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'English is a mish mash of everything': examining the language attitudes and teaching beliefs of British-Asian multilingual teachers

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'English is a mish mash of everything': examining the language attitudes and

teaching beliefs of British-Asian multilingual teachers

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Abstract: This paper reports on a qualitative investigation of the language attitudes of multilingual British-South-Asian English language teachers. Data is drawn from both interviews and focus groups to demonstrate the participants underlying conception of language and their awareness and attitudes towards Indian English and how they coalesce their 'duty' as English language teachers and their beliefs about language variation. The paper observes underlying differences in the attitudes of first and second-generation migrants and argues that this is related to their early experiences of English language variation and their exposure to either single or dual language ideologies. Therefore, the paper supports other research that attitudes related to 'correct' language is ingrained in childhood experiences. It is also argued that changes are required in current teacher training to raise awareness of World Englishes and English as a Lingua Franca to equip teachers with the necessary skills to respond to a new global linguistic landscape.

Keywords: Language attitudes, Language ideologies, Multilingualism, Varieties of English.

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Introduction

Numerous studies have examined the attitudes of English language users towards

multilingual varieties of English including He and Miller (2011), McKenzie (2008), Rivers

(2011), Sasayama (2013), Saxena and Omoniyi (2010), Scales, Wennerstrom, Richard and

Wu (2006) and Zhang (2013). These studies have tended to find negative evaluations of

multilingual English varieties, and a preference for 'native' varieties such as American (AmE)

and British (BrE) English. However other studies indicate a more positive attitude towards

multilingual varieties of English such as Bernaisch's (2012) study in Sri Lanka, and Chand's

(2009) and Sahgal's (1991) studies in India, which may be related to the extent that English

has become nativized in the local context (Schneider, 2007). There is also a growing body of

literature that examine English language teachers' attitudes (Ahn, 2014, 2015; Jenkins, 2007;

McDonald & McRae, 2010; Sadtono, 2000; Sifakis & Sougari, 2006; Young & Walsh, 2010),

and again there is a tendency for teachers to show an underlying preference for 'native'

varieties of English, albeit with a recognition that these are not representative of how English

is spoken in many contexts. This study hopes to contribute to this growing area of research by

examining the language attitudes of multilingual English language teachers, who have

English as one of their first languages.

Ontologies of language variation in World Englishes research have seen a corresponding

development in the two related research areas of language ideologies and multilingualism.

Language ideologies research has highlighted the ways in which the organizational structures

of society normalise views about language and perpetuate language hierarchies (Blommaert,

1999; Cooke & Simpson, 2012). Language attitudes do not exist in a vacuum but are situated

in a social context and are shaped, managed, controlled and influenced by socio-economic

power relations and interests (Blackledge, 2005; Gal, 1998; Kroskrity, 2004; McGroaty,

2010). Normalised beliefs are formed in mainstream education and maintained through

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societal structures that situate languages as separate units of analysis. This conception of

parallel monolingualism (Heller, 1999) or separate bilingualism (Creese & Blackledge, 2011),

sits in contrast with Cook's (1996; 2007) notion of multicompetence, in which Cook has

demonstrated that bilinguals and multilinguals have one integrated language system. This

recognition and reformulation of bilingualism and multilingualism has led to a plethora of

new terms to capture the dynamic nature of multilingual speakers' linguistic repertoire,

including translanguaging (García, 2009; García & Wei, 2014).

Therefore, multilingual English language teachers are confronted with an array of

sometimes conflicting and contradictory language ideologies in different contexts that

position languages as both fixed and mobile, bounded and de-territorialized (Blommaert,

2010). Drawing on their own experience the teachers in this study have exposure to and

contact with language diversity through their family, friends, the local community, and

through transnational communities. At the same time, the teachers are influenced by a

standard language ideology in the social environment, and by their profession as English

language teachers, whose job it is to teach standard English as a fixed stable code. This paper

brings together three interrelated research fields of language ideologies, multilingualism and

World Englishes to understand these teachers' language attitudes.

There are two aims to this study: (a) to further contribute to the existing knowledge of

multilingual English language teachers' attitudes towards multilingual varieties of English

and (b) to develop an understanding of how different language ideologies influence

multilingual English language teachers' attitudes.

Theoretical Framework

Language Ideologies

Arguably the most prevalent language ideology in many countries is a standard one, which

is considered the most prestigious variety, and situated at the top of the language hierarchy

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(Bourdieu, 1991; Kroskrity, 2004; Milroy & Milroy, 2012). Speech which deviates from the standard language is given limited status as a dialect-or variety derived from 'the norm' (Edwards, 2004; Milroy & Milroy, 2012). Moreover, the almost exclusive focus on the standard language tends to obscure the existence of other languages in the public sphere, contributing to the formation of a monolingual mindset in many countries (Clyne, 2008). This has the effect of legitimising language discrimination, which acts as a proxy for racial and ethnic discrimination (Blackledge, 2000; Ellis, 2006). Therefore while democratic multilingual societies tolerate heterogeneity in several aspects, Blackledge (2000) argues that linguistic diversity is ignored or undervalued.

This monolingual mindset also contributes to the underlying belief that proficiency in many languages is an exception, problematic or transitory, and that the standard language can be effortlessly acquired by dialectal speakers of the language (Milroy & Milroy, 2012). Consequently ESL provision in most schools is usually only extended to the point where children have sufficient English to integrate (Blackledge, 2000). Although the monolingual fallacy and standard language ideologies have been extensively questioned by linguists, these ideologies are still prevalent in language policies, language teaching practices and language tests, which have been designed predominantly by monolingual speakers (Blackledge, 2000; Ellis, 2006; Ndhlovu, 2015).

