



FACULTY WORKSHOPS

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The WCCG-PME is a nationwide consortium of writing center professionals from graduate-level professional military education schools. It is recognized by the Military Education Coordination Council of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

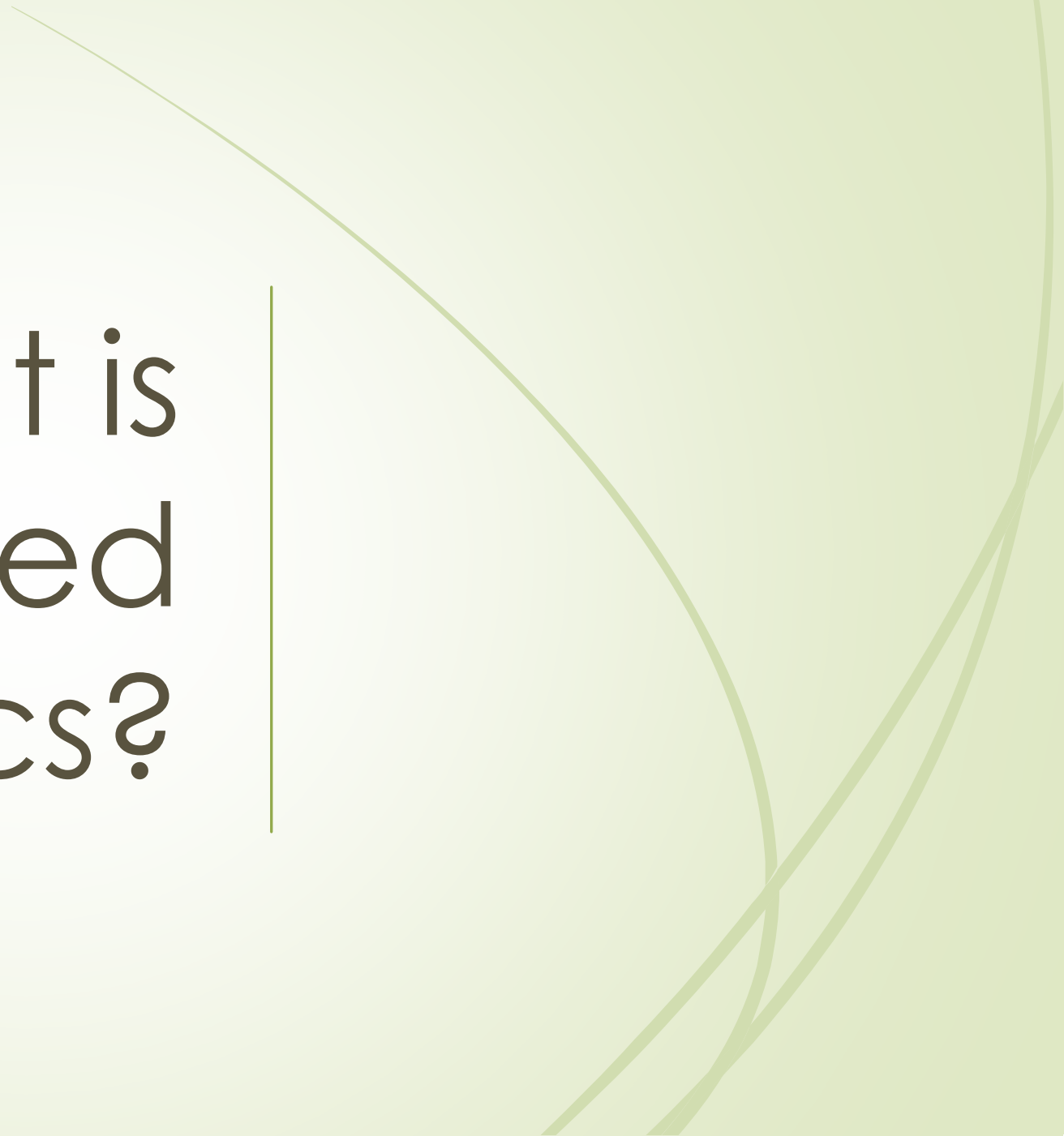




How to Use Applied Linguistics in Responding to Multilingual Writers

Dr. May Chung, Karissa Wojcik, Lily Lewis, and Rick Allen
National Defense University

What is
applied
linguistics?



Applied Linguistics for PME

- Applied linguistics is an interdisciplinary field that applies linguistic theories and methods to practical real-world problems and contexts.
- In the United States, 78,000 foreign military students attend training every year, including professional military education (PME). Faculty who teach these students may face challenges when assessing their writing, given the diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds of these students.
- A working knowledge of applied linguistics can be highly beneficial for instructors of military personnel, as it can help them better understand how language is used in different contexts and identify opportunities to leverage students' native languages in their written work.



