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## Angloversals?

### The effects of language contact on the morpho-syntax of English

#### 1. Introduction

#### 2. Data Base

- Jamaican English
- Indian English
- Kenyan English
- Singapore English
- Irish English
- New Zealand English
- British English

#### 3. Previous Research

#### 4. Shared Features in the Noun Phrase

##### 4.1. Definite Articles

###### Irish English:

From very early on [...], writers on HE have noted the Irish predilection for using the definite article in contexts where it is not used in StE. This is also confirmed by more recent research.” (Filppula 1999: 56)

###### East African English:

“Articles and other determiners tend to be omitted in front of nouns.” (Schmied 1991: 71)

###### Jamaican English:

“One frequently finds definite, indefinite or zero-articles in ways not easily reconciled with the relevant international English norms.” (Mair 1992: 88)

###### Indian English:

“Most of the deviant entries in both the items [= insertion tasks] consisted of omission of the article.” (Agnihotri 1992: 185)

###### Singapore English:

“Many of the highly standardized texts that were examined are characterized by what seems to be an underuse of the definite article when compared with general standard.” (Fraser Gupta 1988: 42)

#### Comparative Analysis on the basis of the *International Corpus of English (ICE)*

Definite Article across text types								
	S1A	S1B	S2A,B	W1A	W1B	W2A,B,D	W2C,E	W2F
ICE-Great Britain	27.2	50.6	57.5	73.9	45.8	74.0	72.0	54.5
ICE-New Zealand	33.8	56.3	68.6	86.6	61.7	76.8	68.4	65.5
ICE-Jamaica	45.6	56.0	52.7	78.0	52.0	74.1	79.2	51.5

ICE-EA(Kenya)	35.1	59.9	64.9	67.6	39.1	61.1	95.9	53.3
ICE-India	31.3	69.9	78.7	62.8	44.8	76.5	88.1	63.5
ICE-Singapore	30.9	53.1	61.3	79.7	37.5	67.0	63.0	52.3
NITCS short	47.3							

Occurrences per 1,000 words in the corpus

S1A = spontaneous conversation

S2A, B = monologue (speeches, etc.)

W2A,B,D = informational writing

W2C,E = newspaper texts

S1B = public dialogue (lessons, etc.)

W1A = student essays

W1B= letters (business, private)

W2F = fiction

a) Collective nouns with generic meaning

ICE-SIN (W1A-007) ***The girls** tend to fair better in these subjects.*

ICE-IND (S1A-037) *But that is one problem **the people** don't believe in homeopathy still*

NITCS (Belf11) *Like, **the people** weren't so particular that time.*

ICE-EA(K) (broadcast discussion) *And **the people** have thought that philosophy must be uh it it creates trouble*

ICE-JAM (W2E-008) *... I couldn't help wondering once again what it is that **gives the girls** such an advantage over **the boys**.*

b) Institutions

ICE-SIN (S2A-002) *We don't need to go to **the university** to acquire you know a degree in mathematics simple arithmetic will get you the answer*

ICE-IND (S1A-076) *(How did you learn Hindi?) So Hindi was compulsory for us in uh in **the school***

NITCS (Belf106) *He goes to **the college** in Coleraine.*

ICE-EA(K) (conversations) *So you must be wondering why people must go to **the church***

ICE-JAM (W1A-015) *Also Jamaicans would not have to enter **the university** in the prime years of their adult lives ...*

c) Proper names of institutions and placenames

ICE-SIN (W1B-009) *Thankfully, he was sent to **the Singapore General Hospital** early enough.*

ICE-IND (W2B-015) *... - says Amarty Sen, Lamont University Professor at **the Harvard University***

NITCS (Belf113) *And there was another place, I think, was in **the county Down**, somebody had them, and they ploughed with them.*

ICE-EA(K) (news broadcast) *...the Panadol Hockey Tournament which started yesterday at **the Jamhuri Highschool** continued today at the same venue.*