Recently, however, critical ontologies have destabilised notions of language, and consequently previously held conceptions of multilingualism and practices, such as codeswitching, have been questioned (García & Wei, 2014; Li, 2017; Makoni & Pennycook, 2007; 2012). García and Wei (2014) argue that the discursive practices of multilingual speakers should be reconceptualised as translanguaging, which they define as the "original and complex interrelated discursive practices that cannot be assigned to one or other language repertoire" (p. 22). Spoken discourse therefore should not be viewed as an object enshrined in

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dictionaries, grammar books or language academies but primarily as a system of

communication. It has been argued that instead of analysing languages, linguists should focus

on 'voice' (Blommaert, 2010), 'linguistic or verbal repertoires' (Blackledge & Creese, 2010;

Busch, 2012) and 'language practices' (Heller, 2007). In many multilingual societies, the

belief of language as a discursive practice is perhaps accepted as normal and it is observable

in their attitudes and practices (Canagarajah, 2013; Makoni & Pennycook, 2012). This

attempt to re-conceptualise language in current western discourse is a consequence of the 're-

creation' of multilingual communities in western societies through migration, despite these

practices always being present 'on the ground' in Europe (Canagarajah, 2013).

   Canagarajah (2013) further argues that attitudes towards multilingualism, in some

countries, sustain the conditions for, what he terms, translingual practices. Pollock (2006), for

example, has identified differences in discourses between pre-modern Europe and pre-

colonial South-Asia which may indicate reasons why there are existing differences between

the language attitudes of the people who live in these regions. The discourses suggest that

pre-colonial South-Asian peoples' attitudes towards multilingualism were more accepting

than in pre-modern Europe. Perhaps this could partly explain why a standard language

ideology was able to become prevalent in 18th and 19th century Europe: because it was

commensurate with existing ideologies about language in pre-modern Europe. These

competing ideologies in South-Asia appear to be evident in Chand's (2009) extensive study

of attitudes to Indian English (IE), with the Indian participants' negotiating between a

standard language ideology, and one more attuned to what could be termed a translingual

practices ideology.

   Therefore, the research in ideologies suggest that the environment and context in which an

English language teacher grew up in, and currently operates in, would have a significant

impact on their language attitudes. However, it is also important to recognise that teachers'

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attitudes may change when they are influenced by various factors, one of which could be the

adaptations to the existing ideologies in society.

Teachers' Language Attitudes

Definitions of attitudes predominantly specify that they are an evaluation of an object

(Maio & Haddock, 2009), and in respect to language attitudinal research the object could

relate to a language, a phonetic feature or a single lexical item. However, the reality is that it

is questionable whether individual language items can be isolated from other language

features and the socio-political context in which languages exists. Moreover, attitudes to a

language cannot easily be separated from the speakers and in some respects are formed not

only from their first-hand experience of language use, but also in the collective imagination

of stereotypes (Garrett, 2010; Garrett, Coupland & Williams, 2003; Niedzielski & Preston,

2009).

It is also necessary to consider teachers' beliefs (Borg, 2006; Breen, Hird, Milton, Oliver &

Thwaite, 2001; Woods, 1996) and the influence these beliefs have on teachers' pedagogical

practices (Borg, 1998; Farrell, 2008; Pajares, 1992). Language teachers' beliefs are

influenced by several interrelated factors including personal experiences, experience of

schooling and formal knowledge (Richardson, 1996), their own language learning experience,

teacher education, reflections on their own practices (Tsui, 2003; Zheng, 2009), and the

workplace culture (Sato & Kleinsasser, 2004). Trujillo (1996, 2005) and Razfar (2012), have

argued that the connection between beliefs, attitudes and practices, which are enacted through,

and are products of the social structure that these beliefs inhabit, constitute teaching

ideologies. Therefore, teachers' language attitudes and teaching beliefs must be seen in

relation to power dynamics, values, norms and expectations of the wider society. In some

respects, with training which stress the importance of accuracy and concepts such as

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interlanguage and fossilization (Dewey, 2012; Nelson, 2011), language teachers may be more

inclined towards accepting a standard language ideology than other teachers.

Studies, which have examined teacher training with an SLA component, have tended to

indicate that teachers' beliefs about language teaching modifies, with teachers' incorporating

what they have learnt with their current teaching practices and their own language learning

experience (Busch, 2010; Erlam, 2008; MacDonald, Badger & White, 2001; Markham, Rice,

Darban & Weng, 2017). While these studies do not specifically address how this new

knowledge influences language attitudes, fossilization in Busch's (2010) study appears to

have a consolidating function for the teacher's existing beliefs. Three teachers noted that the

failure to correct students could result in fossilization, and some participants commented that

learning in an English-speaking country may prevent fossilization. One participant

commented that 'learning about fossilization taught me that people just won't absorb a

language if not helped and challenged with it' (Busch, 2010, p. 331). Furthermore, the

importance given to interlanguage is evident on the undergraduate course in Macdonald et

al's (2001) study, with four of the nine modules including interlanguage in their title.

Although these concepts have been challenged in Second Language Acquisition (SLA)

(Ortega, 2013, 2014) fossilization and interlanguage retain an explanatory function by

teachers for students 'non-native' like performance, especially among experienced teachers.

Moreover as May (2014, p. 2) notes traditional SLA researchers and the TESOL industry

"remain, to this day, largely untouched, uninterested, and unperturbed" by developments in

multilingual research. This is perhaps because variability is more difficult to explain

conceptually, and, perhaps more significantly, difficult to teach.

