

Do I need to sound like a 'native speaker'?

Teaching English with the British Council: Series 3 episode 3 overview

Welcome to episode 3 of Series 3 of our podcast. In this episode, we ask the question: do I need to sound like a 'native speaker'? After discussing what we mean by native and non-native speakers of English, we have a conversation with [Professor Jenny Jenkins](#), emeritus professor of Global Englishes. Jenny argues that 'native English' is a loaded and problematic term and she draws on her experience of ELF – English as a lingua franca – to provide a more useful understanding of English proficiency. Later in the episode, we hear from some of our [TeachingEnglish Facebook community](#) members, who give their opinions on the topic. Thanks to **Maria Glazunova**, **Fajarudin Akbar** and **Cristiana Osana** for their contributions. Finally, we speak with [Ana Jović](#), English language teacher and consultant, about native speakerism and its impact on language learning and teaching. Ana highlights the need for educating parents, students and teachers about the myths surrounding English speakers in ELT.

Show notes and transcripts in English and Arabic are also available to download.

Detailed notes

Introduction	
Welcome to episode 3!	If you missed episode 2 – How can we teach vocabulary and grammar more effectively? – you can listen here .
To go from scratch	An English idiom. To start from the beginning with something.
Native speaker	Someone who has spoken a particular language since they were a baby, rather than having learned it as a child or adult.
	You can read more about native speakerism here .
Accommodation skills	When talking to speakers from different social groups (who speak different varieties), a speaker may accommodate to their speech.
	Scott Thornbury has an interesting article on the meaning of accommodation skills .
Inferiority complex	A feeling that you are not as good as other people.
Identity	You can learn more about the links between

	identity and accent here .
Interview 1	
Professor Jenny Jenkins	Profile for Jenny Jenkins , including details of and links to many of her publications.
<i>Journal of English as a Lingua Franca</i>	Click the link to view the Journal of English as a Lingua Franca .
Global English	<p>Definition: Global English is a simplified version of the English language. It is a set of rules for writing globally. It is also known as international English or world English.</p> <p>Good writing is universally judged by clarity, consistency and how engaging it is. But global English is especially important for how it can be understood across the world. It affects sentence structure, word order and even verb tenses. Its goal is to make writing in English less ambiguous.</p>
English as a lingua franca	<p>Definition: The term English as a lingua franca (ELF) refers to the teaching, learning, and use of English as a common means of communication (or contact language) for speakers of different native languages. British linguist Jennifer Jenkins points out that ELF is not a new phenomenon. English, she says, 'has served as a lingua franca in the past, and continues to do so nowadays, in many of the countries that were colonized by the British from the late sixteenth century on (often known collectively as the Outer Circle following Kachru 1985), such as India and Singapore ... What is new about ELF, however, is the extent of its reach' (Jenkins, 2013).</p> <p>You can read an interesting exchange about English as a lingua franca in this Guardian article.</p>
Prestige English	<p>Definition from Wikipedia: In sociolinguistics, prestige is the level of regard normally accorded a specific language or dialect within a speech community, relative to other languages or dialects. Prestige varieties are language or dialect families which are generally considered by a society to be the</p>

	most 'correct' or otherwise superior. In many cases, they are the standard form of the language.
Standardised English language testing	English language proficiency tests were developed around a standard framework that assess the test taker's proficiency in English. It tests specific skills, primarily listening, speaking, reading and writing. Best-known ones are IELTS , TOEFL and TOEIC .
Idiomatic language	An expression whose meaning cannot be inferred from the meanings of the words that comprise it.
IELTS	IELTS is an abbreviation for International English Language Testing System .
Teaching vocabulary and grammar communicatively	Listen to our previous podcast on teaching vocabulary and grammar communicatively here .
Interview 2	
Ana Jović	Please click this link for a profile of Ana Jović on LinkedIn, where you can also participate in some of her campaigns against native-speakerism.
Pronunciation and accent	Pronunciation : The way in which words are said in order to be understood. Accent : The tone and way in which words are spoken by people in a particular area, country or social group.
Multilingual education	Multilingual education (MLE) refers to the use of two or more languages as medium of instruction.