

**'English is a mish mash of everything': examining the language attitudes and teaching beliefs of British-Asian multilingual teachers**

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Abstract:	<p>This paper reports on a qualitative investigation of the language attitudes of multilingual British-South-Asian English language teachers. Data is drawn from both interviews and focus groups to demonstrate the participants underlying conception of language and their awareness and attitudes towards Indian English and how they coalesce their 'duty' as English language teachers and their beliefs about language variation. The paper observes underlying differences in the attitudes of first and second-generation migrants and argues that this is related to their early experiences of English language variation and their exposure to either single or dual language ideologies. Therefore, the paper supports other research that attitudes related to 'correct' language is ingrained in childhood experiences. It is also argued that changes are required in current teacher training to raise awareness of World Englishes and English as a Lingua Franca to equip teachers with the necessary skills to respond to a new global linguistic landscape.</p>

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‘English is a mish mash of everything’: examining the language attitudes and teaching beliefs of British-Asian multilingual teachers

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4 multilingual British-South-Asian English language teachers. Data is drawn from both  
5 interviews and focus groups to demonstrate the participants underlying conception of  
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7 their ‘duty’ as English language teachers and their beliefs about language variation. The  
8 paper observes underlying differences in the attitudes of first and second-generation migrants  
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10 their exposure to either single or dual language ideologies. Therefore, the paper supports  
11 other research that attitudes related to ‘correct’ language is ingrained in childhood  
12 experiences. It is also argued that changes are required in current teacher training to raise  
13 awareness of World Englishes and English as a Lingua Franca to equip teachers with the  
14 necessary skills to respond to a new global linguistic landscape.  
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31 **Keywords:** Language attitudes, Language ideologies, Multilingualism, Varieties of English.  
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## Introduction

Numerous studies have examined the attitudes of English language users towards multilingual varieties of English including He and Miller (2011), McKenzie (2008), Rivers (2011), Sasayama (2013), Saxena and Omoniyi (2010), Scales, Wennerstrom, Richard and Wu (2006) and Zhang (2013). These studies have tended to find negative evaluations of multilingual English varieties, and a preference for 'native' varieties such as American (AmE) and British (BrE) English. However other studies indicate a more positive attitude towards multilingual varieties of English such as Bernaisch's (2012) study in Sri Lanka, and Chand's (2009) and Sahgal's (1991) studies in India, which may be related to the extent that English has become nativized in the local context (Schneider, 2007). There is also a growing body of literature that examine English language teachers' attitudes (Ahn, 2014, 2015; Jenkins, 2007; McDonald & McRae, 2010; Sadtono, 2000; Sifakis & Sougari, 2006; Young & Walsh, 2010), and again there is a tendency for teachers to show an underlying preference for 'native' varieties of English, albeit with a recognition that these are not representative of how English is spoken in many contexts. This study hopes to contribute to this growing area of research by examining the language attitudes of multilingual English language teachers, who have English as one of their first languages.

Ontologies of language variation in World Englishes research have seen a corresponding development in the two related research areas of language ideologies and multilingualism. Language ideologies research has highlighted the ways in which the organizational structures of society normalise views about language and perpetuate language hierarchies (Blommaert, 1999; Cooke & Simpson, 2012). Language attitudes do not exist in a vacuum but are situated in a social context and are shaped, managed, controlled and influenced by socio-economic power relations and interests (Blackledge, 2005; Gal, 1998; Kroskrity, 2004; McGroarty, 2010). Normalised beliefs are formed in mainstream education and maintained through

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3 societal structures that situate languages as separate units of analysis. This conception of  
4 parallel monolingualism (Heller, 1999) or separate bilingualism (Creese & Blackledge, 2011),  
5 sits in contrast with Cook's (1996; 2007) notion of multicompetence, in which Cook has  
6 demonstrated that bilinguals and multilinguals have one integrated language system. This  
7 recognition and reformulation of bilingualism and multilingualism has led to a plethora of  
8 new terms to capture the dynamic nature of multilingual speakers' linguistic repertoire,  
9 including translanguaging (García, 2009; García & Wei, 2014).