As noted above there have been a few studies of English language teachers' attitudes, and

although there is a continued deference towards American (AmE) and British (BrE) English,

the teachers also indicate that multilingual varieties of English also have value. For example

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McDonald & McRae (2010) in a study of four teachers' language attitudes towards Konglish, which the authors define as English loan words and English words mixed with Korean and both used in a Korean context, found slightly contradictory beliefs. Despite recognising language variability in English and observing that the native speaker concept in ELT is outdated they still correct Konglish in the classroom and believe it would inhibit communication outside of Korea. Similarly the teachers' in Ahn's (2014) study of attitudes towards Korean English, a formal variety spoken by educated Koreans with observed lexico-grammatical and pragmatic features, assert that AmE is preferable in the classroom. However the teachers' also state that Korean English is a "practical" and " useful" communicative tool and "had the potential to become a legitimate variety of English" (Ahn, 2014, p. 214). The teachers also held negative attitudes towards other Asian varieties of English spoken in Singapore, Japan, China and India which they consider "problematic" and "strange" (Ahn, 2015, p. 145). Sifakis and Sougari (2006) examining Greek teacher's attitudes towards pronunciation found that they also orientate towards 'the norm' in the classroom as a context to prepare students for standardised tests. However, although the teachers associate a good accent with a native accent, they also recognise that for communication purposes mutual intelligibility was crucial, and this does not necessarily entail conforming to a native variety. The teachers from a number of expanding circle countries in Jenkins' study (2007) also tend to defer to native varieties of English. However most of the participants are also in principle open to the conceptual notion of English as a Lingua Franca (ELF), while noting the barriers to enable this to be implemented in a classroom context due to teaching materials and testing standards. Young and Walsh (2010) also, examine the beliefs of English language teachers predominantly from the outer circle, which corroborated Jenkins' findings: that the teachers orientated towards a standard English variety despite acknowledging that "it does not really correspond to the reality of Englishes which are in use worldwide" (p. 135).

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Therefore, although the teachers in these studies tend to orientate primarily towards Standard English or AmE and BrE, there is some indication that the teachers recognise these labels are unable to fully encapsulate English usage. Jenkins (2006, 2014) (Table 1) highlights different orientations towards English and implies that an English as Foreign Language (EFL) orientation is inclined towards a standard language ideology which position languages as fixed and stable, while an ELF orientation is situated in an ideology that considers language as a social practice (Seidlhofer, 2011). These different orientations are evident in the above studies of English teachers' attitudes, and can be seen as continuum with teachers negotiating between different ideological orientations depending on contextual conditions, their linguistic backgrounds and identity positioning.

[Insert Table 1]

Research of attitudes in World Englishes have tended to adopt a view of varieties of English as inner, outer and expanding circles. However it is perhaps more appropriate to visualise language attitudes through a framework of ELF (Jenkins, 2007), or translingual practices (Canagarajah, 2013), prioritising language practices rather than national labels. While World Englishes research focuses on bounded nationally defined varieties, ELF emphasises the use of English 'as fluid, flexible, contingent, hybrid and deeply intercultural' (Jenkins, Cogo & Dewey, 2011, p. 284). This requires a methodological and theoretical approach that incorporates ideologies and multilingualism into an understanding of people's attitudes towards different languages. An ELF attitudinal framework would also require considering attitudes towards related concepts such as multilingualism, native speakerism, Standard English, codeswitching and language itself, rather than individuals simply responding to nationally defined English varieties either by listening to a speech sample or perceptually judging a region of English speakers. Nevertheless, it may be necessary to use named varieties during the research process to enable individual's conceptualisation of

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different Englishes. Finally, an ELF approach would also need to consider the wider context in which people and languages operate. With these considerations in mind, and the minimal studies which examine multilingual English language teachers' language attitudes, the following research questions have guided this study:

1. What are multilingual English language teachers' attitudes to multilingual varieties of English?

2. What is the significance of experiences, background, training and the social environment in influencing teachers' beliefs?

Methodology

Context

The institutional setting of the study is a further education college[1] in a multicultural UK city and the participants work in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) department. There is an eclectic mix of teachers in the ESOL department which is reflective of the multicultural city. This article focuses on the language attitudes of five South-Asian multilingual ESOL teachers in the UK, who participated in interviews and focus groups[2]. Extracts were chosen from the interviews and focus groups from these participants as being reflective of the differences in awareness and attitudes between first and second-generation migrants. This article is restricted to discussing 5 participants, who were selected as they participated in both the interviews and focus groups. Moreover, Arti and Ashna were in the same focus group, as were Jashith and Nalini, which allowed me to compare and contrast these participants' views. The other participants in the study make similar comments to the

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[1] Further Education Colleges teach post-compulsory subjects, vocational subjects and adult education.

[2] The total number of participants in the study was 20, which included 13 first generation migrants and 7 second generation migrants, though not all the participants were involved in both the interviews and focus groups.

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ones discussed in this article in either the interviews or focus groups, or both. All the

participants' names have been anonymised and any detail which might lead to identification

modified.

Participants

[Insert Table 2]

There are some similarities between the participants (Table 2): all the participants have

friends and relatives who speak a non-standard variety of English, all the participants, as

English language teachers, incorporate teaching ideologies (Trujillo, 1996, 2005) into their

belief system, all of the participants are bi- or multilingual speakers and they all share the

same ethnicity. The first-generation teachers migrated from Indian communities in African

countries, Ashna from Malawi, and Nalini and Mahima from Kenya. One difference between

the two groups is that first-generation migrants tend to speak more languages than second

generation migrants. Despite the similarities between the participants' ethno-linguistic and

professional backgrounds, there were differences in their language awareness and attitudes

towards multilingual varieties of English which I argue stem from the participants' exposure

to different language ideologies. Moreover, it is notable that second generation migrants

appear to have retained language attitudes derived from their early language experiences,

despite residing in the UK for over thirty or forty years, where the influence of a standard

language ideology is more prevalent. This would seem to support both the assertion that

attitudes towards correct language are formed in childhood (Niedzielski & Preston, 2009),

and that language attitudes have a strong affective component and appear to be resistant to

change (Illés, 2016; Pajares, 1992).

