

How has my understanding of English Language Variation developed over this semester and how will this development inform my teaching of English in the future.

The problem of language contact is one of the central problems in modern society. Languages and dialects live and develop in a continuous and close cooperation. The natural state of the language is the constant and dynamic change. A good example of language contact can be considered the appearance and function in one language the words of another language. So, today we can meet many of English origin words in everyday speech in the Russian society. Before our course of Discourse Analysis I didn't think at all about this phenomenon. It was something naturally for me. But during this semester I knew many new things about it. First of all, I learnt that there are three terms for English variations in Russia: Runlish, Russian English and English in Russia. I didn't hear this terms before it, may be because of I studied in the French language group and there weren't the same variations for French language in Russia or our professors just didn't mentioned about it. Now I know that there three circle of English language accorded to Kachru: Inner Circle, Outer Circle and Expanding Circle. Inner Circle includes the countries where English is a native, mother tongue language, for example, Great Britain, the USA. Outer Circle includes the countries where English is a co-official or a second language. Usually, these countries were colonized by British or Americans in the past and adopted English under their influence, for example, India, the Seychelle, Singapore. It is very comfortable for these countries because, as a rule, they have many dialects, so English helps to communicate people from different parts of these countries, and, consequently, unites them. Expanding Circle includes the countries, where English is used as a lingua franca, for example in economics or politics spheres. So, Russia is in Expanding Circle.

Also, I had known that there are several lectal types of Englishes: acrolectal level, mesolectal level and basilectal level. Usually, it depends on education of person who speaks English. That's why we have three types of English in Russia (and also in other countries): Runlish (basilectal zone), Russian English (mesolectal zone) and English in Russia (acrolectal zone).

Of course, there is the World Standard of English(es) which is aimed for all people speaking English. I think that it is impossible because World Standard of English(es) proposes the concept of a stable, unchanging English for the whole world, but we know that language is dynamic, it changes every year. Moreover, in the countries of Expanding and Outer Circle English has many national varieties because the native language and culture of these speakers influence for it in all domains: in phonology, in grammar, in lexis, in discourse.

Also, during the course I had known about the attitudes toward English in Russia of three generations of Russian Users of English. It was very amazing for me to watch how these attitudes change from one generation to next one in the different positions.

Furthermore, I could get acquainted with other English varieties, such as South-Asian Englishes, South East Asian Englishes, East Asian Englishes, European Englishes. It was very interesting for me to know about the history of development of English in these regions, the functions of the English language, the attitude toward English, the varieties of English language in these countries. I found out that all of these regions have three lectal types of English and the corresponding names for them, like English in China, Chinese English, Chinglish. Also, American norms of English have many influence for development of English in these region through the mass-media, radio, popular songs, TV, films and so on. I was surprised when I had known that in many of these countries an American model of English studied as the main foreign language, for example, in Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam.

In conclusion, I would like to say that this information will be very useful for me in my future teaching, because nowadays teacher have to design new practices and models for language learning and teaching. Many students need to study English for special purposes, many of them want to work abroad in future, that`s why it is necessary for teacher to know this information and to share these ideas with his students. Moreover, I think that knowledge about different varieties of English helps me to be less strict for my pupils in future.