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18 Therefore, multilingual English language teachers are confronted with an array of  
19 sometimes conflicting and contradictory language ideologies in different contexts that  
20 position languages as both fixed and mobile, bounded and de-territorialized (Blommaert,  
21 2010). Drawing on their own experience the teachers in this study have exposure to and  
22 contact with language diversity through their family, friends, the local community, and  
23 through transnational communities. At the same time, the teachers are influenced by a  
24 standard language ideology in the social environment, and by their profession as English  
25 language teachers, whose job it is to teach standard English as a fixed stable code. This paper  
26 brings together three interrelated research fields of language ideologies, multilingualism and  
27 World Englishes to understand these teachers' language attitudes.

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There are two aims to this study: (a) to further contribute to the existing knowledge of  
multilingual English language teachers' attitudes towards multilingual varieties of English  
and (b) to develop an understanding of how different language ideologies influence  
multilingual English language teachers' attitudes.

## Theoretical Framework

### Language Ideologies

Arguably the most prevalent language ideology in many countries is a standard one, which  
is considered the most prestigious variety, and situated at the top of the language hierarchy

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3 (Bourdieu, 1991; Kroskrity, 2004; Milroy & Milroy, 2012). Speech which deviates from the  
4  
5 standard language is given limited status as a dialect-or variety derived from ‘the norm’  
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7 (Edwards, 2004; Milroy & Milroy, 2012). Moreover, the almost exclusive focus on the  
8  
9 standard language tends to obscure the existence of other languages in the public sphere,  
10  
11 contributing to the formation of a monolingual mindset in many countries (Clyne, 2008). This  
12  
13 has the effect of legitimising language discrimination, which acts as a proxy for racial and  
14  
15 ethnic discrimination (Blackledge, 2000; Ellis, 2006). Therefore while democratic  
16  
17 multilingual societies tolerate heterogeneity in several aspects, Blackledge (2000) argues that  
18  
19 linguistic diversity is ignored or undervalued.  
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22 This monolingual mindset also contributes to the underlying belief that proficiency in  
23  
24 many languages is an exception, problematic or transitory, and that the standard language can  
25  
26 be effortlessly acquired by dialectal speakers of the language (Milroy & Milroy, 2012).  
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28 Consequently ESL provision in most schools is usually only extended to the point where  
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30 children have sufficient English to integrate (Blackledge, 2000). Although the monolingual  
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32 fallacy and standard language ideologies have been extensively questioned by linguists, these  
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34 ideologies are still prevalent in language policies, language teaching practices and language  
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36 tests, which have been designed predominantly by monolingual speakers (Blackledge, 2000;  
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38 Ellis, 2006; Ndhlovu, 2015).  
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41 Recently, however, critical ontologies have destabilised notions of language, and  
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43 consequently previously held conceptions of multilingualism and practices, such as  
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45 codeswitching, have been questioned (García & Wei, 2014; Li, 2017; Makoni & Pennycook,  
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47 2007; 2012). García and Wei (2014) argue that the discursive practices of multilingual  
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49 speakers should be reconceptualised as translanguaging, which they define as the “original  
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51 and complex interrelated discursive practices that cannot be assigned to one or other language  
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53 repertoire” (p. 22). Spoken discourse therefore should not be viewed as an object enshrined in  
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3 dictionaries, grammar books or language academies but primarily as a system of  
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5 communication. It has been argued that instead of analysing languages, linguists should focus  
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7 on 'voice' (Blommaert, 2010), 'linguistic or verbal repertoires' (Blackledge & Creese, 2010;  
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9 Busch, 2012) and 'language practices' (Heller, 2007). In many multilingual societies, the  
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11 belief of language as a discursive practice is perhaps accepted as normal and it is observable  
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13 in their attitudes and practices (Canagarajah, 2013; Makoni & Pennycook, 2012). This  
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15 attempt to re-conceptualise language in current western discourse is a consequence of the 're-  
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17 creation' of multilingual communities in western societies through migration, despite these  
18  
19 practices always being present 'on the ground' in Europe (Canagarajah, 2013).