All the teachers are female and of South-Asian cultural heritage and have undertaken

teacher training: a PGCE for teaching in further education, which is a broad teaching

qualification for all teachers in the different departments, and an ESOL level 5 diploma

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which focuses specifically on English language teaching. However, in this course, no

consideration is given to multilingual varieties of English or ELF. Moreover, there is no unit

in the course which includes SLA theory, and instead there is a focus on grammatical, lexical

and phonetical knowledge and discourse and how this knowledge could be applied in the

language classroom. The only aspect of SLA theory which is addressed is related to culture

and issues of power, and how this may impact on classroom teaching. As mentioned

interviews and focus groups were chosen as methodological tools in this study to enable

comparisons between the two data sets and analyse the strength and consistency of the

participants' attitudes expressed in an individual interview and as part of a group.

   The interviews were semi-structured and based around three main topic areas: participants'

background, participants' views about language and teaching. For the focus groups three

discussion cards were constructed around the areas of language, error correction, varieties of

English, materials, culture in the classroom, functional English, testing and language targets.

They were not direct questions but were what could be considered contentious quotes,

assembled from newspaper articles (Jenkins, 2004; Meddings, 2004a, b) and a short journal

article (Farrell & Martin, 2009).

Analytical Framework

   The analytical framework I have used in this study is holistic, utilizing elements from

content analysis (Bazeley, 2013; Franzosi, 2004; Krippendorff, 2013), discourse analysis

(Gee, 1999; Gill, 2000; Johnstone, 2002; Potter, 2004; Tannen, 2007), conversation analysis

(Clayman & Gill, 2004; Heritage, 2004; Peräkylä, 2007) and constructionist perspectives of

grounded theory (Charmaz, 2001, 2006, 2008, 2011). In many respects it is necessary for

qualitative researchers to use different frameworks to analyse their data in order to

understand the potential contained in the data and, as Silverman (2006, p. 237) highlights,

'thoughtful researchers will often want to use a combination of methods'. There are many

similarities between different qualitative analytical approaches, with several core elements

such as being exploratory in nature, a focus on communication, and the aim to gain a greater

understanding of the social world by examining both the explicit meaning and the underlying

meaning. Indeed, Krippendorff (2013) refers to content analysis as a 'contemporary

grounded method', and also Discourse Analysis (DA) and Conversation Analysis (CA) are

included under the umbrella of content analysis by some authors (Krippendorff, 2013). Both

Franzoi (2004) and Krippendorff (2013) note that content analysis has evolved into a

repertoire of methods of research and is also increasingly being used in various disciplines.

Krippendorff asserts that a framework to use content analysis requires a text, research

questions and a context to enable the researcher to make inferences and validate evidence 'in

principle'. Texts do not have a single meaning in themselves, but are open to different

interpretations by different people, with the specific meaning dependant on the interests of

the researcher and built around a context to situate the data. Krippendorff (2013) argues that

a careful reading of the text narrows the range of possible inferences, and 'grounds' content

analysis empirically to enable the researcher to discover trends, patterns and differences, and

validate findings.

Open coding and then focused coding was used in analysing the data, (Bazeley, 2013;

Charmaz, 2008) with no *a priori* codes, to avoid 'forcing' the data as Glaser (1998) argues

many researchers tend to do. Then the most interesting parts of the data were linked, and the

most important codes were 'raised' to themes and the data was organised into a hierarchal

structure (Bazeley, 2013). The chosen extracts in this paper have been narrowly transcribed

to understand how meaning was produced in each sequential turn (Mann, 2011; Talmy, 2011)

and enable me to identify details such as silences, pauses, word choice and the prosodic

features of speech, and allows a more detailed analysis of the participants' contributions.

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Moreover, this is an exact transcription as spoken by the participants and may include

infelicities in terms of grammar, word forms and incomplete sentences as is commonly found

in spoken discourse. The transcription conventions (Appendix 1) were adapted from Potter

(1999) Clayman and Gill (2004) and the VOICE corpus (2013).

Findings

Awareness and Attitudes to English Language Variation

The participants express language attitudes that derive from their exposure to different

language ideologies, which is notable in the differences between first and second-generation

migrants. The differences are reflected in their awareness and attitudes to Indian English (IE).

This would suggest that exposure through the social environment is an essential element in

teachers' language beliefs. Second generation migrants tend to describe these varieties within

a framework of being deficient in relation to British English norms indexing an EFL

orientation, with teacher training consolidating their existing beliefs. In contrast, first

generation migrants describe IE from a difference perspective which suggests that their

language attitudes have greater flexibility. The focus in the following analysis is the inter-

relationship between the teachers' language attitudes and societal ideologies and how this

may impact on their beliefs about their teaching practices. The following sections of data

analysis are divided into language awareness and competing language ideologies.

The first extract is an interview with Arti, who was born in the UK and is bilingual in

English and Punjabi. She notes that growing up in the UK there were very few families of

Indian origin with around 20 individuals in her school who were of ethnic origins. Her formal

education was in the UK state school system. She never attended heritage language classes in

the UK, as there was limited provision for Punjabi at the time. She has minimal contact with

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her heritage country, India, but she has visited India three times and occasionally

communicates with an elderly relative. In the first extract Arti gives a definition of Indian

English from a deficit perspective.