ICE-JAM (W2C-017) *In 1987, **the Victoria Park** was transformed into a thing of beauty.*

d) Temporal Expressions

ICE-SIN (S1A-001) ***The Saturday** was my last one.*

ICE-IND (S2A-025) *but the trees burst into buds and put on fresh one when **the spring** comes around*

NITCS (Belf117) *I'm going over for a meeting on **the Thursday***

ICE-EA(K) (exam essay) *The most universalized celebration is **the Christmas** ...*

ICE-JAM (S2B-016) *Leave them for now let them enjoy **the Christmas***

e) Deverbal Nouns in *-ing*

ICE-SIN (S1B-040) *I think it's moving that way beyond **the caring** for the general welfare and uh rice bowl*

ICE-IND (S2A-007) *We present a new concept in **the broadcasting** in India*

NITCS (Belf122) *When they're wet they're stuck together, you know, but **the drying** separates them.*

ICE-EA(K) (broadcast interview) *So **the parking** is becoming a problem because of you know there are so many buildings there are so many vehicles*

ICE-JAM (W2F-003) *On came **the groaning** and **the stomping**, like a hundred men stepping on his chest to cut off his breath ...*

## 5. Shared Features in the Verb Phrase

### 5.1. Tense Use: Past Perfect, Present Perfect vs. Past and Present Tense

#### Singapore English:

“Aspect deals with the way in which an action or state is regarded, whether something has been completed, or is still going on. In CSE, the use of time adverbials is preferred over the morphological marking of aspect.” (Alsagoff/Lick 1998: 139)

#### East African English:

“V2: Complex tenses tend to be avoided. This tendency occurs particularly with the past perfect and conditionals and is also common in less formal native speaker usage today. It affects mainly the sequence of tenses, which is taught in school grammars, particularly in the case of subordinate clauses in past contexts and when modality (*irrealis*) is expressed. (Schmied 1991: 66)

#### Jamaican English:

“Mair (1992: 85) gives several examples of the present (or past) tense in constructions which would require the present (or past) perfective form in Standard English, as in his example *He mentioned a process which is being widely-used [sic!] since 1987. [...]* However, I have found more examples of ‘hypercorrect present perfective. [...] I have no explanation for this finding other than Bickerton’s study of the acquisition of perfective *have*, *has* and *had* in Guyana (Bickerton 1975: 122-132), which shows that this function of *have* is restricted to speakers on the acrolectal end of the continuum and that the correct use of the present perfective is one of the last features to be acquired in the decreolization process. It is therefore bound to be used in ‘inappropriate’ contexts for reasons of prestige once it is actively used.” (Sand 1999: 118-119)

#### Indian English:

“One of the major tendencies discovered in the corpus was the use of present perfect for simple past. All three informant groups unanimously rejected this usage in constructions such as *I have sent them two reminders last month* and *funds have been received last year* and suggested the use of the simple past. However, there is a strong tendency in IndE to use the present perfect in such constructions. [...] Another point of agreement among the three informant groups was on the unacceptability of the use of the simple present where the context required the

present perfect (e.g. *there is not letter from the NIN since then*) or future (e.g. *an early reply is appreciated*).” (Parasher 1994: 152-153)

### Irish English:

“In comparison with many other dialects of English, HE perfects present a rather curious mixture of simplification and complication. On the one hand, HE makes prominent use of the present and past tenses for perfect aspect meanings which in other dialects are expressed by distinct forms such as the *have*-periphrasis. On the other hand, HE has developed, or preserves from earlier English, separate forms for some temporal and aspectual meanings, [...]” (Filppula 1999: 90)

### Example: Present tense with *since*

ICE-GB (W1B-020) *It is now ten months since my original request.*

ICE-NZ (W2F-009) *It is years since our ways parted.*

But:

ICE-SIN (W2C-010) *She added that there are more marriages every year since 1990, [...]*

ICE-IND (W1B-011) *Since two years I am at the above address.*

NITCS (belf30) *And I'm here ever since.*

ICE-EA(K) (socletter1) *How are you since my last sight as well as departure?*

ICE-JAM (W1B-003) *I am back in Jamaica and I am at work since last week Monday [...]*

## 6. Conclusions

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