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University of Oslo
Department of Literature, Area Studies and European Languages
Spring 2021
ENG2163 – World Englishes

Disclosure of exam assignment: June 7 at 11:00 AM
Submission deadline: June 10 at 11:00 AM

Practical information about the examination

You will be answering the examination in a word processor (Word), and then upload your answers to Inspera as a PDF before the examination time is up.
NB: you should calculate at least 2-3 minutes to convert your answers from a Word document to a PDF-document, and to upload the PDF-document to Inspera.

The uploaded document will be automatically submitted when the time is up.

Please follow the link for more information regarding converting to pdf: https://www.uio.no/english/services/it/web/open-document-formats/pdf/

After starting the exam, you will see your remaining time in the upper left corner.

If you want to withdraw from the examination, please click on the icon in the upper right corner, and then choose "withdraw".

Requirements

Your paper must contain the following information:

- candidate number, NOT your name, your candidate number is available in Studentweb;
- course code and course name;
- semester and year

Please use Times New Roman, 12 pt., 1.5 line spacing in the body of the text. The pages must be numbered.

<u>Your paper should be around 10 standard pages (a standard page consists of 2,300 characters). Pass marks are required on all three questions.</u>

Sources and referencing

It is important that you familiarize yourself with the rules for sources and referencing: https://www.hf.uio.no/english/studies/sources-referencing/index.html

Using other people's material without declaring it properly may be considered as cheating or attempted cheating. The consequences of cheating or attempted cheating may be severe for you as a student, please follow the link for more information: https://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/sources-citations/

¹ Exam

Answer ALL THREE questions.

Question 1 counts 20%, Question 2 20%, and Question 3 60% of your final mark.

Proper reference must be given to any source that has been used. Your paper should be around 10 standard pages. Pass marks are required on all three questions.

The International Corpus of English is available through Canvas or at https://nabu.usit.uio.no/hf/ilos/elc/ (eng2163/spring2021).

Question 1 (20%)

Define and discuss briefly **TWO** of the concepts in the list below, with reference to relevant literature on the subject. Illustrate with examples where relevant.

    a. Schneider's Dynamic Model
    b. Invariant tags in World Englishes
    c. *Th*-stopping in World Englishes
    d. Acrolect, mesolect and basilect

Question 2 (20%)

Answer **EITHER** (a) **OR** (b)

(a) The four sentences below (i-iv) contain one or more linguistic features (grammar, spelling and vocabulary) that may identify them as instances of one of the following varieties of English: American English, Irish English, New Zealand English, South African English. In each case, identify and describe these features (in linguistic terms) and state which variety is (most) typically associated with these features.

    i. Hi guys, I'm after doing some googling for a few hours but can't seem to find the answer I'm looking for.
    ii. If you'd gotten the tickets, you'd have realized you're a traveler, not a vacationer.
    iii. Dom finds his children and has a lekker braai of meat with radish.
    iv. If I'm understanding correctly, these rooves will start to leak soon.

(b) Describe and exemplify two phonological features that distinguish American and British English from one another and two phonological features that distinguish British English and South Asian English (e.g. Indian English) from one another.

Question 3 (60%)

Choose **ONE** of the following corpus studies

Corpus study 1 – The use of the progressive aspect with stative verbs in inner circle varieties of English

Several scholars have noted an extended use of the progressive aspect in several varieties of English. For example:

- Burridge (2008: 587): "…corpus evidence also suggests that the use of the progressive may well be more frequent here [AusE and NZE] than elsewhere".
- Kortmann (2008: 480): "... especially in IrE […] the tendency for the Progressive to conquer further territory is confirmed".
- Schneider (2008: 764): "An extension of the uses of the **progressive** (e.g. *be wanting*, *was liking*), characterizes the conservative dialects of AmE", including Canadian Newfoundland English and colloquial American English in general.

With these observations in mind, carry out a corpus study where you focus on a set of stative verbs (LIKE, WANT, LOVE) and investigate the extent to which these are used in the progressive aspect in three different inner circle varieties (Canadian English, Irish English and New Zealand English). Drawing on material from three sub-corpora of the International Corpus of English (ICE-CAN, ICE-IRL, ICE-NZL), your paper should include observations on frequency of occurrence of verb phrases in the progressive with LIKE, WANT and LOVE. It should also discuss variation across the spoken and written modes regarding the use of these verbs in the progressive. Some hints as to what you may want to include in your study:

- Use the search string **(liking|wanting|loving)** in ICE-CAN, ICE-IRE and ICE-NZL first in the **spoken** part and then in the **written** part of each ICE-corpus.
- Sort the concordance lines on Left string and give an overview (in a table or chart) of the number of occurrences of progressive uses of these verbs in the spoken vs. written parts in each of the corpora (both raw and normalised frequencies per 100,000 words). Describe how you decided whether the verbs belonged to a progressive verb phrase or not, and give examples. (Size of the spoken part of each corpus: 600,000 words / size of the written part of each corpus: 400,000 words.)
- Then focus on the variety that most frequently uses the progressive with these verbs and specify which of the three verbs is most commonly used in the progressive and in what kinds of context it is used (e.g. type of subject, type of object or other types of complementation).
- From your findings, what can you conclude with regard to the spread of the progressive to these particular verbs and varieties and how well do your findings match the observations referred to in the quotations above?

