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