Workshop Outline

- ▶ Cultural Influences in Academic Writing
- ▶ Linguistic Transference vs. Communication Mishaps
- ▶ World Englishes & English as a Lingua Franca
- ▶ Takeaways



Cultural Starting Points

Understanding Cultural Influences
in Academic Writing

Rick Allen

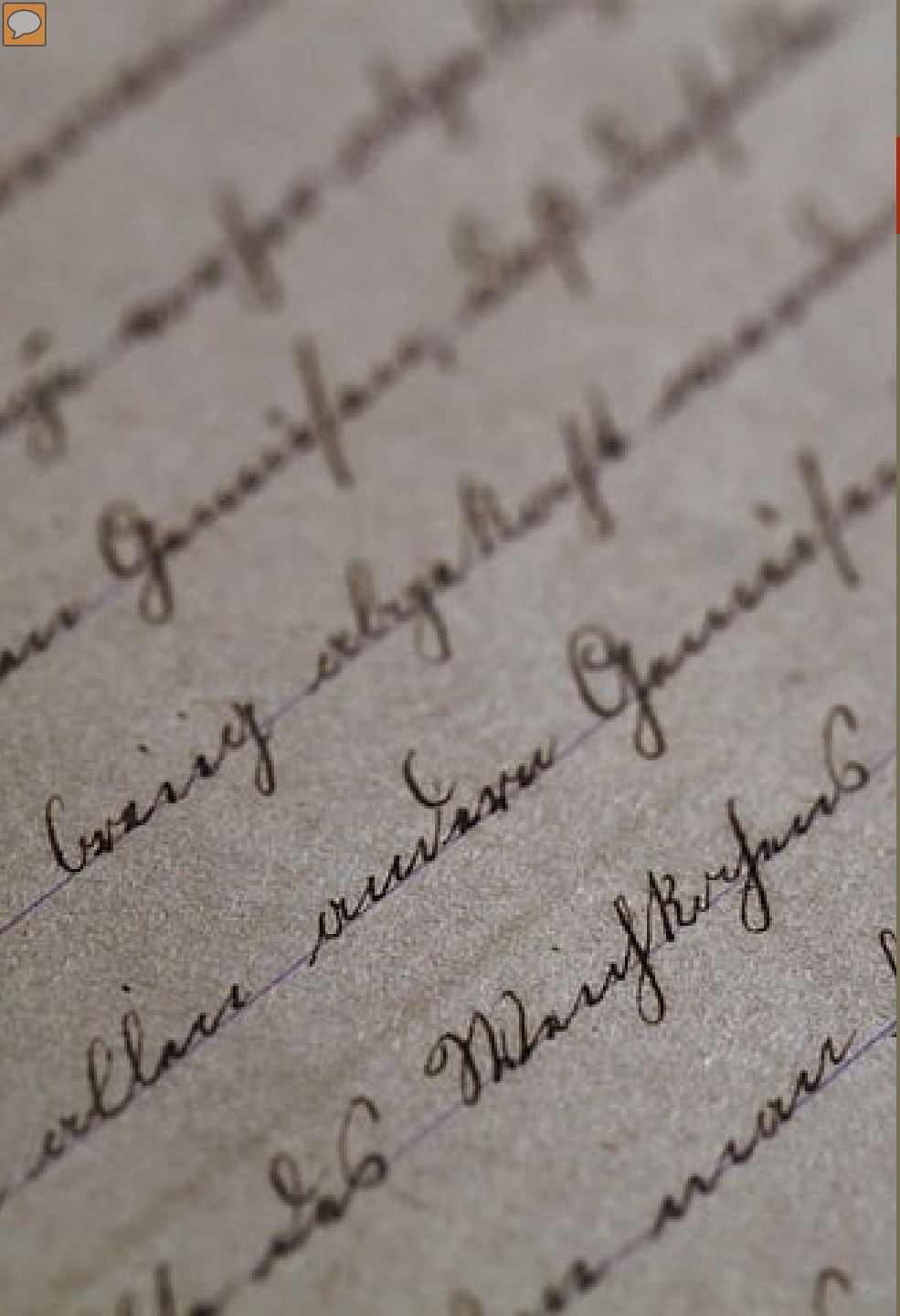


Purpose

Recognize, understand, and appreciate the value of non-U.S. cultural writing norms to

- Highlight for the student **to use as a strength.**
- Contrast for the student to better **learn U.S. academic writing norms.**

Ultimately **the goal is to ensure student success** in PME programs and beyond.



How Culture Influences Academic Writing

Traditional cultures, education systems, or colonial legacies may influence

- Style or tone.
- Aspect of writing, e.g., organization, argument, sentence structure, making claims, etc.

Misjudging Writing Culture Influences

“These sometimes subtle differences between writing cultures, often precisely because they are subtle and not commonly observable to the non-linguist, tend to put....[ESL writers] at a rhetorical disadvantage in the eyes of [native English] readers.... This disadvantage is more than a difference in cultural tastes, since it may not only strike readers as lack of rhetorical elegance, **but as lack of coherent writing or even thinking, which can seriously affect the credibility of non-native writers.**”

(Mauranen 1993, in Kaplan 1995)



English Academic Discourse

General Principles:

- ↳ Clarity and coherence.
- ↳ Economy and precision of language.
- ↳ Structured rational argument supported by evidence.
- ↳ Generally impartial/objective with fact distinguished from opinion.
- ↳ Caution and restraint about claims.
- ↳ Incorporation of theory through citation and referencing.