22 Canagarajah (2013) further argues that attitudes towards multilingualism, in some  
23  
24 countries, sustain the conditions for, what he terms, translingual practices. Pollock (2006), for  
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26 example, has identified differences in discourses between pre-modern Europe and pre-  
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28 colonial South-Asia which may indicate reasons why there are existing differences between  
29  
30 the language attitudes of the people who live in these regions. The discourses suggest that  
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32 pre-colonial South-Asian peoples' attitudes towards multilingualism were more accepting  
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34 than in pre-modern Europe. Perhaps this could partly explain why a standard language  
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36 ideology was able to become prevalent in 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century Europe: because it was  
37  
38 commensurate with existing ideologies about language in pre-modern Europe. These  
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40 competing ideologies in South-Asia appear to be evident in Chand's (2009) extensive study  
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42 of attitudes to Indian English (IE), with the Indian participants' negotiating between a  
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44 standard language ideology, and one more attuned to what could be termed a translingual  
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46 practices ideology.  
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50 Therefore, the research in ideologies suggest that the environment and context in which an  
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52 English language teacher grew up in, and currently operates in, would have a significant  
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54 impact on their language attitudes. However, it is also important to recognise that teachers'  
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3 attitudes may change when they are influenced by various factors, one of which could be the  
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5 adaptations to the existing ideologies in society.  
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### 8 **Teachers' Language Attitudes**

