

New Englishes, also known as **World Englishes** or **non-native varieties of English**, are regional and national forms of the English language that have developed in countries where English is not the majority's first language, typically as a result of colonization. These varieties have distinct features that differentiate them from "native" English varieties like British or American English

The features of New Englishes can be seen across all levels of language, but they are most prominent in vocabulary, pronunciation, and grammar.

### Lexical (Vocabulary) Features

- **Borrowings:** Words are borrowed directly from local indigenous languages to express culturally specific concepts that don't exist in English. For example, in Indian English, words like "*bandh*" (a strike or general shutdown) and "*rupee*" are commonly used. In Nigerian English, "*juju*" refers to a type of magic.
- **New Word Formations:** Speakers create new words or phrases by combining existing English words in unique ways. For instance, in Singaporean English ("Singlish"), the word "*lah*" is a common particle added to the end of a sentence for emphasis or to express a certain mood, as in "*Can lah!*" (meaning "Yes, you can!").
- **Semantic Shifts:** The meaning of an existing English word is changed to fit a local cultural context. For example, in Indian English, "*prepone*" is a widely used verb that means to move a scheduled event to an earlier time, which is the opposite of "postpone."
- **Idioms and Proverbs:** New Englishes often develop their own unique idioms and proverbs that reflect local culture. A common example from Nigerian English is, "to rub mind with someone," meaning to have a conversation and share ideas.

### Phonological (Pronunciation) Features

- **Rhoticity:** While some native Englishes are non-rhotic (the "r" sound is not pronounced after a vowel, as in many British accents), many New Englishes are **rhotic**, influenced by local languages. For example, Indian English and Nigerian English are often rhotic.
- **Absence of Certain Sounds:** Some sounds that don't exist in the speakers' first languages may be replaced with similar, more familiar sounds. For instance, the "th" sounds in "thin" and "this" are often pronounced as /t/ or /d/ by speakers of certain New Englishes.
- **Stress and Intonation:** The rhythm and stress patterns of local languages can be transferred to English. For example, many New Englishes tend to be **syllable-timed** (each syllable takes roughly the same amount of time) rather than **stress-timed** (stressed syllables are prominent, and unstressed syllables are shortened) like many native English varieties. This can give them a unique, "sing-song" quality.

### Grammatical and Syntactical Features

- **Non-standard Plurals:** Some New Englishes may use a plural form where standard English uses a singular form, such as "many furnitures" or "many informations."
- **Omission of Articles:** The use of articles like "a," "an," and "the" may be omitted or used differently. For example, "I am going to school" might be expressed as "I am going to school."
- **Subject-Verb Agreement:** There can be variations in subject-verb agreement, such as using a singular verb with a plural subject.

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- **Question Formation:** Question tags may be simplified or used differently. For example, "He is coming, isn't it?" is a common feature in many South Asian Englishes.
- **Non-standard Prepositions:** Prepositions may be used in ways that differ from standard English, a phenomenon often referred to as **prepositional transfer**. For instance, "I'm staying at John's place" might be "I'm staying in John's place."

These features are not random errors but are often systematic and widely accepted within the communities that use them. They are a sign of the language's adaptation to new cultural, social, and communicative needs, highlighting the dynamic nature of English as a global language.