(Bennett 2011)

Arabic Cultural Influences on Writing

- Emotional and personal, like a river of thought flowing.
- Expression valued over concision.
- Flowery style okay: exaggeration, emotionalism, overstatement, repetition, elaboration.
- Longer sentences; coordinate not subordinate clauses.

(UMGS, n.d.)





Example: Arabic Cultural Influences

Prompt: Use survey results to take position on the question –
“Is the American Dream still accessible to all?”

“‘Dream’, such a magic word of impressive power of changing the reality, and of unavoidable strength of attracting people to their imaginative aims. Today, this dream is the American one. The dream is a whose of god. It gives every human being the comfort to hope for better life conditions and realisation of his ambitions.

“When we talk about freedom and hope, the first thing that comes to my mind is the ‘Statue of Liberty’ at the entrance to the port of New York City. Even though I had never seen it live, I can feel its radiance on my imagination and my sensations, every time I contemplate it through media or photos. As mentioned by the National Park Center...

“Therefore, we can say that the “Statue of Liberty” is a physical representation of what is called the ‘American Dream’. However, the statue still exists. It is still as radiant as ever. Anyone who wishes to meditate on it can do so as he pleases. But some doubt that the same is true of the ‘American Dream.’ In other words, access to it seems for them to be not possible for everyone anymore.”



How would you advise this student?

My Takeaways:

- Appreciate the student's enthusiasm.
- Suggest expressive style could work in an opening hook, personal reflections, or persuasive essays.
- Explain reasons for objective stance for analytic or argumentative academic writing.



French Cultural Influences

- French is **prescriptive language**; closely adheres to its rules.
- **Discursive writing formats** that move from what is known > then to phases of exploration or discussion > then to conclusion, a nuanced, deeper understanding.
- **French education model** has influenced former colonies in Africa, Asia, Caribbean, and North America.

French Writing Models

- a. Text Summary (*Synthèse de texte*)
- b. Text Commentary (*Commentaire de texte*)
- c. **Dialectic Dissertation: Thesis, Antithesis, Synthesis**
(*Thèse, Antithèse, Synthèse*)
- d. Progressive Dissertation (*Plan Progressif*):
Explores an idea through elementary,
philosophical, and transcendent phases.

(Monaco, n.d.)







Example: French Cultural Influences

The Decolonization of Africa in General and Cameroon in Particular: Myth or Reality?

[Opening] Student defines “françafrique,” a 1955 term used pejoratively since the 1990s as criticism of lingering French neocolonialism.

[Thesis] *“The decolonization of Africa is a myth because the African continent marked by the colonial era still depends on Western countries for its development. Indeed, Africa has not yet offered to give itself the means for its independence. Whether on the security or economic level, Africa still depends on external sources. Nor does it have a voice commensurate with its strategic importance in the concert of nations.”*



[Antithesis] “However, the **legal independence of Africa is a fact** supported by an apparent decolonization. African states are now quasi-sovereign, and the continent shows a genuine desire for emancipation and **aspires to play its role on the international scene.**”

- “Since the early 1980s, all African states have emerged from colonial rule, and today, they **more or less enjoy some degree of sovereignty.**”
- “Françafrique no longer characterizes a link between France and its former colonies but rather a **bilateral relationship of mutual understanding**. Cameroon **enjoys** a mutual bilateral and **multilateral relationship not only with France and Britain but with the world at large**. Its colonial masters of yesterday are considered a **brotherly nation** today.”
- “Africa also committed her effort in 2002 to create **an ambitious regional entity, the African Union (AU)**, which seeks to implement a political integration of the continent to make it emerge and promote its growth.”



[Synthesis] *“In conclusion, though African states **enjoy some relative sovereignty**, the **decolonization** of Africa **is a myth** because the African continent still depends politically, economically, and security-wise on the Western world for its development.*

