

Grammatical and Lexical Explorations on 'Outer Circle' Englishes and 'Expanding Circle' Englishes: A Corpus-Based Comparative Analysis

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Abstract : This study analyzed 50 selected research papers from professional language and linguistic academic journals to portray the differences between Kachru's (1994) outer circle and expanding circle Englishes. The selected outer circle Englishes include those of Bangladesh, Malaysia, the Philippines, India, and Singapore; and the selected expanding circle Englishes are those of China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, and Thailand. The researcher built ten corpora (five research papers for each corpus) to represent each variety of Englishes. The corpora were examined under grammatical and lexical features using Modified English TreeTagger in Sketch Engine. Results revealed the distinct grammatical and lexical features through the table and textual analyses, illustrated from the most to least dominant linguistic elements. In addition, comparative analyses were done to distinguish the features of each of the selected Englishes. The Language Change Theory was used as a basis in the discussion. Hence, the findings suggest that the 'outer circle' Englishes and 'expanding circle' Englishes will continue to drift from International English.

Keywords : applied linguistics, English as a global language, expanding circle Englishes, global Englishes, outer circle Englishes

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