A. FITZPATRICK (ED.), THE ROUTLEDGE HANDBOOK OF WORLD ENGLISHES  
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This collection, edited by Andy Kirkpatrick, adds some very interesting contributions to the now robust literature on World Englishes that has developed in linguistics and sociolinguistics since the late 1970s. With the impact of globalization on language of core concern to current linguistics theory, an edition on World Englishes is certainly an indispensable part of the Routledge Series of Handbooks in Applied Linguistics. Yet at first glance the literature in this area, which tends to centre on contributions to the flagship journal *World Englishes*, seems somewhat crowded with handbooks and resource books. The 2006 *Handbook of World Englishes* edited by Braj B. Kachru, Yamuna Kachru and Cecil L. Nelson is considered by many to be a milestone publication, and Jennifer Jenkins’s *World Englishes. A resource book for students*, revised in its 2nd edition in 2009, is a greatly valued source book for teachers of undergraduate students in the field. Indeed, the *Routledge Handbook of World Englishes* has much in common with Kachru, Kachru and Nelson’s 2006 Handbook in particular, in terms of both authors and themes.

However, as Kirkpatrick rightly notes in his introduction, any edited collection in this field must be selective, and the rate of language change means that research in World Englishes evolves rapidly. A complete compendium of World Englishes is impossible, given the number of varieties and the rate of evolution. And with more applied linguistics, education and general humanities programs wishing to incorporate understandings of World Englishes into their curricula, up-to-date resources such as the *Routledge Handbook of World Englishes* are certainly valuable. While the 2006 Handbook, published by Wiley, provided more short summaries of different regional varieties, the *Routledge Handbook of World Englishes* takes a more selective and thematic approach in most sections, not setting out to be an encyclopaedic collection of English varieties, but rather a selection of interesting research and reflection from established and emerging scholars around the globe. Unlike Jenkins’ *World Englishes. A resource book for students*, which was developed as a true introductory text to World Englishes and included classroom resources suitable for beginning undergraduates, the *Routledge Handbook of World Englishes* is not wholly a student resource book. It is pitched at the more advanced undergraduate or graduate student of linguistics, but...
will also certainly be of interest to scholars of the field and perhaps a general readership with some background knowledge in linguistic theory.

Kirkpatrick’s introduction is straightforwardly written, and reintroduces foundational theory such as Kachru’s concentric circles of English model with novice scholars in mind. The book then consists of chapters grouped thematically, beginning with historical perspectives and traditional Englishes of what would commonly be considered the “inner circle” of English speaking countries. These initial chapters establish the tone of the collection well. Davis’s chapter on the history of English is a particularly good starting point as it notes that ‘standard English’ is itself hybrid in origin and has been influenced by contact with a wide variety of different languages and cultures. Davis draws the reader’s attention to ‘the patchwork nature of language structure, and political character of ideologies shaping and regularizing language and our perception of it’, emphasizing in particular that ‘English has always been heterogeneous’ (p.31). He thus establishes that standard varieties are also ‘World Englishes’ and are only privileged by ideology, not because they are the ‘pure’ form. The following seven chapters are largely on variation and change within and across ‘inner circle’ Englishes, and thus give empirical weight to Davis’s arguments. It is encouraging to see some of the more under-researched varieties, such as Canadian Englishes and Australian English ethnolects been given attention in chapters by Stephen Levey and Kate Burridge respectively.

Section II deals with a wide range of regional varieties of English. Most of the contributions in this section deal with the historical development of the regional variety under discussion, and then give some descriptive analysis of its linguistic features and its functions. While most of the discussion of linguistic features uses “standard English” as the point of comparison, some of the chapters compare different regional varieties, such as Low Ee Ling’s chapter on English in Singapore and Malaysia and Hans-Georg Wolf’s comparison of East and West African Englishes. Of great interest in this section thematically is the problematizing of the “native speaker” model of competence and privilege. The authors seem to concur that while native speaker proficiency remains a core ideology, particularly in the expanding circle contexts discussed in Chapters 15 and 16, it needs to be viewed critically. Emerging local varieties, especially ones such as Chinese English with a large population of speakers, may be highly significant in the future, and should be granted a less stigmatized status for English education programs to meet a higher level of success in these regions. As with the previous section, the inclusion of some less frequently studied varieties and regions, such as Slavic Englishes in Chapter 17 and the status of English in Colombia in Chapter 19 will draw in established scholars who are looking for new scope for cross-regional comparative analysis. With focus in much of the existing literature often on postcolonial ESL
and East Asian EFL contexts, this is genuinely refreshing and adds to the truly “global” reach of the field.

Section III deals with emerging trends and themes in World Englishes. Most of these contributions are relatively technical, charting micro level changes in syntax, phonology, code-mixing and so on; sociopragmatics are also covered in detail in Farzad Sharifian’s analysis of Persian English. As such these contributions would be of most interest to readers with a linguistics background rather than scholars interested in more socio-political content or a general readership. The exception to this is Barbara Seidhofer’s fascinating article on English as a lingua franca in Europe, which makes some controversial but compelling arguments for the abandonment of multilingual rhetoric in the EU in favour of acknowledging the realities of English’s true role as a lingua franca. Section IV looks at contemporary contexts and functions of Englishes, inevitably including analyses of business, online and pop culture contexts. The more unconventional contributions to this section are the two personal accounts from creative writers for whom English is an additional language. These were an innovative inclusion alongside the standard academic contributions and would both appeal to a broader readership in literature and cultural studies.

Section V contains a very varied set of chapters that deal with debates and pedagogical implications. The contributions that explicitly address pedagogy will be particularly useful to academics and educators working in cross-cultural contexts, such as Brian Tomlinson’s chapter on English language testing, which is both highly critical of the ideologies underpinning current testing regimes, and highly constructive in its discussion of pragmatic solutions. Ahmar Mahboob and Eszter Szenes’s contribution turns a critical eye on the semantics of the World Englishes discipline itself, subjecting the naming and categorization practices within the discipline to some much needed systematic analysis. This contribution in particular would be very thought-provoking for established scholars and advanced students in the field. In some ways this final section is the least cohesive of the book in that the thematic connections across the six contributions are not as clear as in earlier sections, but simultaneously, this section comprises some of the most interesting individual pieces of the collection as a whole. The book’s conclusion by Alastair Pennycook as one of the field’s most eminent scholars puts the future of Englishes into epistemological and theoretical perspective, and ends the collection with a distinct link back to the significance of ideology and power.

As with many texts structured in the handbook style, readers will be likely to pick and choose the sections and chapters that are of most interest to them, yet the editor has still largely ensured that the contributions make up a cohesive collection of themes and ideas. In step
with its publication as part of a series within a particular discipline, applied linguists will
gain the most benefit from the majority of the material here. Sociolinguistics and socio-
political aspects are still well covered but perhaps in less depth. Cultural studies scholars and
general humanities scholars will also find some contributions, particularly in the latter
sections, to be useful.

Overall, a great strength of the Routledge Handbook of World Englishes is the large variety
of both established and emerging scholars who have contributed, working in geographically
and culturally diverse contexts. Some readers will feel a few of the field’s “gurus” (such as
Kachru) are notable in their absence, but the foregrounding of more junior scholars gives the
collection the sense that it is establishing a “new guard” and heralding future research trends.
While a majority of the collection covers the expected applied linguistics disciplinary terrain
and the more popular of the World Englishes, the inclusion of some less frequently studied
varieties and some unconventional content and approaches adds to the sense of innovation in
the overall collection.