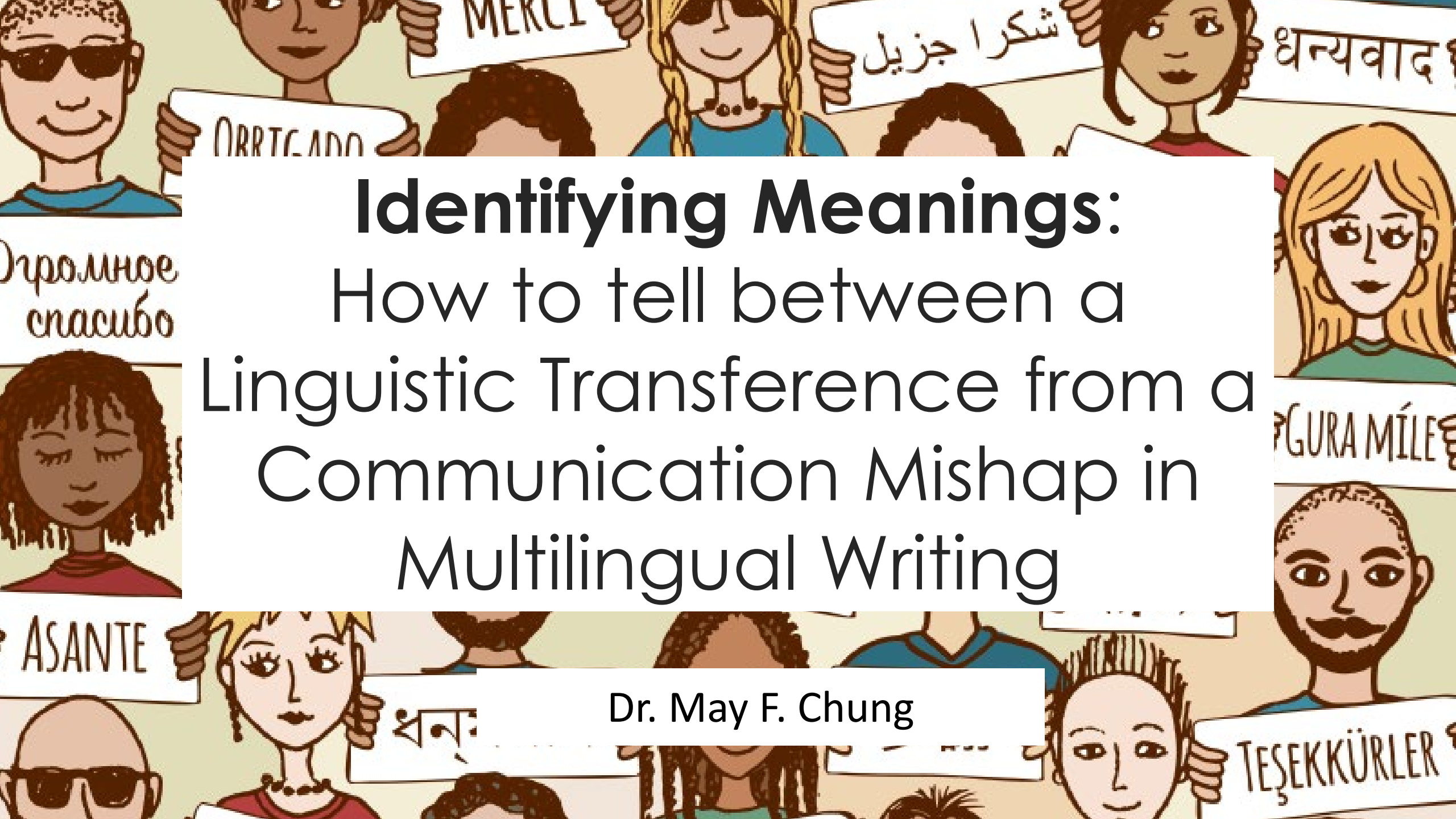
The Pan-Africanism extolled by the late colonel Mouhamar Ghadaffi remains the only solution to remove Africa from this spiral.”

[Fini]

How would you advise this student?

My Takeaways:

- Student did a great job supporting his claim that sovereignty is “myth.” Offered many examples of economic, security, and political dependency.
- Suggest student use “Pan-Africanism” in a thesis statement that answers “So what?” i.e., to empower African nations in the global political, economic, and influence network.



Identifying Meanings: How to tell between a Linguistic Transference from a Communication Mishap in Multilingual Writing

Dr. May F. Chung

Linguistic Transference - Overview

Linguistic transference, also known as language transfer, refers to the influence of a person's native language on their use and acquisition of a second language. This means that **when learning a new language, a person's existing linguistic knowledge can affect their pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, and even their way of thinking.**

Examples:

- One example is the "th" sound in English, which does not exist in Mandarin Chinese. Mandarin Chinese speakers may have difficulty distinguishing between the "th" sounds and other similar sounds, such as "f" and "v."
- A French speaker learning English may use the French word "excité" to mean "excited" in English, but in English, "excited" means "thrilled" or "enthusiastic," whereas in French, "excité" can also mean "aroused" or "agitated."
- A Russian speaker learning English may have difficulty with the use of articles because Russian does not have articles in its grammar. ("I go to store" instead of "I go to the store").

Communication Mishap

A communication mishap is an error in language use that is not influenced by the learner's native language. Mishaps can be unintentional and are often the result of incomplete or inaccurate knowledge of the language being used. Differentiating between a linguistic transference or a communication mishap can be difficult!



Language transference or communication mishap?

