

Patrizia Anesa, **Lexical Innovation in World Englishes: Cross-fertilization and Evolving Paradigms**, London, UK: Routledge, 2018, 174 pp., \$60.00 (hardcover).

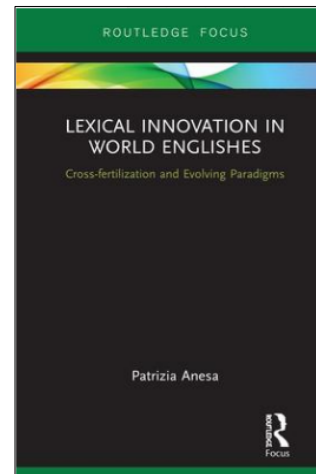
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In recent decades, different varieties of World Englishes have received an increasing level of scholarly attention. Given this phenomenon and the potential influence that it may have on the development of the English language in general, the topics examined in this book appear particularly relevant in gaining new insight into the language's lexical evolution. This book uses eight empirical case studies to demonstrate the importance of investigating lexical developments in World Englishes to observe their evolution from a broader discursive and sociological perspective, rather than a purely structuralist approach. **Lexical Innovation in World Englishes: Cross-fertilization and Evolving Paradigms** is divided into three major thematic parts, consisting of seven chapters, with an aim to validate general considerations on the lexical features of these varieties of English and then test them using corpora.

Part 1 consists of two chapters, beginning with an introduction to the conceptual foundations of this work that presents the rationale for the approach chosen and covers some relevant issues pertinent to the investigation of World Englishes. Chapter 1 illustrates the scope, focus, and structure of the work and identifies the research gap that this book aims to fill. It also offers preliminary explanations for focusing exclusively on lexical aspects. In chapter 2, author Patrizia Anesa presents the genesis of the World Englishes model and discusses the theoretical background adopted for the investigation of neologisms and word-formation processes. More specifically, it describes the evolutionary processes of World Englishes and introduces the need to rethink traditional paradigms owing to the complexity and the dynamism that characterize English varieties across the globe, as well as the necessity to keep abreast of changing parameters when presenting a framework. It discusses complex issues related to the categorization of different varieties of English, presenting some of the available models from a critical perspective. Meanwhile, it also deals with such crucial notions as nativeness and standardization in language, which have maintained a persistent foothold in the field. In particular, it offers an introduction to the concept of nativeness and provides an overview of the different perspectives that determine its predominant contemporary interpretation.

¹ This work was supported by the Hunan Social Sciences Association Foundation (Grant No. XSP18YBC110).

Part 2 sketches out some of the definitional problems surrounding word-formation phenomena and describes the methodological framework adopted in the book. In chapter 3, attention is mainly focused on lexical developments. It first covers the themes of productivity and creativity in the English language, arguing that productivity is not only constrained by specific pragmatic and grammatical factors but also by semantic and conceptual factors. The use of corpora can offer a deep insight into word-formation processes. Subsequently, it delves more precisely into the world of neologisms, pointing out the benefit of neologisms that can provide a better understanding of recent lexical developments and demonstrate the potential of English varieties. Finally, it offers a critical discussion of the evolution of neologisms as deriving from nonce-formation, tentatively outlining the different stages of the lexical life cycle.

The following chapter provides a systematic description of the most frequent word formation processes that may be adopted in the creation of a neologism. It topicalizes some important notions in the fields of lexicology and morphology and applies them in order to lay out a typology of the processes emerging in World Englishes. It also stresses the idea that some of these dynamics may assume blurred contours, providing a critical investigation of the different processes of composites, abbreviations, blends, borrowing, conversation, semantic shift, and eponyms.

Chapter 5 describes some of the most influential methodological frameworks suitable for the investigation of neologisms, pointing out the current automatic or semiautomatic approach rather than the traditional manual analysis. Then, it briefly introduces the different varieties of corpora that are employed as fruitful sources of data for the analyses of World Englishes. It also places an emphasis on the lexicographic resources that are essential to investigating the evolution of new lexical formations and codification, describing the adopted research approach that integrates different tools and viewpoints.

