New English in the Asian (Expanding) Circle

Jakob Leimgruber

The Englishes spoken in countries traditionally ascribed to Kachru's 'Expanding circle' have, for the most part, received less intense scholarly attention than those in the postcolonial states of the Outer circle. In particular, corpus-informed approaches such as those that led to the creation of eg the International Corpus of English are, with few exceptions, limited to metropolitan and former colonial settings. Only recently have there been attempts at the compilation of corpora that go beyond the framework of 'learner Englishes', taking ICE-inspired approaches to expanding circle varieties (Edwards 2016, Rüdiger 2019). As far as Asian Englishes specifically are concerned, the same observations apply.

In this talk I will present morphosyntactic and discourse pragmatic data from a recently compiled pilot corpus of English from Taiwan, linking it to similar data from Korea (Rüdiger 2019) and the UAE (Lorenz 2022). Consideration will be given to future directions in the field of the corpus-based investigation of New Englishes in the context of the Asian Expanding Circle.

References:

Edwards, A. 2016. English in the Netherlands: Functions, forms and attitudes. Benjamin's.

Lorenz, E. 2022. “We Use English But Not Like All the Time Like” – Discourse Marker Like in UAE English. Frontiers in Communication 7. Doi: 10.3389/fcomm.2022.778036

Rüdiger, S. 2019. Morpho-syntactic patterns in spoken Korean English. Benjamin's.