Brazilian writer:

Besides technical and tactical aspects of cyberspace, the NCC should devise, revise, **adequate**, and propose the naval cyberspace strategy to the BN's General Staff (EMA, Brazilian abbreviation) due to cyberspace warfare's ubiquitous and evolving character.



Language transference or communication mishap?

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In Brazilian Portuguese, **Adequar** means to adapt or suit for a specific purpose

Language Transference

Language transference or communication mishap?

Brazilian writer:

For that reason, the NCC, by mastering OCO, would increase the fleet's deterrence characteristics.



Language transference or communication mishap?

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Let's read on further...

Language transference or communication mishap?

Brazilian writer:

For that reason, the NCC, by mastering OCO, would increase the fleet's deterrence **characteristics**.

Let's read on further...

For that reason, defensive and offensive teams must continuously develop and update cyberspace **capabilities** under the same authority and coordinated control.

Communication Mishap

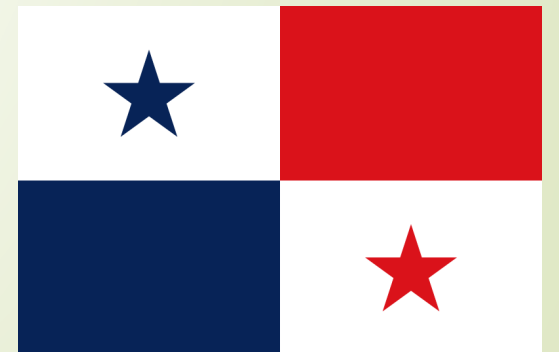
The slide features a light green background with a vertical gradient. On the left side, there are several thin, dark green lines that curve upwards and outwards, resembling stylized grass or reeds. The text "Let's practice!" is centered in the upper half of the slide in a dark grey, sans-serif font.

Let's practice!

Language transference or communication mishap?

Panamanian writer:

The present concern for Panamanian Government is the increase of gangs in communities **specially** the growth of two main gangs: Bagdad and Calor Calor.



Language transference or communication mishap?

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Language transference: Spanish speakers commonly add the /e/ vowel sound to words that begin with 'st' (e.g. estreet). In this case, the writer may have been hypercorrecting or consciously trying to avoid adding an extra 'e', resulting in the deletion of the "e" in "especialy"

Language transference or communication mishap?

South Korean writer:

And I attached three papers as we spoke. I am already **strained and hilarious** to hear your feedback tomorrow.



Language transference or communication mishap?

South Korean writer:

And I attached three papers as we spoke. I am already **strained and hilarious** to hear your feedback tomorrow.

Communication mishap

strained = stressed or overwhelmed?
I don't think this speaker means this
hilarious = positive or constructive?

Language transference or communication mishap?

Tunisian writer:

At the beginning of the nuclear era, policymakers and strategists believed they could manage the **defies** for victory posed by nuclear weapons by applying the theories of strategic bombing.



Language transference or communication mishap?

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Language Transference: défis means challenges in French, his second language