Part 3 presents selected cases to gain a thoughtful insight into particular lexical processes and subsequently offers some concluding remarks. Chapter 6 presents eight case studies that focus on the emergence of neologisms in different varieties. These eight case studies talk about different English varieties that geographically spread across Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean. The three varieties of South Africa English are greatly influenced by globalization and glocalization. It then investigates the four English varieties in Singapore, Hong Kong, the Philippines, and India, illustrating word-formation processes and the instability and volatility of varietal labels and the transitional borders between them. Given the number of varieties and dialects of English spoken around the world, a detailed description of each would be an unachievable task, especially taking into consideration that, within a single variety of English, significant peculiarities are displayed by specific communities of practice or even at an individual level.

Chapter 7 concludes the book with a focus on the findings of the book within the current debate on World Englishes. First, from the evolving paradigms, the chapter discusses the issue of drawing irrefutable generalizations from context-specific data, and then summarizes the insights offered by the analysis in order to demonstrate how lexical investigation can be indicative of specific cultural and linguistic mutations. Then it deals with creativity and innovation, pointing out that word-formation processes may be seen as a confirmation of "the general creative capability of the human mind to construct and label new concepts, also by combining existing mental categories" (Onysko & Michel, 2010, p. 2). It concludes that

the notion of World Englishes has to be rekindled unceasingly for the paradigm to continue to adapt to new sociolinguistic situations.

On the whole, this book takes a theoretical and empirical approach and focuses its attention on neologistic formations, discussing different categorizations of English varieties and processes of word formation with a consideration of the expansion of English across the world. It also draws on authentic examples taken from language corpora to gain a finer understanding of the varieties' transformations and their reciprocal influences from a lexical perspective.

This book makes great contributions to the investigation of World Englishes by offering thoughtful insights into the lexical developments of selected English varieties and their cross-fertilization potential. Firstly, the theoretical and empirical perspectives in this work are primarily of interest to researches on World Englishes and enhance our understanding about the role of English in the world from a broader sociocultural viewpoint. It shows the great importance of investigating lexical developments when observing the evolution of World Englishes, arguing for the need to go beyond a purely structuralist framework and taking into account a broader discursive and sociological perspective in any lexical investigation. The constant intertwining of different forms of English demonstrates the "volatility of language borders" (Saraceni, 2015, 132). World Englishes can be conceptualized as a living ecosystem in which different elements inevitably influence one another to different degrees. Secondly, the emphasis on neologisms allows people to gain a more detailed understanding of lexical developments and enables us to discuss the level of productivity and creativity present in different varieties, as well as the reciprocal lexical influences that emerge. The lexicon of varieties changes in line with sociopolitical realities, which contribute to developing creative and vibrant words pertaining to the various domains of public life. Lexical innovation is not intended simply as the creation of new formations but also as the sharing of words that, albeit commonly described as belonging to a specific variety, become part of a wider repertoire available to other users. Finally, this book demonstrates that corpora can provide revealing data to conduct lexical investigations. The combination of corpora with lexical investigation serves as a potential way to go beyond feature-based descriptions and to learn more about language practice. The investigation of World Englishes is not only interesting and captivating, but it is also crucial, as it inherently implies the expansion of linguistic perspectives and the tackling of new challenges.

However, the researcher's interest should not be to focus exclusively on frequencies and distributions. Further steps in the field should be taken to present a more refined problematization of the processes of lexical cross-fertilization, with the awareness that linguistic repertoires are geographically, culturally, and anthropologically hybrid. In order to corroborate preexisting theories on the overuse, or underuse, of certain expressions across varieties, more research is needed to explore innovative lexical forms through qualitative patterns of convergence and divergence, which may lead to a more nuanced appreciation of the linguistic ecology of World Englishes and the mutual stimuli. In conclusion, this book is a valuable addition to studies in World Englishes and can greatly benefit postgraduate students and researchers in the fields of applied linguistics, English as a *lingua franca*, and sociolinguistics.

References

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Saraceni, M. (2015). *World Englishes: A critical analysis*. London, UK: Bloomsbury.