<u>Extract 1</u>

1 Arti: =Indian English is when you erm:: (0.5) take out for example especially th-

2   the (.) long term Asians if you like (.) what they do is (.) they erm (.) when

3   the grammar's (.) not correct for example like I would say I would say my

4   mum talks Indian English

5 I: Right okay

6 Arti: Indian English English Indian whatever she does it because she doesn't err

7   formulate (.) you know correct sentence if you like but the meaning's there

8   Errm

Arti's experience of IE is predominantly from the UK and she considers IE speakers as

ones who have migrated to, and been living in, the UK for a long period of time. One of the

people she identifies as an IE speaker is her mother. She appears to have a deficit perspective

of language as being either correct or incorrect, and twice (3 and 7) states that IE is incorrect

which stems from a standard language ideology and EFL orientation. However, she also

acknowledges that meaning is relevant (7) despite her perceived incorrectness of the language

in relation to British English.

Beliefs about correctness and IE are also evident in the attitudes of another second-

generation migrant, Jashith, who associates IE speakers with her students. Jashith, like Arti,

was also born in the UK, and had formal state education. She states that she speaks Gujarati

with older members of the family and older members of the local Gujarati community, but

with siblings and peers she tends to speak English. In the home environment, her parents

predominantly spoke Guajarati, and she went to Gujarati language classes, where she also

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learnt Hindi. She visited India four times when she was younger, but has not returned in

adulthood. She has cousins in India, but maintains minimal contact, and expresses a desire to

return to India 'as a tourist'. Jashith also perceives IE as a deficient language.

Extract 2

1	Jashith:	How would I describe it it's different to (0.5) how (0.5) because I've
2		seen students who have come from India and they do they get the word
3		order wrong
4	I:	Right
5	Jashith:	You know and the pronunciation obviously is different so:: even
6		though they have studied there sometimes it's hard to understand what
7		they're saying as well […] yes it's Indian English isn't it yeah
8	I:	Wh- wh- what do you understand by Indian English
9	Jashith:	Well to me that's I think that's what I mentioned already that you
10		know the pronunciation and they also substitute certain words and the
11		words (1.0) are not (0.5) used in right context as well

Jashith's description of IE relates to her experience of students, and perhaps other

contexts within the UK. Although initially she notes that IE is different, her description is

predominantly from a deficit perspective, identifying problems with word order (2) and

vocabulary (10-11). She views the grammar and lexis of IE as deficient, but the pronunciation

as different. Therefore, in terms of attitudes to pronunciation, this suggests that Jashith is

more ELF orientated than EFL, and indicates that she has different orientations for different

aspects of language.

In contrast first generation migrants tended not to use negative terminology to describe IE.

Mahima arrived to the UK from Kenya at the age of 16, and completed her secondary

education in the UK, having been educated in an international school in Kenya. Mahima has

never visited India, and the last time she returned to Kenya was nearly forty years ago.

Mahima appears to apply personal experience of IE from her youth and instead of using

negative descriptive words, she relates the variety to Hinglish and describes a mixing of

English and Hindi.

Extract 3

1	I:	Have you ever heard of the phrase Indian English before
2	Mahima:	err:: what they call erm (1.5) Hinglish
3	I:	And how would how would you describe it
4	Mahima:	Its erm what they do is they start of talking in eng- in er start with
5		English then they sort of break it in er: go into Punjabi Hindi or
6		whatever language they speak and then and if you listen to erm if you
7		listen to their conversation in one sentence they speak there would be
8		at least five or six English words
9	I:	yeah (2.0) and then
10	Mahima:	It's all mixture of everything it's like (2.0) <u>Swah</u>ili when we came to
11		er when we sort of like we developed the Swahili language for in (2.0)
12		there was a lot of common words that we (.) we thought were (.)
13		Punjabi but they're not they're Swahili words we thought they were
14		Punjabi so if I were to speak somebody from India and use that in
15		those words they'd look at us and say °what is she talking° about <u>but</u>
16		like i said the Indian English or Hinglish as they call them call it

Instead of using negative terminology Mahima seems to view IE positively. Mahima

associates IE with another term Hinglish (2), which is considered derogatory by some

(Edwards, 2004; Nelson, 2011). Though she states that it is other people who use the term

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Hinglish, which might imply that she also sees it as a derogatory term, using 'they' on two

occasions (2 and 16). She also refers to IE as code-switching and draws parallels with a

mixture of Swahili and Punjabi from her own experience of mixed codes. This implies that

she is more inclined towards an ELF orientation in relation to codeswitching rather than an

EFL one, as she explains IE as a linguistic resource. However, despite acknowledging the

mixing of languages, she also refers to named languages with boundaries (11-15). Therefore,

although education provides the *habitus* for the separation of languages into distinct codes

(Bourdieu, 1991; Fairclough, 2001), the awareness of distinct languages also stems from

interacting with other speakers. Other first-generation migrants also give a relatively positive

interpretation of IE, referring to it as a dialect rather than being deficient.

Nalini, for example, arrived in the UK in her early twenties after meeting her husband,

so her primary education was in Kenya. She learnt English from birth, and English and

Guajarati at primary and nursery schools and 'picked up' Hindi, Urdu, and Swahili, from

movies and the social environment. She visits India every year, for religious purposes with

her entire family to attend a religious festival, and visits Kenya nearly every year. In the

following extract Nalini tends to describe IE more positively than second generation migrants.