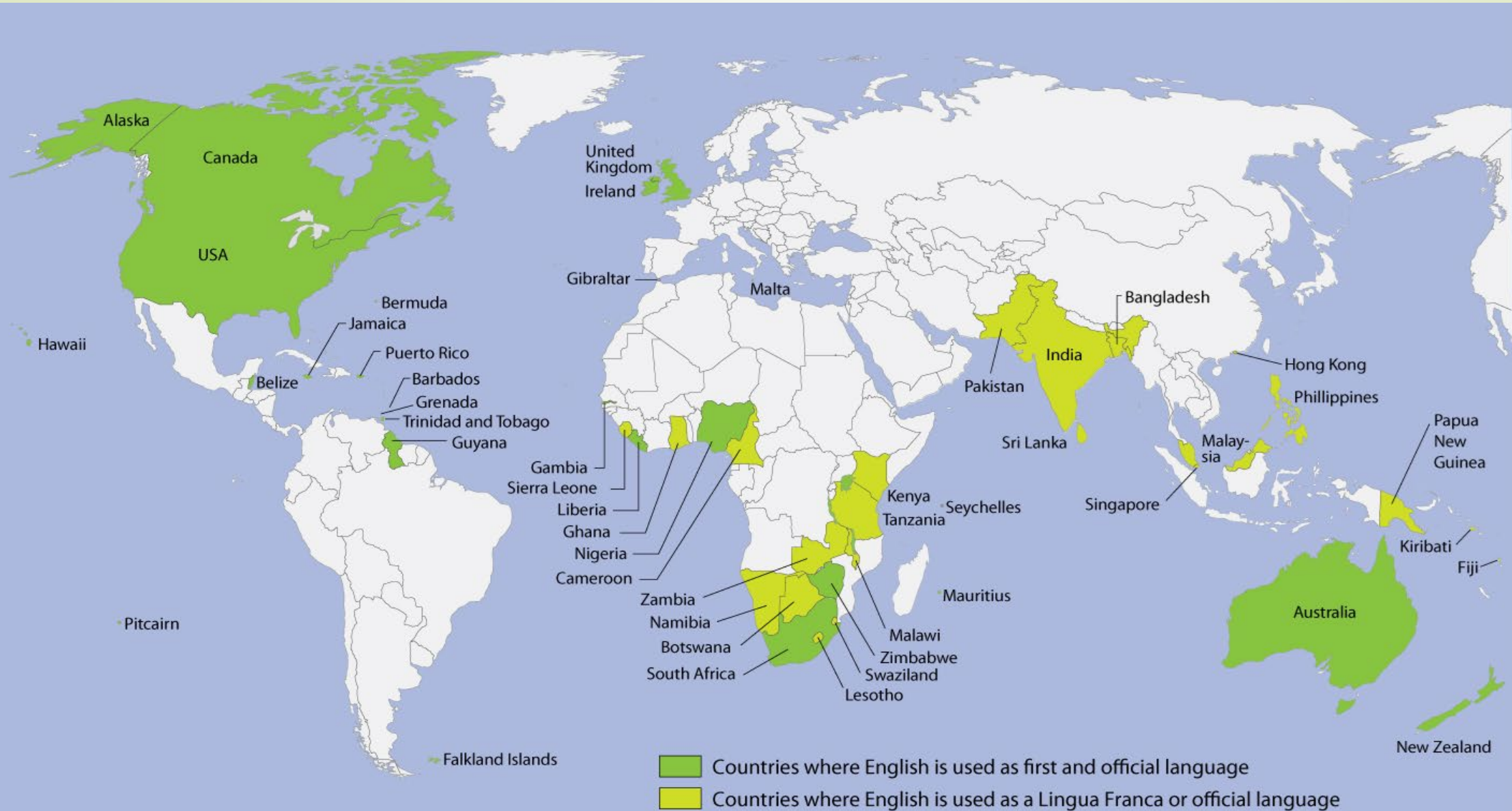


World Englishes & English as a Lingua Franca

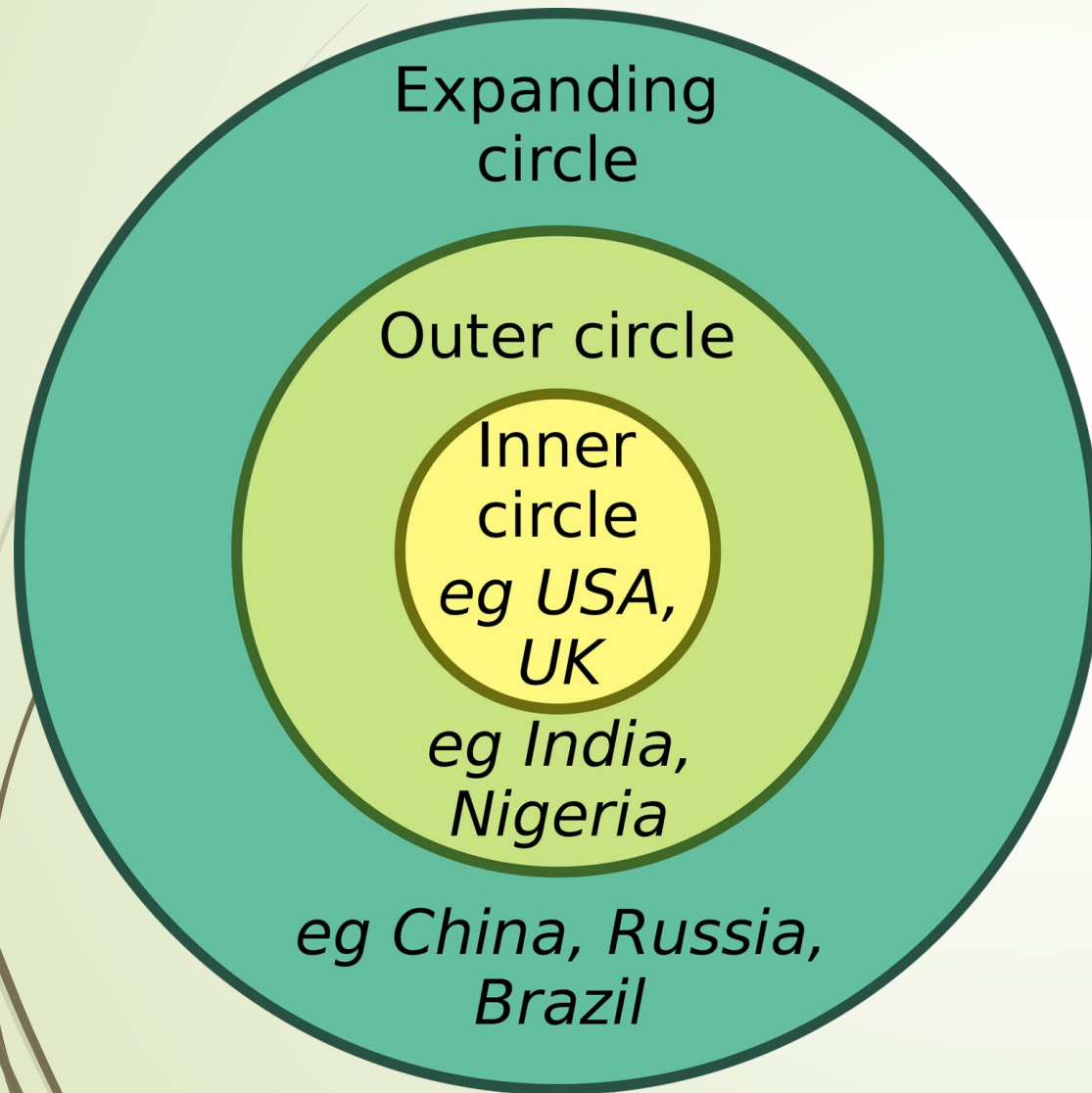
Understanding and Appreciating
Language Variety