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10 Definitions of attitudes predominantly specify that they are an evaluation of an object  
11 (Maio & Haddock, 2009), and in respect to language attitudinal research the object could  
12 relate to a language, a phonetic feature or a single lexical item. However, the reality is that it  
13  
14 is questionable whether individual language items can be isolated from other language  
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16 features and the socio-political context in which languages exists. Moreover, attitudes to a  
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18 language cannot easily be separated from the speakers and in some respects are formed not  
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20 only from their first-hand experience of language use, but also in the collective imagination  
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22 of stereotypes (Garrett, 2010; Garrett, Coupland & Williams, 2003; Niedzielski & Preston,  
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24 2009).  
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29 It is also necessary to consider teachers' beliefs (Borg, 2006; Breen, Hird, Milton, Oliver &  
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31 Thwaite, 2001; Woods, 1996) and the influence these beliefs have on teachers' pedagogical  
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33 practices (Borg, 1998; Farrell, 2008; Pajares, 1992). Language teachers' beliefs are  
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35 influenced by several interrelated factors including personal experiences, experience of  
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37 schooling and formal knowledge (Richardson, 1996), their own language learning experience,  
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39 teacher education, reflections on their own practices (Tsui, 2003; Zheng, 2009), and the  
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41 workplace culture (Sato & Kleinsasser, 2004). Trujillo (1996, 2005) and Razfar (2012), have  
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43 argued that the connection between beliefs, attitudes and practices, which are enacted through,  
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45 and are products of the social structure that these beliefs inhabit, constitute teaching  
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47 ideologies. Therefore, teachers' language attitudes and teaching beliefs must be seen in  
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49 relation to power dynamics, values, norms and expectations of the wider society. In some  
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51 respects, with training which stress the importance of accuracy and concepts such as  
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3 interlanguage and fossilization (Dewey, 2012; Nelson, 2011), language teachers may be more  
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5 inclined towards accepting a standard language ideology than other teachers.  
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8       Studies, which have examined teacher training with an SLA component, have tended to  
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10 indicate that teachers' beliefs about language teaching modifies, with teachers' incorporating  
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12 what they have learnt with their current teaching practices and their own language learning  
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14 experience (Busch, 2010; Erlam, 2008; MacDonald, Badger & White, 2001; Markham, Rice,  
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16 Darban & Weng, 2017). While these studies do not specifically address how this new  
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18 knowledge influences language attitudes, fossilization in Busch's (2010) study appears to  
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20 have a consolidating function for the teacher's existing beliefs. Three teachers noted that the  
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22 failure to correct students could result in fossilization, and some participants commented that  
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24 learning in an English-speaking country may prevent fossilization. One participant  
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26 commented that 'learning about fossilization taught me that people just won't absorb a  
27  
28 language if not helped and challenged with it' (Busch, 2010, p. 331). Furthermore, the  
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30 importance given to interlanguage is evident on the undergraduate course in Macdonald et  
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32 al's (2001) study, with four of the nine modules including interlanguage in their title.  
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34 Although these concepts have been challenged in Second Language Acquisition (SLA)  
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36 (Ortega, 2013, 2014) fossilization and interlanguage retain an explanatory function by  
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38 teachers for students 'non-native' like performance, especially among experienced teachers.  
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40 Moreover as May (2014, p. 2) notes traditional SLA researchers and the TESOL industry  
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42 "remain, to this day, largely untouched, uninterested, and unperturbed" by developments in  
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44 multilingual research. This is perhaps because variability is more difficult to explain  
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46 conceptually, and, perhaps more significantly, difficult to teach.  
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52       As noted above there have been a few studies of English language teachers' attitudes, and  
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54 although there is a continued deference towards American (AmE) and British (BrE) English,  
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56 the teachers also indicate that multilingual varieties of English also have value. For example  
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3 McDonald & McRae (2010) in a study of four teachers' language attitudes towards Konglish,  
4 which the authors define as English loan words and English words mixed with Korean and  
5 both used in a Korean context, found slightly contradictory beliefs. Despite recognising  
6 language variability in English and observing that the native speaker concept in ELT is  
7 outdated they still correct Konglish in the classroom and believe it would inhibit  
8 communication outside of Korea. Similarly the teachers' in Ahn's (2014) study of attitudes  
9 towards Korean English, a formal variety spoken by educated Koreans with observed lexico-  
10 grammatical and pragmatic features, assert that AmE is preferable in the classroom. However  
11 the teachers' also state that Korean English is a "practical" and "useful" communicative  
12 tool and "had the potential to become a legitimate variety of English" (Ahn, 2014, p. 214).  
13 The teachers also held negative attitudes towards other Asian varieties of English spoken in  
14 Singapore, Japan, China and India which they consider "problematic" and "strange" (Ahn,  
15 2015, p. 145). Sifakis and Sougari (2006) examining Greek teacher's attitudes towards  
16 pronunciation found that they also orientate towards 'the norm' in the classroom as a context  
17 to prepare students for standardised tests. However, although the teachers associate a good  
18 accent with a native accent, they also recognise that for communication purposes mutual  
19 intelligibility was crucial, and this does not necessarily entail conforming to a native variety.  
20 The teachers from a number of expanding circle countries in Jenkins' study (2007) also tend  
21 to defer to native varieties of English. However most of the participants are also in principle  
22 open to the conceptual notion of English as a Lingua Franca (ELF), while noting the barriers  
23 to enable this to be implemented in a classroom context due to teaching materials and testing  
24 standards. Young and Walsh (2010) also, examine the beliefs of English language teachers  
25 predominantly from the outer circle, which corroborated Jenkins' findings: that the teachers  
26 orientated towards a standard English variety despite acknowledging that "it does not really  
27 correspond to the reality of Englishes which are in use worldwide" (p. 135).  
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3 Therefore, although the teachers in these studies tend to orientate primarily towards  
4 Standard English or AmE and BrE, there is some indication that the teachers recognise these  
5 labels are unable to fully encapsulate English usage. Jenkins (2006, 2014) (Table 1)  
6 highlights different orientations towards English and implies that an English as Foreign  
7 Language (EFL) orientation is inclined towards a standard language ideology which position  
8 languages as fixed and stable, while an ELF orientation is situated in an ideology that  
9 considers language as a social practice (Seidlhofer, 2011). These different orientations are  
10 evident in the above studies of English teachers' attitudes, and can be seen as continuum with  
11 teachers negotiating between different ideological orientations depending on contextual  
12 conditions, their linguistic backgrounds and identity positioning.  
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24 **[Insert Table 1]**

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26 Research of attitudes in World Englishes have tended to adopt a view of varieties of  
27 English as inner, outer and expanding circles. However it is perhaps more appropriate to  
28 visualise language attitudes through a framework of ELF (Jenkins, 2007), or translingual  
29 practices (Canagarajah, 2013), prioritising language practices rather than national labels.  
30 While World Englishes research focuses on bounded nationally defined varieties, ELF  
31 emphasises the use of English 'as fluid, flexible, contingent, hybrid and deeply intercultural'  
32 (Jenkins, Cogo & Dewey, 2011, p. 284). This requires a methodological and theoretical  
33 approach that incorporates ideologies and multilingualism into an understanding of people's  
34 attitudes towards different languages. An ELF attitudinal framework would also require  
35 considering attitudes towards related concepts such as multilingualism, native speakerism,  
36 Standard English, codeswitching and language itself, rather than individuals simply  
37 responding to nationally defined English varieties either by listening to a speech sample or  
38 perceptually judging a region of English speakers. Nevertheless, it may be necessary to use  
39 named varieties during the research process to enable individual's conceptualisation of  
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3 different Englishes. Finally, an ELF approach would also need to consider the wider context  
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5 in which people and languages operate. With these considerations in mind, and the minimal  
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7 studies which examine multilingual English language teachers' language attitudes, the  
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9 following research questions have guided this study:

- 12 1. What are multilingual English language teachers' attitudes to multilingual varieties of  
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14 English?
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16 2. What is the significance of experiences, background, training and the social  
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18 environment in influencing teachers' beliefs?  
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## 23 **Methodology**

### 24 **Context**

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27 The institutional setting of the study is a further education college<sup>1</sup> in a multicultural UK  
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29 city and the participants work in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)  
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31 department. There is an eclectic mix of teachers in the ESOL department which is reflective  
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33 of the multicultural city. This article focuses on the language attitudes of five South-Asian  
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35 multilingual ESOL teachers in the UK, who participated in interviews and focus groups<sup>2</sup>.  
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37 Extracts were chosen from the interviews and focus groups from these participants as being  
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39 reflective of the differences in awareness and attitudes between first and second-generation  
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41 migrants. This article is restricted to discussing 5 participants, who were selected as they  
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43 participated in both the interviews and focus groups. Moreover, Arti and Ashna were in the  
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45 same focus group, as were Jashith and Nalini, which allowed me to compare and contrast  
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47 these participants' views. The other participants in the study make similar comments to the  
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53 <sup>1</sup> Further Education Colleges teach post-compulsory subjects, vocational subjects and adult education.

54 <sup>2</sup> The total number of participants in the study was 20, which included 13 first generation migrants and 7 second  
55 generation migrants, though not all the participants were involved in both the interviews and focus groups.  
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3 ones discussed in this article in either the interviews or focus groups, or both. All the  
4 participants' names have been anonymised and any detail which might lead to identification  
5 modified.  
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## 10 **Participants**

### 11 **[Insert Table 2]**

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14 There are some similarities between the participants (Table 2): all the participants have  
15 friends and relatives who speak a non-standard variety of English, all the participants, as  
16 English language teachers, incorporate teaching ideologies (Trujillo, 1996, 2005) into their  
17 belief system, all of the participants are bi- or multilingual speakers and they all share the  
18 same ethnicity. The first-generation teachers migrated from Indian communities in African  
19 countries, Ashna from Malawi, and Nalini and Mahima from Kenya. One difference between  
20 the two groups is that first-generation migrants tend to speak more languages than second  
21 generation migrants. Despite the similarities between the participants' ethno-linguistic and  
22 professional backgrounds, there were differences in their language awareness and attitudes  
23 towards multilingual varieties of English which I argue stem from the participants' exposure  
24 to different language ideologies. Moreover, it is notable that second generation migrants  
25 appear to have retained language attitudes derived from their early language experiences,  
26 despite residing in the UK for over thirty or forty years, where the influence of a standard  
27 language ideology is more prevalent. This would seem to support both the assertion that  
28 attitudes towards correct language are formed in childhood (Niedzielski & Preston, 2009),  
29 and that language attitudes have a strong affective component and appear to be resistant to  
30 change (Illés, 2016; Pajares, 1992).  
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51 All the teachers are female and of South-Asian cultural heritage and have undertaken  
52 teacher training: a PGCE for teaching in further education, which is a broad teaching  
53 qualification for all teachers in the different departments, and an ESOL level 5 diploma  
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3 which focuses specifically on English language teaching. However, in this course, no  
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5 consideration is given to multilingual varieties of English or ELF. Moreover, there is no unit  
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7 in the course which includes SLA theory, and instead there is a focus on grammatical, lexical  
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9 and phonetical knowledge and discourse and how this knowledge could be applied in the  
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11 language classroom. The only aspect of SLA theory which is addressed is related to culture  
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13 and issues of power, and how this may impact on classroom teaching. As mentioned  
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15 interviews and focus groups were chosen as methodological tools in this study to enable  
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17 comparisons between the two data sets and analyse the strength and consistency of the  
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19 participants' attitudes expressed in an individual interview and as part of a group.  
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23 The interviews were semi-structured and based around three main topic areas: participants'  
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25 background, participants' views about language and teaching. For the focus groups three  
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27 discussion cards were constructed around the areas of language, error correction, varieties of  
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29 English, materials, culture in the classroom, functional English, testing and language targets.  
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31 They were not direct questions but were what could be considered contentious quotes,  
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33 assembled from newspaper articles (Jenkins, 2004; Meddings, 2004a, b) and a short journal  
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35 article (Farrell & Martin, 2009).  
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### 40 **Analytical Framework**

