

Title: *Twenty-first century English in diaspora – reflecting social and cultural change in multilingual communities*

Organiser: Emeritus Professor Pam Peters Co-organiser: Dr Haidee Kruger

Summary: This symposium showcases research associated with an international project endorsed by CIPSH and the Union Academique Internationale, on the usage of English by multilingual speakers in transitional nations such as South Africa, Uganda, India, Sri Lanka, Singapore, the Philippines, Fiji and the Cook Islands. In these postcolonial habitats, English takes on new cultural characteristics and acquires new social functions in uniting and dividing members of the community. Individual and group identities are nuanced by the way English is mixed with other languages, as multilingual speakers make creative use of their shared language resources. These new ways of using English reflect major social and economic transitions within the country, as well as the users' connectedness with social media in global English. They also challenge notions of language purity and standardness embedded in the humanities, and models of world English which are steadily being updated in sociolinguistic research. (146)

**Paper 1 Professor Andy Kirkpatrick (Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia): *The role of English in ASEAN: implications for language pedagogy and policy with specific reference to Myanmar***

There are now nearly one billion multilingual users of English in Asia. This paper will consider the implications of this development of English as a lingua franca in ASEAN for the teaching of English especially given that English now operates in many non- 'Anglo-cultural' contexts in settings in which so-called native speakers are absent. The paper will present proposals for a radical new way of teaching English in multilingual settings, the lingua franca approach. This discussion will encompass the role of English and other languages across the educational levels, including higher education, with Myanmar providing a specific context. 98 w

**Paper 2 Dr Haidee Kruger (Macquarie University, Australia / North-West University, South Africa), Professor Bertus van Rooy (North-West University, South Africa) *Hybrid Englishes in South African multilingual digital repertoires***

This paper will investigate the embeddedness of English in the complex multilingual ecology of South Africa. It analyses a 10-million word corpus of contemporary, authentic English as used in the comments sections of two South African websites, to identify the most frequent non-standard English tokens. These items are interpreted in terms of their function, specifically in relation to identity construction. The analysis demonstrates the participants' extensive use of hybrid language repertoires in constructing emergent identities. The findings challenge influential models of world Englishes to reflect a stronger awareness of the multilingual embeddedness and hybrid identities of global users of English. 100 w

**Paper 3 Professor Christiane Meierkord (Ruhr-University of Bochum, Germany) & Dr Bebwa Isingoma (Gulu University, Uganda) *Language contact and multicultural identity in the lexicon of Ugandan English*** This paper explores how indigenous, exogenous and foreign cultures and their Englishes have shaped and continue to shape Ugandan English. Drawing on the written component of The International Corpus of English - Uganda, it investigates how contact in the country itself and in the Indo-Pacific area, which involved (forced) migration of Indians and others, e.g. Arabs or Malays, is reflected in Ugandan Englishes at the level of the lexicon (through borrowings like rika,

chapat, wala) and how this evinces Ugandans' perception of the world. To theorize from the findings, corpus data will be supplemented with historio-cultural and sociolinguistic evidence. 99w

**Paper 4 Dr Tobias Bernaisch (Justus-Liebig University-Giessen, Germany): India and Sri Lanka: attitudes towards Englishes**

The maturation of any postcolonial English world-wide entails the emergence of distinctive linguistic structures, the expansion of sociolinguistic usage patterns, and an increasing acceptance of this postcolonial regional English as a variety in its own right within its speech community. A survey of 262 Indian and Sri Lankan informants, who were asked to compare Indian and Sri Lankan as well as American and British English, found that Indian and Sri Lankan speakers have positive attitudes towards their own varieties, but markedly negative feelings about the neighbouring dialect. Young Indian women particularly embrace their local variety most readily. 97w

**Paper 5 Dr Loy Lising (Macquarie University, Australia): *The role of English in multilingual Philippines: Institutional, Social and Personal motivations for multilingual practices***

English was introduced into the Philippines in 1901, and has since played a prominent role as its official second language in a linguistically diverse archipelago. This paper investigates the roles and functions of English alongside local languages, in a survey of 40 Manila-based university students. Their responses show English usage continues to be underpinned by socioeconomic motivations; Filipino remains the language of choice indexing nationhood and cultural identity; while diverse mother tongues are valued for various social contexts. Understanding the complementary role of English alongside indigenous languages is crucial for the Filipino people's socioeconomic development while maintaining their sociocultural interests. 100w

**Paper 6 Professor Carolin Biewer (University of Wuerzburg, Germany): Language and culture in emerging South Pacific Englishes**

Sociocultural influences on the development of second language varieties of English invite investigation, pointing us towards characteristic traits of the variety but also to the cultural perceptions of a speech community. Discussing results with the speakers helps them to take pride in their language skills and to identify with the newly emerging variety of English – as a useful addition to their language repertoire and cultural heritage (not a threat). This paper will focus on three emerging varieties of English in the South Pacific: Fiji English as a Melanesian variety and Samoan English and Cook Islands English as two Polynesian varieties. 100w

**Paper 7 Dr Sandra Götz & Dr Tobias Bernaisch (Justus-Liebig University-Giessen, Germany); Sociolinguistic variation with a stereotypically female pragmatic marker: a study of hedges in South-East Asian Englishes**

Traditional sociolinguistic studies have profiled women as prototypical users of linguistic hedges (e.g. *probably, I think*). Yet contemporary data from Hong Kong, Singapore, the Philippines and Great Britain on the usage of 16 different hedges reveal that in Great Britain and Singapore, men employ more hedges than women. The data more generally show that the sociolinguistic factors 'region', 'mode', 'gender', 'age' (i.e. older/younger than 20), and 'occupation/academic specialisation' (e.g. social sciences v. humanities) determine the particular hedges used, in addition to gender. It is thus worthwhile updating gender-oriented research by integrating concepts from quantitative sociolinguistics, probabilistic grammar and World Englishes. 100w