Extract 4

1	I:	Do you notice anything different about <u>the way</u> they speak their
2		English
3	Nalini:	Oh yes yeah::: what do you call it (1.0) the stress and intonation is
4		different
5	I:	Yeah
6	Nalini:	Yeah erm (1.0) sometimes in India if somebody speaks in English I I
7		my family my children will laugh you know ha ha ha why are they
8		speaking you know the dialect is different the accent is different

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9   I: right

10 Nalini: It is different (.) it is different

When Nalini is comparing how they speak English in India to British English, she

uses a difference perspective rather than a deficit perspective She also describes IE as a

dialect which places IE at a level with other 'native' dialects in the UK. This perspective

would seem to include IE as a variety equal to other Englishes and not as deficit, as second-

generation migrants tend to view the language. Although viewing IE as a dialect rather than a

language derives from a standard language ideology, she recognises IE as a stable variety,

rather than one that is deficient and as an interlanguage moving towards a 'native' variety. It

is also noticeable that her children who are second generation migrants respond to IE

speakers by laughing, which Nalini appears to present as a negative response to the language.

Nalini's positive attitude to different varieties of English is also evident in the focus groups

where the participants were discussing which model of English to teach.

Extract 5

1. Jashith: Well if if people want to learn English as a foreign language is it then

2.   they would expect to be taught (.) you know the British model

3. Nalini: I don't think people who really don't want to come out of their own

4.   origin place do want to learn British or or or or American English I

5.   don't think so if I was in Kenya I would stick to my Kenya I didn't

6.   want to learn (.) how they speak in Britain

As is evident from the extract, Jashith framework is centred around standard English

models, which contrasts with Nalini's view of how English is spoken in other countries. She

draws on her own experience of living in Kenya and the way that English is spoken there and

suggests that these speakers would reject a model of English based on AmE or BrE.

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Second generation migrants generally have difficulty perceiving multilingual or 'non-native' varieties as authentic. They view varieties, such as IE, as deficient in comparison to American or British English and use terminology such as error, wrong or incorrect. In contrast, first generation migrants appear to be more accepting of language variation and acknowledge the authenticity of multilingual varieties of English. This is arguably derived from exposure to dual or multiple language ideologies, the experience of growing up in a multilingual society, and a higher level of exposure to different varieties of English. First generation migrants appear to be more open to different varieties of English, referring to these as dialects and they also appear to consider the distinction between named languages and language as a social practice. The influence of competing ideologies is evident in the attitudes of first generation migrants, suggesting that these attitudes are formed at a young age and retained into adulthood despite the more prevalent influence of a standard language ideology while they have been living in the UK.

Competing Ideologies

One reason for the difference in language attitudes of the participants is the linguistic environment in which first generation migrants grew up. Ashna, for example, was born in Malawi and arrived in the UK around the age of 13. She maintains strong links with Gujarat because of her mother's family, and through her connections with the local Gujarat community in Leicester. Ashna's first language is Gujarati, and her initial education was in Gujarati, but she was later taught at school in English. In the following extract from one of the focus groups, Ashna explains her language use in Malawi and the UK.

Extract 6

1. Ashna: I I I <u>used</u> to speak English at the school (.) but I wasn't exposed like

2.   you know like when we we went school we used to speak English but

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3.   then when we came back home (.) it was Guajarati all the time but

4.   when I <u>came</u> to <u>this</u> country and when I started learning English it was

5.   like we we we went to school in the morning and then we come back at

6.   about 3 so then english just went all the way through it just run and the

7.   programmes were in English everything was in English so (???) have

8.   to speak in English everything conver- even with my mum

9.   conversation became English even though my mum would <u>answer</u> in

10.   Gujarati but I would speak in English (.) whereas before when I was in

11.   Africa that wasn't the case English was in the school as soon as we

12.   come back home it was Gujarati Gujarti Gujarati

The extract gives an indication of the multilingual linguistic environment in which Ashna grew up in Malawi. At school in the formal environment, Ashna notes that English was used, while upon returning home she would switch with her family to using Gujarati. In contrast, in the UK, she would predominantly use English both at school and at home, though noting that some of the elements of the linguistic environment were maintained as her mother continued to use Gujarati. It is likely that Ashna's linguistic environment during her formative years helped shape her language attitudes, which have been maintained to a certain degree since she arrived in the UK, Access to five different languages, Gujarati, English, Urdu, Hindi, and Chichewa provided a diverse linguistic environment which included codeswitching and exposure to different varieties of spoken English.

The differences between first and second-generation migrants is evident in the following extract from a focus group where Ashna and Arti are discussing teachers' prejudice towards other teachers whose first language is not English. Ashna appears to be more open to language variation and view language more in terms of a continuum, while Arti views language in binary terms, either being correct/incorrect or perfect/imperfect.

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Extract 7

1   Ashna: I have heard some of the in in::: in our teaching environment they

2   will say well I just hate it when somebody speaks like that then I [yeah

3   Arti: [They

4   can't use correct English why are they teaching yeah course you do

5   there is

6   Ashna: They can't teach and I'm thinking to myself well what are you talking

7   about English is a mish mash of everything so (.) I think you need to

8   go and (.) research your language @@@@@@@

9   […]

10 Ashna: I've come across I've come across teachers that will say that and they

11   say oh I really hate it you know oh I don't watch that I mean have you

12   seen in the oh I don't think his English correct and I'm thinking well

13   what are you talking about are you saying that your English is=

14 Arti: =Perfect

15 Ashna: Superior

Both Ashna and Arti agree that they have heard linguicism in the teaching environment

and express their dislike of this, positioning themselves as being more open to accepting

language variation. However, there are some underlying differences in Ashna's and Arti's

perception of this prejudice. For example, Arti states that 'they can't use correct English' (3-

4), referring to teachers who are recipients of prejudice. Although Arti is reporting what other

people believe, she appears to be agreeing that some teachers do not speak 'correct English'.