Lily Lewis

World Englishes



Kachru's Circles



Many varieties of English are found across the globe. Kachru (1992) has classified these varieties as those used in the 'inner circle', the 'outer circle', and the 'expanding circle'.

British English

American	British
Color	Colour
Theater	Theatre
Organize	Organise

American	British
Learn—Learned	Learn—Learned or Learnt
Dream—Dreamed	Dream—Dreamed or Dreamt
I have never gotten caught.	I have never got caught.

Can you guess the American equivalent?



American	British
	Crisps
	Biscuit
	Chemist's
	Plaster
	Diary

Can you guess the American equivalent?

American	British
Chips	Crisps
Cookie	Biscuit
Drugstore	Chemist's
Band-aid	Plaster
Agenda/Calendar	Diary

Indian English

- ▶ **Please do the needful.** Meaning: Please take care of something.
- ▶ **I belong to Mumbai.** Meaning: I am from Mumbai
- ▶ **Please revert.** Meaning: Please report back with information.

(Wood, n.d.)



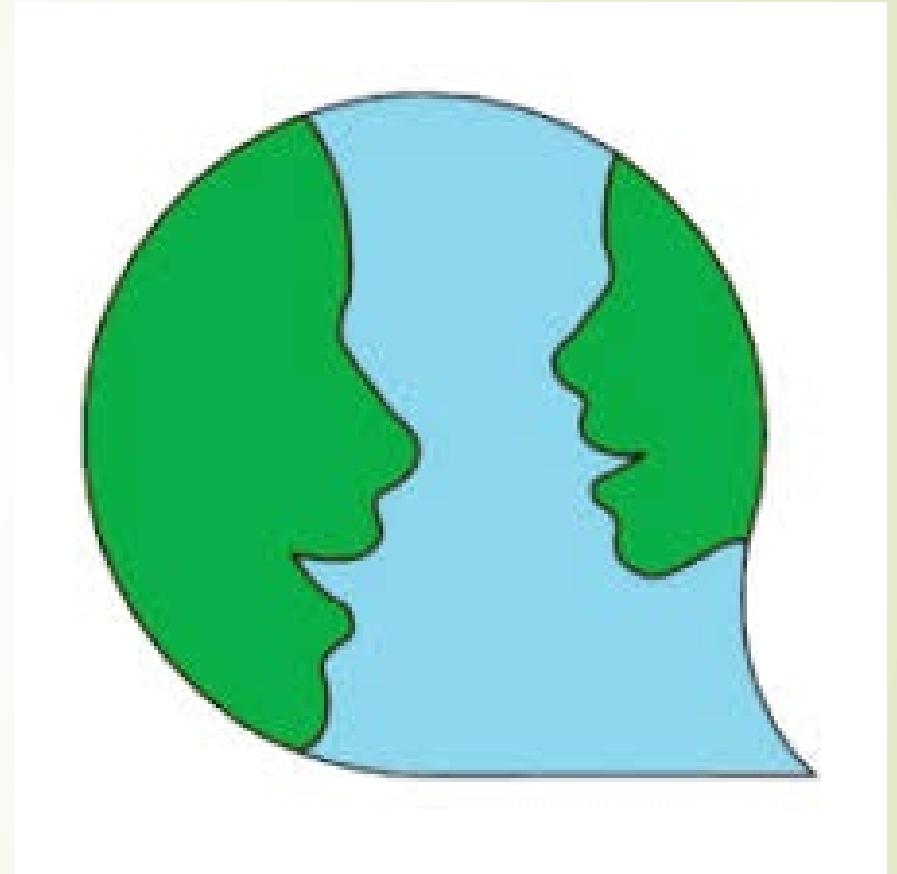
South African English

- Phrasal and prepositional verbs are used differently, e.g., *“I will pick you at 10 o’clock tonight.”*
- Articles and determiners are often omitted, e.g., *I am going to post office.*
- The use of plural is overgeneralized, e.g., *luggages, advices.*

(Purdue OWL, n.d.)



Any other examples
of World Englishes to
share?





