



ENGLISH AS A LINGUA FRANCA: LEARNERS' VIEWS ON PRONUNCIATION



RESEARCH REPORT

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to investigate the question whether the pronunciation norms based on native speakers of English still dominate English language teaching (ELT) in Thailand in the era when English has acquired the status of global lingua franca. The study examined non-native English majors' attitudes toward various pronunciation aspects by means of indirect (verbal guise test) and direct (questionnaire and semi-structured interview) attitudinal elicitation methods. Findings showed that the construct of idealized native speaker is still anchored to the field of ELT and pronunciation teaching as it was nominated by the majority of participants as the end goal in pronunciation learning. However, to a certain extent, the participants' perceptions were consistent with the notion of English as a lingua franca (ELF) as they seemed to see non-native varieties as different, intelligible Englishes and consider them important when classroom learning is involved. The study ended by proposing pedagogical implications for pronunciation learning and teaching that are believed to be realistic, applicable and attainable for classroom in Thailand and non-native contexts.

Keywords: Pronunciation; world Englishes; English as a lingua franca; non-native speaker; varieties of English

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

EFL: English as a foreign language
EIL: English as an international language
ELF: English as a lingua franca
ELT: English language teaching
ENL: English as a native language
ESL: English as a second language
GA: General American
L1: First language
L2: Second language
LFC: Lingua Franca Core
MGT: Matched-guise test
NS: Native speaker
NSs: Native speakers
NNS: Non-native speaker
NNSs: Non-native speakers
VGT: Verbal-guise test
RP: Received Pronunciation

English accents used in the VGT task:

AmE: American English
AuE: Australian English
BrE: British English
FiE: Filipino English
InE: Indian English
MyE: Malaysian English
SgE: Singaporean English
ThE: Thai English