41 The analytical framework I have used in this study is holistic, utilizing elements from  
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43 content analysis (Bazeley, 2013; Franzosi, 2004; Krippendorff, 2013), discourse analysis  
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45 (Gee, 1999; Gill, 2000; Johnstone, 2002; Potter, 2004; Tannen, 2007), conversation analysis  
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47 (Clayman & Gill, 2004; Heritage, 2004; Peräkylä, 2007) and constructionist perspectives of  
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49 grounded theory (Charmaz, 2001, 2006, 2008, 2011). In many respects it is necessary for  
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51 qualitative researchers to use different frameworks to analyse their data in order to  
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53 understand the potential contained in the data and, as Silverman (2006, p. 237) highlights,  
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3 'thoughtful researchers will often want to use a combination of methods'. There are many  
4 similarities between different qualitative analytical approaches, with several core elements  
5 such as being exploratory in nature, a focus on communication, and the aim to gain a greater  
6 understanding of the social world by examining both the explicit meaning and the underlying  
7 meaning. Indeed, Krippendorff (2013) refers to content analysis as a 'contemporary  
8 grounded method', and also Discourse Analysis (DA) and Conversation Analysis (CA) are  
9 included under the umbrella of content analysis by some authors (Krippendorff, 2013). Both  
10 Franzoi (2004) and Krippendorff (2013) note that content analysis has evolved into a  
11 repertoire of methods of research and is also increasingly being used in various disciplines.  
12 Krippendorff asserts that a framework to use content analysis requires a text, research  
13 questions and a context to enable the researcher to make inferences and validate evidence 'in  
14 principle'. Texts do not have a single meaning in themselves, but are open to different  
15 interpretations by different people, with the specific meaning dependant on the interests of  
16 the researcher and built around a context to situate the data. Krippendorff (2013) argues that  
17 a careful reading of the text narrows the range of possible inferences, and 'grounds' content  
18 analysis empirically to enable the researcher to discover trends, patterns and differences, and  
19 validate findings.

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Open coding and then focused coding was used in analysing the data, (Bazeley, 2013;  
Charmaz, 2008) with no *a priori* codes, to avoid 'forcing' the data as Glaser (1998) argues  
many researchers tend to do. Then the most interesting parts of the data were linked, and the  
most important codes were 'raised' to themes and the data was organised into a hierarchal  
structure (Bazeley, 2013). The chosen extracts in this paper have been narrowly transcribed  
to understand how meaning was produced in each sequential turn (Mann, 2011; Talmy, 2011)  
and enable me to identify details such as silences, pauses, word choice and the prosodic  
features of speech, and allows a more detailed analysis of the participants' contributions.

Moreover, this is an exact transcription as spoken by the participants and may include infelicities in terms of grammar, word forms and incomplete sentences as is commonly found in spoken discourse. The transcription conventions (Appendix 1) were adapted from Potter (1999) Clayman and Gill (2004) and the VOICE corpus (2013).

## Findings

### Awareness and Attitudes to English Language Variation

The participants express language attitudes that derive from their exposure to different language ideologies, which is notable in the differences between first and second-generation migrants. The differences are reflected in their awareness and attitudes to Indian English (IE). This would suggest that exposure through the social environment is an essential element in teachers' language beliefs. Second generation migrants tend to describe these varieties within a framework of being deficient in relation to British English norms indexing an EFL orientation, with teacher training consolidating their existing beliefs. In contrast, first generation migrants describe IE from a difference perspective which suggests that their language attitudes have greater flexibility. The focus in the following analysis is the inter-relationship between the teachers' language attitudes and societal ideologies and how this may impact on their beliefs about their teaching practices. The following sections of data analysis are divided into language awareness and competing language ideologies.