However, despite her apparent agreement that the language used by 'non-native' teachers is

incorrect, she indicates that they should not be the recipients of prejudice from other English

language teachers. In contrast, Ashna also uses the term 'correct English' in reference to

other teachers' beliefs, but indicates strong disagreement with belief that the language is

inaccurate (6 and 13).

Ashna's language beliefs are also evident when she mentions the mixing of English with

other languages in (6), showing an awareness of variation, language change and borrowing in

English, and implying that these teachers do not have this awareness. She also distances

herself from ownership of English, suggesting she believes the language belongs to 'native

speakers' with the phrase 'I think you need to go and research your language' (7-8) in

criticism of these teachers' attitudes. The differences in the attitudes of the two teachers is

also evident when Arti completes Ashna's sentence 'are you saying your English is' with the

word 'perfect' (13-15). However, rather than accepting this word choice, Ashna feels it

necessary to give a more nuanced word: 'superior'. This perhaps suggests Ashna's views of

language ability are on a cline, whereas the word 'perfect' may indicate that Arti conceives

language more in binary terms. There are some similarities between the participants, but

their choice of vocabulary and their presentation of other teachers' views suggest moderate

difference in their attitudes to language variability in English, and perhaps they have different

conceptualisations of language, based on personal experiences and background.

However, although first generation migrants were exposed to greater variation in language

ideologies, this does not necessarily translate into conflict in their attitudes. In fact, it was

second generation migrants who sometimes have problems to coalesce their awareness of

different Englishes, multilingualism and the influence of a standard language ideology. For

example, Ashna uses seemingly conflicting terminology when she describes how she

responds to her students' spoken language.

Extract 8

1   Ashna: Because you are teaching them the main (.) you know purpose of

2   language you know for them to <u>learn</u> in appropriate way you can't

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3	teach them all you know because >he's Indian he speak differently<
4	but in the classroom if they speak you know with their own accent if
5	they're pronouncing wrong (.) then I would say you would interfere
6	like someone would pronounce it wrong then I would say it's not like
7	that you don't say it like that you actually say this (0.5) >but that's
8	what I mean< but if they're speaking in their (.) dialect you know I
9	don't normally change I've got in classroom you know they speak in
10	their singing English that I was telling them you know but this way I
11	just let it because this what it is

Ashna uses several negative words to describe the pronunciation of her students and how

she would respond to it: 'wrong' (5 and 6), 'interfere', (5) 'it's not like that' (6). She also

places stress on certain words which perhaps indicates a strong attitude and belief about this

topic (2-7). This appears to index a standard language ideology which is derived from her

educational experience in her birth country and the UK which treat languages separately, as

well as from her training as an English language teacher. Interestingly, while she objects to

criticism of British-Asian English language teachers' spoken English by other teachers in the

previous extract, she still perceptually envisages language in terms of right and wrong in

relation to her students' spoken language. She notes that if the accent and pronunciation is

'wrong' she would use error correction methods (7). However, she performs a mock Indian

accent (3), with syllable-timing and omitting the third person singular, and refers to it as a

dialect and argues that she would not change it (7-9). The 'singing English' which she

mentions relates back to an earlier discussion on the rhythm and tone of the way IE is spoken

(10). This would seem to represent a conflicting response to students' language, and it is

unclear in what situation she would deem it appropriate to correct the language. These appear

to represent a duality of language attitudes, though seemingly not conflictual, of recognising

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and accepting different varieties of English, but still believing that students should conform to British English norms.

On some occasions, it is second generation migrants who struggle to convey their moderate awareness of diverse Englishes and their conformity to 'correct language'. For example, Arti finds difficulty to express her belief in the importance of Standardised English.

<u>Extract 9</u>

1	Arti:	Just because it's erm (5.0) I think it's I know it sounds really bad this does but
2		I think it's the correct way to (1.0) er I don't know I think it's the correct way
3		to er (3.0) because you need standard English to write basically that's what
4		I'm trying to say it's fu- it's funny that transition (.) do you know what I mean
5		I don't think we should be so hung up on it then you know if articles aren't in
6		the right place or whether you know they're n- they're not using the past
7		perfect for example no I don't think that makes an issue at all right because
8		they are communicating and you know that I- it's enough to get (.) through (.)
9		you're day to day life it's functional

It is noticeable that Arti struggles to find the words to express her meaning in terms of describing Standardised English, saying the 'correct way' twice (2), but retreating from completing the sentence. There are also long pauses (1-3) as she tries to formulate her opinion. She tries to balance her beliefs about functional English and 'correct' English, and as a compromise, relates Standardised English to writing. She has a noticeable difficulty balancing her beliefs about accuracy and communication. Arti also mentions articles and the past perfect as features which 'we should not be hung up on' (5-7).

These extracts suggest that there are some differences in the underlying attitudes towards language between first and second-generation migrants. It appears that first generation migrants do not necessarily consider language in the same way that second generation

migrants do. This may be related to their personal experience of engaging with different

varieties of English, living in a multilingual environment and being influenced by multiple

language ideologies. Second generation migrants are more inclined to view language as

having boundaries and belonging to 'native speakers', indexing a standard language ideology

and an EFL orientation. In contrast first generation migrants are negotiating between an EFL

and ELF orientation, perhaps as a consequence of being influenced by competing language

ideologies, which has some similarities with Chand's (2009) study of attitudes towards IE.

