Guyanne Wilson, Michael Westphal, eds., 2023. *New Englishes, New Method*s (Amsterdam, Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing Company)

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The reviewed volume belongs to the "Varieties of English Around the World (VEAW)" monograph series, which focuses on linguistic approaches to English in the global context, including its regional, social, stylistic, and diachronic variation. As stated in the "Acknowledgements", the work results from eight workshops held from 2018 to 2022 within the research network "New Englishes, New Methods".

Guyanne Wilson and Michael Westphal introduce the concept of New Englishes as those varieties which originate in colonial contact situations and are spoken in countries where English holds an official role, although it is typically acquired as a second or later language by the population. As the editors themselves acknowledge, the wording of the term may be seen as somewhat problematic: "something of a misnomer" (3), revealing a certain chronological inaccuracy, given that some New Englishes have existed for as long as, or even longer than, certain Inner Circle (L1) varieties (Kachru 1985). Nonetheless, they consider this term the most adequate compared to the alternatives, that is, *World Englishes* and *postcolonial Englishes*, which are too broad for their analytic purpose. The editors employ Brunner's (2017) four criteria used to classify given varieties as belonging to New Englishes: the origin in British colonialism, their functioning in multilingual settings, mostly official functions they serve, and nativisation they undergo at lexical, grammatical and phonetic levels. Interestingly, the above-mentioned criteria allow the authors to include also some non-traditional New English varieties, e.g. the second language (L2) variety of English spoken by Old Order Mennonites in Ontario. Although the already mentioned Kachru's (1985) Three Circles Model remains a significant foundation in the discussion of New Englishes, the reviewed volume significantly draws on Schneider's (2007) Dynamic Model of postcolonial Englishes and their sociolinguistic development, divided into five phases (*foundation, exonormative stabilization, nativization, endonormative stabilization, and differentiation*). Another crucial

model is Mair's (2013) World System of Englishes and its attempt at establishing a hierarchy of standard and non-standard varieties (divided into *hyper-central, super-central, central, and peripheral*).

Yet, the volume's primary focus and theoretical orientation lie in the methodological approaches applicable within a given model to explore the under-researched area of New Englishes. Current research in this field often adopts methodologies from general linguistics, such as corpus analysis and Matched Guise Techniques. It is crucial to note, however, that these general linguistic methods, predominantly developed for Inner Circle Englishes (primarily British and American English), often require significant adjustments to be culturally and contextually appropriate for New Englishes. The editors illustrate this point with examples such as the need for culturally appropriate stimuli in elicitation experiments (Mohr and Agyepong 2022) and contextually relevant labels in attitude studies (Wilson and Westphal 2021). Furthermore, the methods employed in phonetic and phonological research frequently draw heavily on Inner Circle varieties, highlighting the need to develop best practices tailored to New Englishes. Perceptual dialectology (folk linguistics) approach also remains underused in this domain, despite its potential to offer insights into the underlying language ideologies. Consequently, the central aim of this work is to fill this gap by focusing on the aforementioned areas and aspects.

The first part of the volume comprises four chapters which demonstrate the continued relevance and evolving applications of corpora, particularly the International Corpus of English (ICE). Axel Bohmann and Adesoji Babalola's "variationist compound vision", adopted in their analysis of Nigerian English verbal past inflection, highlights the benefits of combining diverse datasets, such as spontaneous conversation and sociolinguistic interviews. Muhammad Shakir's work on code-switching in online registers of Pakistani English further emphasises the importance of context-specific analysis, in particular – the need for multilingual corpora. Finally, Theresa Neumaier's Conversation Analysis of Caribbean and Southeast Asian Englishes and Michael Westphal and Guyanne Wilson's use of Critical Discourse Analysis in their investigation of Jamaican and Trinidadian legal-cross examinations, both show the utility of ICE corpora for detailed qualitative analysis of New English variations.

The second section, dedicated to phonetics and phonology, includes only two chapters; yet, it addresses a critical gap in New Englishes research: the systematic study of suprasegmental features. Folajimi Oyebola and Warsa Melles' exploration

of question intonation patterns in Nigerian English, using audio recordings from the ICE Nigeria, provides a model for large-scale phonetic analysis. From the sociolinguistic perspective, it is also important to note that the authors show how intonation varies depending on gender and ethnicity, apart from the question type. Robert Fuchs addresses the distinction into syllable-timed vs. stressed-timed varieties (with most New Englishes belonging to the former type, and most L1 varieties – to the latter one). His development of a step-by-step guide for measuring speech rhythm, applied across diverse varieties, such as Pakistani, Nigerian, Philippine, and British English, is a significant methodological contribution, which may increase consistency and rigor in subsequent phonological research.

Language attitudes constitute the subject of the third section, in which innovative methodologies for exploring the perceptions of New Englishes are presented. Kingsley Oluchi Ugwuanyi's use of Acceptability Judgement Tasks (AJTs) provides insights into the nuanced ways speakers process and evaluate linguistic features in Nigerian English. Additionally, the author shows the benefits of using both qualitative and quantitative methods. The potential of mixed-method approaches is further foregrounded by the next two chapters. Giuliana Regnoli investigates language attitudes towards accent variation in Indian English among the Indian diaspora in Germany, drawing also from the methodology offered by perceptual dialectology and showing the diverse linguistic perceptions within New Englishes communities. Mirjam Schmalz's application of map drawing tasks (of St Kitts and Nevis), combined with sociolinguistic interviews, demonstrates the complex variation within a small geographical space, at the same time showing the ways in which the sociolinguistic research toolbox may be enriched.

The final section, dedicated to ethnography, comprises two chapters which provide a wider frame of reference for the earlier sections. Miriam Neuhausen's discussion of ethnographic fieldwork, drawing from her experiences with an Old Mennonite community in Canada, underscores the role of intercultural awareness. The author emphasises the significance of "a critical assessment of the sociolinguistic situation and an understanding of one's biases" (239) while researching New Englishes. Theresa Heyd's exploration of digital ethnography is particularly timely, recognising the growing importance of online spaces in shaping language contact and variation. Her discussion of ethical issues surrounding online data collection is crucial in an increasingly digitalised world.

The editors' reflection at the end of the volume is a valuable addition, emphasising the importance of critical reflexivity and researchers' positionality, so that

not only "the researcher's questions, but also the participants' realities" (273) are considered. They also point towards promising avenues for future research, including the continued development of multilingual corpora, the role of social media as a source of data, and the integration of digital ethnographic methods.

Overall, *New Englishes, New Methods* is a significant contribution to the field. It successfully highlights the cutting-edge aspects within New Englishes research, presenting the innovative ways scholars are addressing the complexities of these varieties. Furthermore, it is vital that it features some lesser-studied, peripheral – in Mair's (2013) terms – varieties (e.g. St Kitts English), alongside the emerging contexts for their investigation. The book's strength lies in its diverse range of methodological approaches, its focus on some under-researched areas, and its commitment to ethical and reflexive research practices. Thanks to the above, it serves as a valuable resource for researchers interested in New Englishes, sociolinguistics, and language variation.

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