

Kachru, Yamuna and Larry E. Smith. **Cultures, Contexts, and World Englishes.** Routledge, New York: 2008.

Major objective of the book:

- to sensitize users of English to its varieties across cultures;
- to emphasize that effective communication among users of different Englishes is possible by cultivating an awareness of the variation in Englishes and their cultural, social, economic and ideational functions.

Organization of the book:

Introduction: World Englishes and Cultural Contexts

Part I : Verbal Interaction and Intelligibility

1. Interaction as cooperation
2. Context of Culture
3. Parameters of Politeness
4. Intelligibility and Interlocutors

Part II : Sound, Sentence, and Word

5. Sound and Rhythm
6. Phrases and Sentences
7. Words and Collocations

Part III: Conversational and Writing Styles

8. Conversational Interaction
9. Interaction in Writing
10. Contextualizing World Englishes Literatures

Conclusion: World Englishes: Legacy and Relevance

ON KACHRU AND SMITH'S CULTURES, CONTEXTS AND WORLD ENGLISHES

Some points to keep in mind:

- World Englishes -- discourse across cultures through the medium of World Englishes
- It refers to complex issues related to **intelligibility** and **global functions of English**.
- It involves research in : conversation, speech acts, expository and argumentative writing, literary creation across cultures through the medium of English in Asia and Africa and other parts of the world.

Communication involves the use of language. The term **language use** refers to the **intention to communicate intentions and purposes in all cultures and in all contexts, more or less clearly.**

Thus, when we speak of World Englishes we are referring to the awareness and sensitivity to the formal and functional variations in Englishes.

English has at least **three types of varieties** :

- as the primary language;
- as an additional language as well as an international language;
- varieties used for international communication

NOTE : The term **lingua franca** is used to characterize the global functions of English. All Englishes exhibit **internal variation**. When we speak of World Englishes, keep in mind that it is not a variety.

(1986 + number of English users in the Outer and Expanding Circle numbered about 800 m., the Inner Circle about 300 m.

*** All countries in the Outer Circle are multilingual and multi-cultural.

Functions in which English is used: systems of government, educational policies, socio-cultural contexts of literacy and language use.

PART 1 Verbal Interaction and Intelligibility

Chapter One : An integrated theoretical approach needed to discuss verbal interaction in world Englishes. The approach integrates the notions of speech acts, cooperative principle, and politeness from linguistic pragmatics, structure of conversation from conversation analysis and sociocultural contexts and conventions of verbal interaction from sociolinguistics.

Chapter Two : A more detailed account of the cultural underpinnings of language use in utilizing the notions of context of situation from sociolinguistics and structure of background knowledge from psychology and artificial intelligence. Interdisciplinary research aimed at studying conventions of speaking and writing in various societies has yielded useful insights.

Chapter Three: Examines conventions of politeness in some detail as different cultures have different notions of what polite behaviour is.

Chapter Four: Because variety users have different cultural concepts, social conventions and linguistic strategies, verbal interaction between them is not always smooth and successful. Intelligibility is a complex notion when applied to situations involving interaction among language and culture-different interactants.

PART II Sound, Sentence and Word

Chapters 5, 6, 7 : summarizes information on the sounds, grammatical patterns and vocabulary of varieties of English.

PART III Conversational and Writing Styles

Chapter Eight : Topics such as conventions of conversational exchange, patterns of agreement/disagreement, strategies of speech acts are dealt with,

Chapter Nine : Literacy practices of writing, e.g. letters, argumentative, expository and narrative prose, academic writing, etc.

Chapter Ten: Literary creativity from Africa, Asia and the Caribbean is used as a valuable resource for creating awareness of conventions of language use across varieties.

The **Conclusion** discusses the need for creating more awareness of the consequences of globalization on the English language. One way of introducing professionals to the changing forms and functions of English is to initiate curricular changes in the program for training teachers who are involved in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) and other professional programs. The concluding chapter points out the wider implications to the English Language Teaching (ELT) profession. It discusses the relevance of research in world Englishes in research in sociolinguistics, second language acquisition, bilingualism, and other areas where language, culture, and society intersect.*/