Your corpus study should be written as a coherent piece of text, including an introduction presenting the aims of the study as well as the corpus, and a conclusion, with the body in between (including an overview, analysis and a discussion of the data). Finally, include a list of references at the end.

References

Burridge, K. 2008. "Synopsis: morphological and syntactic variation in the Pacific and Australasia", in K. Burridge & B. Kortmann (eds), *Varieties of English 3: The Pacific and Australasia*. Berlin/ New York: Mouton de Gruyter. Pp. 583-600.

Kortmann, B. 2008. "Synopsis: morphological and syntactic variation in the British Isles", in B. Kortmann & C. Upton (eds), *Varieties of English 1: The British Isles*. Berlin/ New York: Mouton de Gruyter. Pp. 478-495.

Schneider, E. W. 2008. "Synopsis: morphological and syntactic variation in the Americas and the Caribbean", in E.W. Schneider (ed.), *Varieties of English 2: The Americas and the Caribbean*. Berlin/ New York: Mouton de Gruyter. Pp. 763-776.

Corpora

International Corpus of English (ICE), https://www.ice-corpora.uzh.ch/en.html, accessed through https://nabu.usit.uio.no/hf/ilos/elc/. [15 May 2021]

ICE-CAN: The Canadian component of ICE, University of Alberta.

ICE-IRL: The Irish component of ICE, project directors John M. Kirk (Belfast) and Jeffrey L. Kallen (Dublin). http://www.johnmkirk.co.uk/cgi-bin/generic?instanceID=10 [15 May 2021]

ICE-NZL: The New Zealand component of ICE, **The Victoria University of Wellington.**

Corpus study 2 – Lexis and spelling: Is Jamaican English closer to British English or American English?

"For historical reasons, Jamaican English […] has been more British- than American-oriented" (Melchers et al. 2019: 115), yet Schneider (2008) points to several overlapping features between Jamaican and American English.

Carry out a corpus study where you focus on Jamaican English (vocabulary and spelling) and its closeness to British or American English. Your paper should include observations on frequency of occurrence in the Jamaican sub-corpus of the International Corpus of English (ICE-JAM), as well

as a discussion of variation across the spoken and written mode with regard to vocabulary. Some hints as to what you may want to include in your study:

- **Spelling**: Use the **written** part of ICE-JAM and focus on the following BrE vs. AmE spelling conventions: <*ou*> vs. <*o*> and <*re*> vs. <*er*>. Choose, and search for, a set of three words representing each of the conventions from the spelling word list in Gonçalves et al. (2017: 14-16). (To boost numbers, i.e. get more material to work on, you may want to include all word forms (where relevant) and/or use wildcard searches (indicated by * in Gonçalves et al.). Discuss your findings and visualise them in a table/chart (you may use raw frequencies).
- **Vocabulary**: Select a set of three BrE vs. AmE word pairs and search for them separately in the **spoken** and **written** parts of ICE-JAM, using the vocabulary word list in Gonçalves et al. (2017: 13-14). Report on both raw and normalised frequencies (per 100,000 words) to compare the preferences in spoken vs. written Jamaican English and visualise these in a table or chart. Discuss the observed frequencies and comment on the use with regard to level of formality and/or prestige. (Size of the spoken part of the corpus: 600,000 words / size of the written part of the corpus: 400,000 words.)
- Based on your investigation (of both spelling and vocabulary), discuss to what degree the material in ICE-JAM reflects a British or an American affiliation of Jamaican English.

Your corpus study should be written as a coherent piece of text, including an introduction, presenting the aims of the study as well as the corpus, and a conclusion, with the body in between (including an overview, analysis and a discussion of the data). Finally, include a list of references at the end.

References

Gonçalves, B., L. Loureiro-Porto, J.J. Ramasco and D Sánchez. 2017. "The fall of the Empire: The Americanization of English". MS. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/318207547_The_Fall_of_the_Empire_The_Americanization_of_English [14 May 2021].

Melchers, G., P. Shaw and P. Sundkvist. 2019. [3rd edition] *World Englishes*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Schneider, E. W. 2008. "Synopsis: morphological and syntactic variation in the Americas and the Caribbean", in E.W. Schneider (ed.), *Varieties of English 2: The Americas and the Caribbean*. Berlin/ New York: Mouton de Gruyter. Pp. 763-776.

Corpora

International Corpus of English (ICE), https://www.ice-corpora.uzh.ch/en.html, accessed through https://nabu.usit.uio.no/hf/ilos/elc/. [15 May 2021]

ICE-JAM: The Jamaican component of ICE, coordinated by Christian Mair, Englisches Seminar, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, Freiburg, Germany.

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