Conclusion

In returning to the first research question it is apparent that there are certain differences

between the multilingual speakers in this study. While the first-generation migrants tend to

give a positive definition of different varieties of English, the second-generation migrants

view these varieties as deficient in comparison to Standard or British English and as an

interlanguage. Although the five participants have South-Asian ancestry and are multilingual,

there are attitudinal differences which appear to be related to their experience of different

exposure to language ideologies. It appears from the analysis of the data that second-

generation migrants orientate more towards a standard language ideology and an EFL

orientation, while first generation migrants are influenced by competing language ideologies,

and indicate elements of both an EFL and ELF perspective. However, it should be noted that

the data presented in this study is drawn from just five individuals and a wider study would

be required to ascertain the validity of this assertion.

Both Makoni and Pennycook (2012) and Canagarajah and Liyanage (2012) argue that

people in some multilingual non-western countries are more open to variation because the

"language ideologies and values that still exist there sustain plurilingual practices"

(Canagarajah & Liyanage, 2012, p. 51). Elements of this belief system appear to be retained

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by the first-generation migrant participants in this paper. However, there appears to be no ideological transference in the belief system to second generation migrants. Interestingly the three participants who migrated at an early age and have been living in Britain for thirty or forty years still retain this openness to language variation to a certain extent. Therefore, societal ideologies in relation to language variation appear to impose a strong attitude on participants and become relatively fixed when people are children or young adults.

Niedzielski and Preston (2009) assert that attitudes towards correct language are formed in adolescence, and this is related to the environment that an individual has experienced. Although the five participants in this study are multilingual this does not translate into a uniform opinion about language and English language varieties. Ellis (2004) has argued that there is a more relevant division between monolingual and multilingual teachers than the distinction between 'native' and 'non-native' speakers in relation to language and language learning. However, this small-scale study suggests that this might depend on the type of education and environment that the multilingual individual experienced in their formative years, and how languages are treated and conceptualised in society. The findings from this study suggest that attitudes towards what is considered correct language are deep-rooted, and that it is necessary to incorporate critical language awareness, World Englishes and ELF more centrally in teacher training. However it is questionable how effective a transformative approach (Sifakis & Bayyurt, 2015) would be in changing the attitudes of English language teachers towards World Englishes and ELF, given that language attitudes are formed in adolescence, have a strong affective component and are resistant to change (Illés, 2016; Pajares, 1992).

While the three first-generation migrants view language in different terms and are more accepting of variation in spoken English, they also tend to support Standard British English most specifically in the classroom environment. Therefore, in terms of the second research

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question, the influence on their teaching beliefs from their experiences, background, training

and the social environment, there is less of a sharp distinction between the five participants.

While as mentioned, teacher training does not appear to influence the teachers' underlying

conception of language, the five teachers believe students need to conform to Standard

English in the classroom environment, but they also stress the importance of language for

communication purposes, and that meaning is more important than accuracy. Maio and

Haddock (2009) point out that attitudes are dependent on normative behaviour; how people,

who are important to the individual, expect him or her to act to comply with expectations.

Teachers might be prohibited from performing an action or believe specific individuals will

approve or disapprove of their behaviour and are therefore conditioned into acting in certain

ways in the classroom. This will impact on how the teachers in this study articulate their

attitudes towards language and their teaching practices. However, it should be noted that this

study included a small group of teachers and further research is needed with teachers in other

contexts with different language and teacher training backgrounds to give a fuller

understanding of how societal ideologies interact with teacher training to formulate teachers'

attitudes about language. This would contribute to how teacher training programmes can be

developed in the future to maximise the effectiveness of critical language awareness among

English language teachers. Moreover although this study has outlined teachers' beliefs about

their teaching practices, attitudes do not always correspond with behaviour in the classroom,

(Garrett, 2010) and therefore understanding the relationship between multilingual teachers'

attitudes and their teaching practices still needs further investigation.

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Appendix A - TRANSCRIPTION CONVENTIONS

@@@@   Laughter: The length of the @ indicates the length of the laughter

[Left sided bracket indicate where overlapping speech occurs

°   Indicates talk which is noticeably quieter than the surrounding talk

> <   'Greater than' and 'less than' symbols indicate talk which is noticeably faster than the surrounding talk

(1.5)   Numbers in parentheses indicate the periods of silence in tenths of second

(.)   Indicates a pause in talk of less than 0.2 seconds

Becas-   A hyphen indicates words which are incomplete because of abrupt cut off or self-interruption

He says   Underlined words indicate stress or emphasis

=   Equal signs indicate latching with no noticeable silence between the talk of different people

:::   Colons indicate the sound was prolonged

[…]   Parentheses with three dots indicate that there is a gap between the sections of the transcription which were not included

Table 1: EFL contrasted with ELF (Jenkins 2006, 140)

EFL: Part of modern Foreign Languages	ELF: Part of World Englishes
Deficit Perspective	Difference perspective
Transfer/interference and fossilization metaphors	Contact/evolution
Conformative, monolingual bias	Transformative, bilingual
Codeswitching/code-mixing = interference errors	Code-switching/codemixing = bilingual resources

Critical Inquiry in Language Studies

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Table 2: Participant Information

Name	Age	Generation and arrival in UK	Number of spoken languages	Years of English Teaching Experience
Arti	46	2nd generation	2: Punjabi, English	15 years
Jashith	43	2nd generation	3: Hindi Gujarati English	8 years
Nalini	54	1st generation: arrived in the UK aged 21	6: Hindi, Gujarati, Urdu, English, Swahili, Punjabi	17 years
Mahima	56	1st generation arrived in the UK aged 16	4: English, Urdu, Arabic Gujarati	18 years
Ashna	49	1st generation: arrived in the UK aged 14	5: Gujarati, Hindi, Urdu, English Chichewa	12 years