The first extract is an interview with Arti, who was born in the UK and is bilingual in English and Punjabi. She notes that growing up in the UK there were very few families of Indian origin with around 20 individuals in her school who were of ethnic origins. Her formal education was in the UK state school system. She never attended heritage language classes in the UK, as there was limited provision for Punjabi at the time. She has minimal contact with



her heritage country, India, but she has visited India three times and occasionally communicates with an elderly relative. In the first extract Arti gives a definition of Indian English from a deficit perspective.

Extract 1

1    Arti:   =Indian English is when you erm:: (0.5) take out for example especially th-  
2  
3           the (.) long term Asians if you like (.) what they do is (.) they erm (.) when  
4  
5           the grammar's (.) not correct for example like I would say I would say my  
6  
7           mum talks Indian English

8    I:       Right okay

9    Arti:   Indian English English Indian whatever she does it because she doesn't err  
10  
11          formulate (.) you know correct sentence if you like but the meaning's there  
12  
13          Errm

Arti's experience of IE is predominantly from the UK and she considers IE speakers as ones who have migrated to, and been living in, the UK for a long period of time. One of the people she identifies as an IE speaker is her mother. She appears to have a deficit perspective of language as being either correct or incorrect, and twice (3 and 7) states that IE is incorrect which stems from a standard language ideology and EFL orientation. However, she also acknowledges that meaning is relevant (7) despite her perceived incorrectness of the language in relation to British English.

Beliefs about correctness and IE are also evident in the attitudes of another second-generation migrant, Jashith, who associates IE speakers with her students. Jashith, like Arti, was also born in the UK, and had formal state education. She states that she speaks Gujarati with older members of the family and older members of the local Gujarati community, but with siblings and peers she tends to speak English. In the home environment, her parents predominantly spoke Gujarati, and she went to Gujarati language classes, where she also

1  
2  
3 learnt Hindi. She visited India four times when she was younger, but has not returned in  
4  
5 adulthood. She has cousins in India, but maintains minimal contact, and expresses a desire to  
6  
7 return to India 'as a tourist'. Jashith also perceives IE as a deficient language.  
8

9 Extract 2  
10

- 11 1 Jashith: How would I describe it it's different to (0.5) how (0.5) because I've  
12  
13 2 seen students who have come from India and they do they get the word  
14  
15 3 order wrong  
16  
17 4 I: Right  
18  
19 5 Jashith: You know and the pronunciation obviously is different so:: even  
20  
21 6 though they have studied there sometimes it's hard to understand what  
22  
23 7 they're saying as well [...] yes it's Indian English isn't it yeah  
24  
25 8 I: Wh- wh- what do you understand by Indian English  
26  
27 9 Jashith: Well to me that's I think that's what I mentioned already that you  
28  
29 10 know the pronunciation and they also substitute certain words and the  
30  
31 11 words (1.0) are not (0.5) used in right context as well  
32  
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35 Jashith's description of IE relates to her experience of students, and perhaps other  
36  
37 contexts within the UK. Although initially she notes that IE is different, her description is  
38  
39 predominantly from a deficit perspective, identifying problems with word order (2) and  
40  
41 vocabulary (10-11). She views the grammar and lexis of IE as deficient, but the pronunciation  
42  
43 as different. Therefore, in terms of attitudes to pronunciation, this suggests that Jashith is  
44  
45 more ELF orientated than EFL, and indicates that she has different orientations for different  
46  
47 aspects of language.  
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50 In contrast first generation migrants tended not to use negative terminology to describe IE.  
51  
52 Mahima arrived to the UK from Kenya at the age of 16, and completed her secondary  
53  
54 education in the UK, having been educated in an international school in Kenya. Mahima has  
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never visited India, and the last time she returned to Kenya was nearly forty years ago. Mahima appears to apply personal experience of IE from her youth and instead of using negative descriptive words, she relates the variety to Hinglish and describes a mixing of English and Hindi.

