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Reimagining Southeast Asian Englishes as codemixed varieties: does this apply differently to outer circle and expanding circle varieties?

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OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

World Englishes = codemixed varieties? True / False?

In SE Asia.....

Outer circle (ESL) nations vs Expanding circle (EFL) nations

Theory: 1. ELF: Negotiation vs Misunderstandings

Theory: 2. 'Attuning' in inter-ASEAN interactions

Data: sources x 3

Sample analysis

Brief conclusion

MCLELLAN (2010),
MIXED CODES AND VARIETIES OF ENGLISH

Examples of texts from Malaysia, Brunei, Philippines, Singapore showing influence of several other languages in the repertoires of users in these nations,

Where English is used **intranationally**,

e.g. Malaysians using English to speak / write / keyboard to other Malaysians

Filipinos using English to speak / write / keyboard to other Filipinos

IN THESE CONTEXTS

where interlocutors share at least two languages,
language alternation (code-mixing) can and does occur

IN THE EXPANDING CIRCLE NATIONS,...

Myanmar

Thailand

Lao PDR

Cambodia

Vietnam

Indonesia

Timor Leste,

is English used at all intranationally?

SUGGESTED ANSWER....

No.....

Why should Lao people use English to communicate with other Lao people?

They use Lao.

Why should Thai people use English to communicate with other Thai people?

They use Thai. (etc.)

BUT...

for international communication, e.g. within ASEAN,
speakers from the expanding circle nations often have to
use English -

there is no other choice =

ELF (English as a Lingua Franca)

(Kirkpatrick, 2007, 2014)

Normally,...

Language alternation / Codeswitching does not occur in ELF contexts

although some exceptions to this have been found -

Klimpfinger (2009); Kirkpatrick & McLellan (2012: 663-665); Deterding (2013: 123); Ishamina (2015).

BUT

in contexts of ELF communication (e.g. this conference), the influence of speakers' L1 (and L2, if English is their L3) is still evident

THEORY 1: NEGOTIATION vs MISUNDERSTANDING

- Many studies focus on misunderstanding – communication breakdown and repair – in ELF interactions
 - OK, valid, researchable....
 - ...but perhaps a bit negative
 - More positive = **accommodation / negotiation**
 - Matsumoto (2011)
-

THEORY 2: 'ATTUNING'

House (2008: 355), redefined.

Attuning = one way of accommodating, negotiating for meaning, avoiding or evading misunderstanding

“Listening accommodation” (Deterding, 2013: 17):

“getting used to the patterns of speech of one’s conversational partners”; “accommodation in terms of grammar and word usage”

DATA

Set 1 from BBC's "Global Questions: The ASEAN way"
broadcast on 21/5/17

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p052sq4n>

Set 2 from the Asian Corpus of English (ACE); Corpus of misunderstandings (CMACE) from

<http://fass.ubd.edu.bn/research/CMACE/home/index.html>

[Set 3 (written) conference announcements from universities across ASEAN – *not discussed here, no time*]

SET 1

- Format: questions posed by audience members to a panel from different ASEAN countries: Malaysia, Cambodia, Myanmar, Indonesia, Thailand
- Chaired by (Sudanese/British) presenter Zeinab Badawi, who knows the names of the questioners and their questions, and rephrases them before asking panel members to reply
- Setting: Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- No codeswitching, but a variety of accents and discourse styles

Global Questions



On Now : **Weekend**
France Goes to the Polls



42:09 / 52:59

The ASEAN Way

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Sun 21 May 2017
19:06
Local time
BBC WORLD SERVICE

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NEED FOR 'ATTUNING' - 1

- Cambodian participant

“I believe that crime stemming from landgrabbing could be qualify a crime against humanity because.. its involve the possible transfer of population illegally er imprison(?) many other inhuman act and prosecution. From your perspective, what mechanism of policy again crimes stemming [stəmen] from landgrabbing should there be?”

NEED FOR 'ATTUNING' - 2

Nurul Izzah Anwar, Panelist

“Yes, er I think the the bigger issue that’s linked to deforestation is also the practice of slash and burn , which is basically being practised not just with small time farmers but also big corporations and er most ASEAN countries have corporations who are partly responsible to the forest fires in Indonesia and that caused Indonesian economy what sixteen billion US dollars of losses just for 2015 alone. So for me when you talk about er such a huge problem link to er deforestation the haze I mean it er it affects every schoolgoing children in ASEAN.....”

IMPLICATIONS

- No codeswitching by any participant
 - Need for listeners - panelists, audience members - to **attune** to the Cambodian and to the Malaysian English varieties
 - Little or no difference in intelligibility between the 'expanding circle' and 'outer circle' speakers
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SET 2

Asian Corpus of English (ACE)

<http://corpus.eduhk.hk/ace/>

Interactions across ASEAN (= ELF)

NEGOTIATION: ACE CORPUS: S1 BRUNEIAN, S2 LAO

....

S1: so how does it [snake] taste like

S2: er:: the taste (1) is (1) not bad (1) the meat er: the colour look like
er: the chicken meat

S1: mm

S2: but er: the taste of the meat look like erm: k- crocodile meat

S1: oh it's is it um:

S2: <2> xxx </2>

S1: <2> elastic </2>

S2: yeah elastic

S1: chewy (.) oh @@ <spel> o k </spel>

S2: it very good

S1: good?

....

Source: <http://corpus.ied.edu.hk/ace/index.php?m=music&a=info&id=96>

This one is a misunderstanding, caused by codeswitching

(source: Ishamina & Deterding, 2017: 295)

Extract 6 Female Bruneian1 + Female Maldives :

Context: FBr1 is talking about religious schools in Brunei.

FBr1: for a religious school yeah

FMd: so what are what are the subjects ah they study <1> in the
yeah yeah </1>

FBr1: <1> in *ugama* school? </1> erm ah they

FMd: you mean government?

FBr1: in the government will be like how you say ah?

CONCLUSIONS

1. The findings support suggestions by other researchers that, in their ELF interactions, SE Asians draw on all their multilingual resources to negotiate meaning and maintain intelligibility.
 2. => ELF does not = “English only”
 3. This investigation offers further evidence that in ELF contexts there is no meaningful distinction between “Outer” and “Expanding” Circle Englishes in Southeast Asia.
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION
COMMENTS, QUESTIONS ARE MOST WELCOME
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