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D7 Attitudes To Non-Native Englishes in China and Mainland Europe

Ying Wang's article 'Non-Conformity to ENL Norms: a Perspective from Chinese English Users' and Ulrich Ammon's 'Towards More Fairness in International English: Linguistic Rights of Non-Native Speakers?' both illustrate the idea that English can be adopted as a common language between speakers whose native languages are different, otherwise known as a Lingua Franca. While both articles are extremely similar in their viewpoints of how English should be applied to certain circumstances, they were written 13 years apart. Ulrich Ammon wrote his piece in 2000 and Ying Wang followed 13 years later in 2013. Also worth consideration, but while they are both from countries that are part of Kachru's Expanding Circle, Ying Wang is writing her viewpoint on the topic from a Chinese perspective, while Ulrich Ammon is from Germany. Despite the differences between these two authors, their cultural backgrounds, and the time periods, they share similar ideas when it comes to English spoken by non-native speakers.

The only major difference between the two articles, is how they apply their ideas. Ying Wang generally a lot of different contexts in which ELF should be accepted such as the classroom, Chinese culture, businesses, and more. Ulrich Ammon takes a more focused stance on the issue, focusing on how it affects the scientific community and the validity of work based on whether or not it conforms to ENL standards. Both authors agree that those who learn English

as a Lingua Franca should not be held to such rigorous standards, as their purpose is to communicate with other non-native English speakers. Ammon even points out that native English speakers can make some ambiguities in their scientific research, yet Non-Native speakers are not taken seriously if they deviate from the rules set by native speakers such as grammar, text structure, orthography, etc. The focus should be on the content the speakers present, not on the way they present it. Personally, if a scientist from Germany found the cure to cancer, I would celebrate their findings, not criticize any grammatical mistakes they make. The same goes with Ying Wang's perspective in China. As long as the speakers of the Lingua Franca are able to communicate and get their point across to each other, then their ability to "sound like a native speaker" should be irrelevant.

In Ulrich Ammon's piece, he references David Graddol who claims that English spoken by those who are not native speakers "varies from native-like fluency to extremely poor." Ammon challenges this viewpoint by criticizing the reasoning behind native speaker norms remaining the final basis for correction judgements. Ying Wang also critiques this stance Graddol takes by referencing Seidlhofer who claims that "English belongs to all those who use it." Everyone has a right to language and a scale of correctness shouldn't stop someone from using English as a means of communication.

Another notable difference between the two articles, is the use of the term "ELF" which means English as a Lingua Franca. Ammon predates ELF research, and instead uses the term "international English" to describe the same phenomenon as Wang, who freely uses the term ELF. While the articles were written 13 years apart, there is no doubt that Ammon is writing about ELF just like Wang. He may not have the specific term for it, as ELF had yet to be researched and coined when he published his work, but it is the same idea. Even Ying Wang

acknowledges Ammon's validity in his work despite his lack of an official term, stating in her piece that "[Ammon's] argument converges with Jenkin's study (2000), which, as a pioneering work on ELF.... challenges the assumption that NNEs should conform to ENL." Ying Wang wrote her article 13 years after Ammon, but she recognizes the importance of his work, despite not having the official ELF terminology.

Despite coming from different countries in the Expanding Circle and the duration of 13 years between their work, both Ying Wang and Ulrich Ammon contemplate the same ideas when it comes to ENL expectations for ELF users who seek to use English as a means of communication and should not be held back by the standards set by the minority of native English speakers. Language is a beautiful thing that everyone should have the right to, regardless of the standards expected from native speakers.

Works Cited

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