Variety in language is the norm

“The notion of ‘English’ today needs to be retuned from thinking of it as a single, monolithic entity, a linguistic ‘standard’ and a reference system, to understanding it as a set of related, structurally overlapping, but also distinct varieties.”

(Schneider, 2018)



Compare the impact of this feedback

Comment:

- Awkward wording.
- This is unclear.

Impact:

“I’m the linguistic authority here, and this is wrong.”

Comment:

- I’m not familiar with this phase.
- I don’t understand this part.

Impact:

“As a reader, I struggled to understand this.”

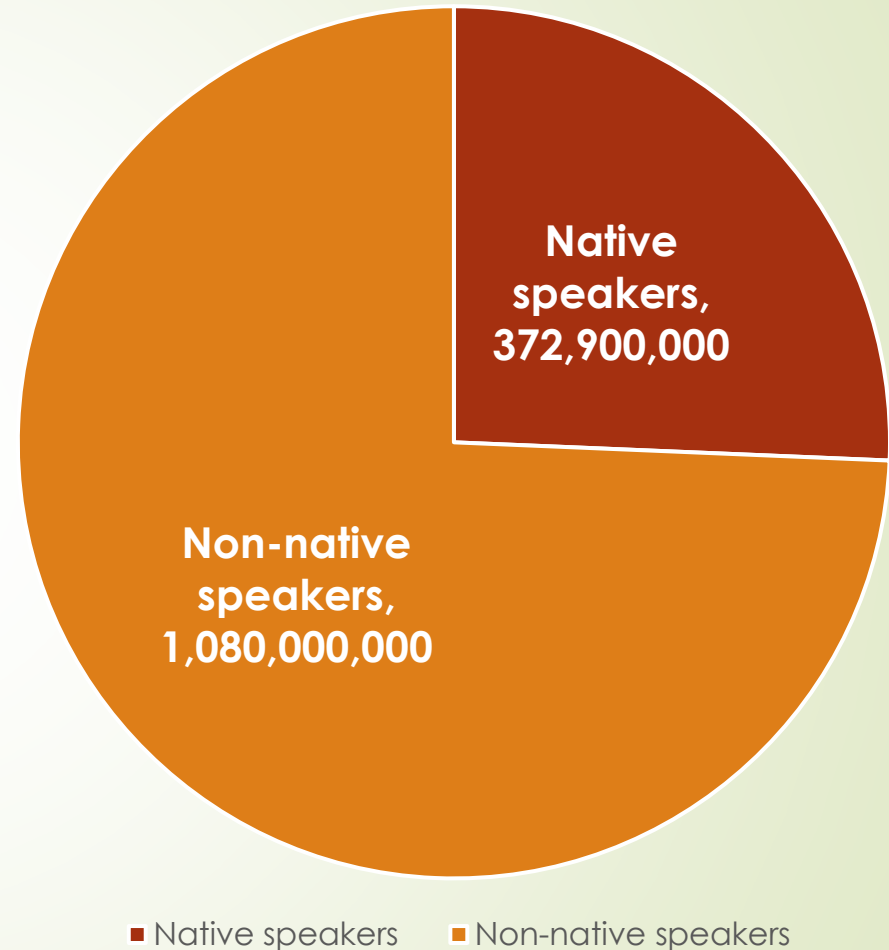
English as a Lingua Franca (ELF)

ELF refers to English as a medium of communication between speakers who speak different first languages.

The vast majority of English speakers worldwide are not native speakers.

(Ethnologue, 2022)

English Speakers Worldwide





ELF for Military Communication

The Role Of Foreign Language In The Success Of Global Military Operations And English As A Global Lingua Franca (Er 2012)

“English language has also become a major factor affecting the success of military operations all over the Globe.”



Goals for International Fellows

The National Defense University's International graduates join a worldwide network of 4000 military, government, business, and community leaders. Alumni are **encouraged to remain connected to each other** long after their time at NDU...

All International Fellows work side-by-side with their American counterparts in a rigorous academic environment and **form lasting relationships with their U.S. and international counterparts.**



What are some situations in which our international students need to communicate effectively in English?

- In writing academic papers for coursework and perhaps for publication
- In speaking with PME professors and classmates
- In writing for the workplace
- In speaking with colleagues and diplomatic/military counterparts



In ELF, intelligibility is key

What do you think the student is trying to say here?

“The terrorist groups can still indoctrinate, recruit, regroup, and conduct attack U.S. homeland and its interests.”

“It can be achieved by encouraging warning parties for compromise.”



Takeaways

- ▶ Appreciate cultural differences and “mistakes.”
- ▶ Be curious about language use.
- ▶ Investigate the writing process.
- ▶ Frame feedback with an awareness of language variety.
- ▶ Engage in conversation.
- ▶ Prioritize clear communication over “accuracy.”

In summary, it's not necessary to be a linguist or to know multiple languages to effectively respond to multilingual writers!

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Thank you!

If you have further questions, please contact us!

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