

‘ELT for a Global World’

Changing English in a changing world

Unit 9 ELF as context

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Task

Home assignment

Class discussion:

How does Jenkins define ELF? How is this definition different from the definition provided by Jenkins et al. (2001)?

What explanation is given for the change in the perception of ELF?

From form to function

Reason (partly) for shift:

typical ELF forms can, in fact, be found in both native and post-colonial varieties of English

(Jenkins, 2012; Sewell, 2013)

Task

Task in groups of 3-4:

Compare the features of Euro-English with those of Inner Circle (Slides 6-7) and Indian and Ghanaian (Slides 8-12) Englishes. What are the overlaps/differences? Do the findings of the comparison justify Jenkins' (2012) definition of ELF?

From form to function

I am going to talk about

I am going to be talking about

We've been hearing that ...

You keep it in a folder, innit?

How are you? I'm good.

From form to function

Indian English

1. yes/no confusion A: You have no objection?

B: Yes. (I have no objection)

2. Interrogative word order in indirect questions:

“Tell me where can you meet us.”

From form to function

Indian English

3. Invariant tag questions:

“You went there yesterday, isn’t it?”

4. Use of the present continuous:

“They were knowing the names.”

“We are having our house in Thana.”

(Kirkpatrick, 2007, p. 94)

From form to function

Ghanaian English

“Sey’s list of grammatical peculiarities includes uncountable nouns, article usage, adjective uses of the present and past participles, use of “what” as a relative pronoun, imperfective verbs, modal functions of “shall” and “will” and their past forms, special functions of the infinitive and gerund, derivation of adverbs from adjectives, exceptional forms of negation, tag questions, and response to Yes/No questions”

(Asante, 2012, p. 208)

From form to function

Expanding circle English as a lingua franca

Jenkins (2006, p. 44):

“... non-native speakers’ use of uncountable nouns as countable (‘a staff’, ‘four furnitures’, etc.)”

From form to function

“the ‘pluralization of mass nouns’ is listed as a ‘fairly common’ characteristic of New Englishes, which is ‘widespread in Africa and Asia’. Mesthrie and Bhatt (2008: 53) state that ‘[a]lmost every study of individual WE varieties in Africa and Asia reports frequent examples like furnitures, equipments, staffs, fruits, accommodations, and less common ones like offsprings, underwears, paraphenalias [sic], etc.’”

(Hall et al., 2013, p. 6)

From form to function

David Crystal:

“Some people might think [the countable use of ‘mass’ nouns] ‘un-English’, but in fact information was in English once: an information and informations can be traced back to Middle English, and are found in Chaucer, Shakespeare, Swift, and many other authors. It may only be a matter of time before they are back.”

(Crystal 2008 as cited in Hall et al, 2013, p. 2)

L1 example: David's got five homeworks

From form to function

ELF ≠ one monolithic variety

“involves both common ground and local variation”

(Jenkins, 2009, p. 201)

high “‘online’ **variability**” of ELF communication

(Jenkins, 2012, p. 490)

From form to function

Early definitions: focus on form



More recent definitions: focus on context,
function

the word *as* in English as a lingua franca indicates how English is used rather than the kind of variety which is being used

Definition of ELF

“continuously negotiated, hybrid ways of speaking”

(Seidlhofer, 2011, p. 4)

“specific communication context” where English is used as “the common language of choice, among speakers who come from different linguacultural backgrounds”

(Jenkins, 2009, p. 200).

Definition of ELF

Current focus:

“an understanding of the more general communicative processes” (Seidlhofer, 2009, p. 240) that underlie the use of English as a lingua franca.

Definition of ELF

“.... a shift from a categorization of the surface form to an attempt to understand what motivates their occurrence. The focus is on communication processes and features as pointers to these processes.”

(Seidlhofer, 2009, p. 49)

Definition of ELF

“ELF is characterized by a great variability. It is **NOT a fixed code**, and it cannot be defined by certain formal characteristics; rather it is an open-source phenomenon, a resource available for whoever wants to take advantage of the virtual English language, on which ELF is based. ELF is negotiated ad hoc, varying according to context, speaker constellation and communicative purpose. It is thus individually shaped by its users.”
(House, 2013, p. 281)

Task

Class discussion:

In what ways is an ELF context different from a context in which English is used by native speakers from the same speech community?

