

Seminar: Accents and Dialects of English I

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Credit : 2 | Semester : Spring | Year : 3~4
Day/Period : Mon 4th

[Subject]

English, once a local language in the British Isles, has spread all over the world and developed a wide range of regional variations. This seminar aims at exploring the features of some relatively lesser-known accents and dialects of English.

The spring semester is concerned with the features of New Zealand English (NZE). Why NZE? Firstly because perhaps we can predict how other varieties of English will change by tracing the evolution of that dialect in the southern hemisphere. NZE is not a black sheep, but may be a forerunner in terms of its sound change and positive lexical borrowing from an indigenous language. A similar vowel shift has been already observed in the northern USA, for example.

The second reason is that the features of NZE have not been well discussed among linguists or ESL researchers in Japan, although NZ is among the most popular destinations to study abroad and more and more English teachers in Japanese secondary schools come from Australasia.

The fall semester is devoted to an analysis of accented English in the Expanding Circle including France, China and Japan.

[Goal]

By the end of the course, students will:

- 1 understand the diversity of the English language,
- 2 get used to analysing recording materials for research purposes,
- 3 recognise the phonetic features of NZE, as distinguished from American and British English,
- 4 become familiar with NZisms in English vocabulary.

[Course Description]

We will analyse samples of sound recordings available online. Some students are assigned to summarise a chapter of the accompanying textbook, noting key terms and concepts which could be independently studied by consulting reference books. The other students will be expected to contribute to the discussion with their questions and observations.

Specific knowledge of NZ or Australia is not essential for this seminar, but genuine interest in or curiosity about the diversity of English is a must.

The information management skills which students will learn in the course may improve their employability.

[Schedule]

No.	Theme	Contents
1	Introduction	Outlining the course content and instructional methodologies
2	NZ	Geography, demography and cultural factors (1)
3	NZ	Geography, demography and cultural factors (2)
4	Sample listening task	Contrasting American and NZ accents in video clips
5	Pronunciation I	Phonetics and phonology (1)
6	Pronunciation II	Phonetics and phonology (2)
7	Pronunciation III	Sound change in progress (1)
8	Pronunciation IV	Sound change in progress (2)
9	Pronunciation V	Sound change in progress (3)
10	Movie Time	NZ accent in films
11	Lexicon I	Vocabulary and discourse features (1)
12	Lexicon II	Vocabulary and discourse features (2)

13	Lexicon III	Vocabulary and discourse features (3)
14	Influence of other varieties of English	Australian and American English
15	Review or catch-up	Review or catch-up lecture

[Work to be done outside class (preparation etc.)]

Students are required to read the textbook and references in advance so that they can actively participate in the discussions led by the lecturer. They also may need to repeatedly listen to the sound recordings via their PCs or smart phones.

[Textbooks]

Hay, J., Maclagan, M., & Gordon, E. (2008). *New Zealand English*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. [ISBN 978-0-7486-2530-7]

Sound files of recordings are available at the following URL:
<http://www.lel.ed.ac.uk/dialects/nz.html>

[References]

References are listed on the course website, while the following books will be particularly helpful as a general introduction.

Crystal, D. (2003). *English as a global language* (2nd ed.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Trudgill, P., & Hannah, J. (2008). *International English: A guide to the varieties of standard English* (5th ed.). London: Arnold.

[Grading Criteria]

Evaluation will be based on class participation and discussion (25%), presentation (50%) and a submitted essay (25%). More than two unexcused absences per semester will result in failure of the course.

[Changes following previous student comments]

Not applicable.

[Prerequisite]

None.