuses of interest in four or more regions:

A. Codeswitching, as a linguistic/sociolinguistic phenomenon, and context of language change; the extent to which it involves conventionalised regional elements or individual repertoires (regional projects #4, #6, #7, #10, #11).

B. Global and regional linguistic epicentres, their contexts of communication (regional projects #2, #5, #8, #9, #10, #11)

C. Hansard/parliamentary records as diachronic corpora, their value as sources of spoken and written data on colonial and post-colonial Englishes (regional projects #4, #8, #10, #12)

D. Language policy and education in post-colonial countries of the Indo-Pacific (regional projects #1, #4, #5, #7)

E. Cultural reflections of contact in language innovation and change (regional projects #4, #6, #8, #9)

F. Comparative processes in the emergence of regional and functional varieties of English (#2, #4, #6, #7, #11)

4. Communicating VEIP-EIC research

A dedicated VEIP-EIC website is being constructed at Macquarie University, to serve as a hub for information about the project, and linguistic research published by its members. See Appendix for publications from 2015-2016.

New monographs on English in contact in the Indo-Pacific region, in preparation or at proposal stage with publisher:

- De Gruyter Mouton series Dialects of English (co-edited by Bernd Kortmann): forthcoming monographs (2016-2020) include studies of Micronesian Englishes, Norfuk/Pitcairn

5. Individual project funding: secured, applied for in 2016

secured: for Project 8 (Bernaisch) from the German Research Foundation, for a project on “Pragmatic nativisation in spoken Sri Lankan English: a corpus-based study” (2017-19).

applied for: Project 11 (Peters, Burridge, Kruger) from the Australian Research Council for a project on “Multilingual perspectives on communicating in English” (2017-19)

6. Appendix: selected publications by VEIP-EIC members 2015-16

Monographs

Biewer, Carolin (2015) *South Pacific Englishes: A Sociolinguistic and Morphosyntactic Profile of Fiji English, Samoan English and Cook Islands English* [Varieties of English around the World G52].


**Articles in refereed journals and anthologies**


Schneider, Edgar (2016) Grassroots Englishes in tourism interactions. English Today 32(3) 2016, 2-10. [includes data from Indonesia and India as well as Tanzania]