ELF context

Linguistically and culturally diverse intercultural settings:
a wide variety of L1s and a multiplicity of cultures

Variability:

“the particularity of constellations as well as their fleetingness” (Hülmbauer, 2009, p. 325)

Situationality:

“contextual elements of different kinds influence an ongoing conversation” (Hülmbauer, 2009, p. 327)

ELF context

ELF context: dynamic, changing, created online,
difficult to define (esp. constituents)

Panta rhei



https://www.google.co.uk/search?q=images+of+rivers&biw=1093&bih=471&site=webhp&tbm=isch&imgil=tCgVnFcnQUI22M%253A%253BvdD984cGlvRW9QM%253Bhttp%25253A%25252F%25252Ffreebigpictures.com%25252Friver-pictures%25252F&source=iu&pf=m&fir=tCgVnFcnQUI22M%253A%252CvdD984cGlvRW9QM%252C_&usg=__QwHdlZ4gpTTVhn6iaBehX_dvgdE%3D&ved=0ahUKewigiv2Dk7HKAhWDwBQKHT5cCKMQyjclLw&ei=dLGbVqCAHIOBU764oZgK#imgrc=tCgVnFcnQUI22M%3A&usg=__QwHdlZ4gpTTVhn6iaBehX_dvgdE%3D

ELF context

“...certain things cannot be taken for granted as the speakers do not share a common linguacultural background.”

(Hülmbauer, 2009, p. 328)

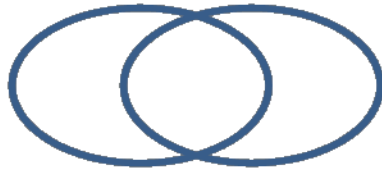
ELF context

“Often speakers build on the assumption that their cultural conceptualizations are shared by their hearers. In [...] English as an international language interlocutors would first need to minimize the assumption of shared cultural conceptualizations. That is, participants in EIL communicative events would need to constantly remind themselves that ‘other interlocutors may not share the same schema, category or metaphor that I am drawing on as a frame of reference in my production and comprehension.’”

(Sharifian, 2009, p. 247)

ELF context

Native speaker – native speaker communication:



ELF speaker – ELF speaker communication:

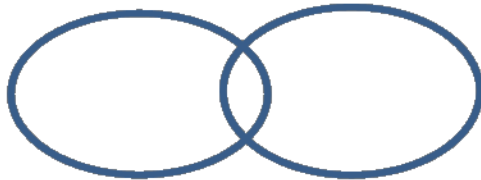


Figure 1 Area of shared knowledge (based on Widdowson, 2007, p. 54)

ELF context

Less shared knowledge in ELF contexts of use



- more overt negotiation of meaning
- co-operative behaviour
- flexibility
- focus on intelligibility (rather than correctness)
- communicative strategies

Task

1. Brainstorming:

In groups discuss what adjustments you make when you speak to somebody from a linguacultural background which is different from yours. What skills/strategies do you use to facilitate communication?

2. Feed back to class and compare your list with Jenkins' examples on Slide 26.

ELF context

ELF users

“... to adjust their speech in order to make it more intelligible and appropriate for their specific interlocutor(s). This can involve, for example, code-switching, repetition, echoing items that would be considered errors in ENL, the avoidance of idiomatic language, and paraphrasing (...).”

(Jenkins, 2009, p. 201)

ELF context

Accommodation:

discourse attuning, notably “interpretability strategies which "can be used to modify the complexity of speech (for example, by decreasing diversity of vocabulary, or simplifying syntax), increase clarity (by changing pitch, loudness, tempo by incorporating repetition, clarification checks, explicit boundarying devices and so on) . . .”

(Giles and Coupland 1991, p.88)

ELF context

- Accommodation:

. . . speakers may organize their outputs to take into account the requirements of their listeners; listeners may select from this discourse and organize it according to the cognitive structures most easily available for comprehension . . . increased intelligibility is a valuable byproduct of convergent acts and may on occasion be the principal motive for accommodating.

(Giles and Coupland, 1991, p. 85)

ELF context

- Exploiting linguistic resources at disposal

ELF speakers: plurilingual

Code-switching

German speaker to Hungarian speaker:

He's doing it daffke.

ELF context

- Exploiting pluralinguality

S1: L1=German S2: L1=Norwegian

S1: but (...) but really crazy (...) all buses were
overfulled ... all of the french one jump around
and <imitating> yeah <imitating> and sing their
songs and (...)

S2: <@> I see <@>

S1: yeah (...) it was really crazy

S2: yeah

(Hülmbauer, 2009, p. 338) (überfüllt = crowded)

ELF context

ELF use:

- online variability (Jenkins, 2012, p. 490)
- - continuously negotiated, hybrid ways of speaking (Seidlhofer, 2011, p. 4)

NB

all language use can be described in similar terms as “situated, variable, and subject to hybridizing influences” (Sewell, 2013, p. 6)

ELF context

NS and ELF language use: difference a matter of degree not of nature

Since participants in ELF interactions represent a wider variety of linguistic and cultural backgrounds, communication between them requires more overt negotiation of meaning and “an enhanced awareness of the contextual and interactional dimensions of language use”. (Canagarajah, 2007, p. 924)

Task

Class discussion:

Does your experience of using English in ELF situations support the view ELF researchers have of the use of English as a lingua franca? Which of the features identified by ELF research manifest themselves when you use English with other non-native speakers?

Task

Task for Unit 10

1. Read Ishikawa's (2015) article.

Identify the points of criticism levelled against ELF research and list the arguments Ishikawa presents in defence of ELF research.

2. Research:

What is complexity (theory)?

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