### Extract 3

- 1 I: Have you ever heard of the phrase Indian English before
- 2 Mahima: err:: what they call erm (1.5) Hinglish
- 3 I: And how would how would you describe it
- 4 Mahima: Its erm what they do is they start of talking in eng- in er start with
- 5 English then they sort of break it in er: go into Punjabi Hindi or
- 6 whatever language they speak and then and if you listen to erm if you
- 7 listen to their conversation in one sentence they speak there would be
- 8 at least five or six English words
- 9 I: yeah (2.0) and then
- 10 Mahima: It's all mixture of everything it's like (2.0) Swahili when we came to
- 11 er when we sort of like we developed the Swahili language for in (2.0)
- 12 there was a lot of common words that we (.) we thought were (.)
- 13 Punjabi but they're not they're Swahili words we thought they were
- 14 Punjabi so if I were to speak somebody from India and use that in
- 15 those words they'd look at us and say °what is she talking° about but
- 16 like i said the Indian English or Hinglish as they call them call it

Instead of using negative terminology Mahima seems to view IE positively. Mahima associates IE with another term Hinglish (2), which is considered derogatory by some (Edwards, 2004; Nelson, 2011). Though she states that it is other people who use the term

Hinglish, which might imply that she also sees it as a derogatory term, using ‘they’ on two occasions (2 and 16). She also refers to IE as code-switching and draws parallels with a mixture of Swahili and Punjabi from her own experience of mixed codes. This implies that she is more inclined towards an ELF orientation in relation to codeswitching rather than an EFL one, as she explains IE as a linguistic resource. However, despite acknowledging the mixing of languages, she also refers to named languages with boundaries (11-15). Therefore, although education provides the *habitus* for the separation of languages into distinct codes (Bourdieu, 1991; Fairclough, 2001), the awareness of distinct languages also stems from interacting with other speakers. Other first-generation migrants also give a relatively positive interpretation of IE, referring to it as a dialect rather than being deficient.

Nalini, for example, arrived in the UK in her early twenties after meeting her husband, so her primary education was in Kenya. She learnt English from birth, and English and Gujarati at primary and nursery schools and ‘picked up’ Hindi, Urdu, and Swahili, from movies and the social environment. She visits India every year, for religious purposes with her entire family to attend a religious festival, and visits Kenya nearly every year. In the following extract Nalini tends to describe IE more positively than second generation migrants.

Extract 4

- 1 I: Do you notice anything different about the way they speak their  
 2 English  
 3 Nalini: Oh yes yeah::: what do you call it (1.0) the stress and intonation is  
 4 different  
 5 I: Yeah  
 6 Nalini: Yeah erm (1.0) sometimes in India if somebody speaks in English I I  
 7 my family my children will laugh you know ha ha ha why are they  
 8 speaking you know the dialect is different the accent is different

1  
2  
3 9 I: right  
4

5 10 Nalini: It is different (.) it is different  
6

7 When Nalini is comparing how they speak English in India to British English, she  
8 uses a difference perspective rather than a deficit perspective. She also describes IE as a  
9 dialect which places IE at a level with other 'native' dialects in the UK. This perspective  
10 would seem to include IE as a variety equal to other Englishes and not as deficit, as second-  
11 generation migrants tend to view the language. Although viewing IE as a dialect rather than a  
12 language derives from a standard language ideology, she recognises IE as a stable variety,  
13 rather than one that is deficient and as an interlanguage moving towards a 'native' variety. It  
14 is also noticeable that her children who are second generation migrants respond to IE  
15 speakers by laughing, which Nalini appears to present as a negative response to the language.  
16 Nalini's positive attitude to different varieties of English is also evident in the focus groups  
17 where the participants were discussing which model of English to teach.  
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31 Extract 5  
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- 34 1. Jashith: Well if if people want to learn English as a foreign language is it then  
35 2. they would expect to be taught (.) you know the British model  
36 3. Nalini: I don't think people who really don't want to come out of their own  
37 4. origin place do want to learn British or or or or American English I  
38 5. don't think so if I was in Kenya I would stick to my Kenya I didn't  
39 6. want to learn (.) how they speak in Britain  
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48 As is evident from the extract, Jashith framework is centred around standard English  
49 models, which contrasts with Nalini's view of how English is spoken in other countries. She  
50 draws on her own experience of living in Kenya and the way that English is spoken there and  
51 suggests that these speakers would reject a model of English based on AmE or BrE.  
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3           Second generation migrants generally have difficulty perceiving multilingual or ‘non-  
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5 native’ varieties as authentic. They view varieties, such as IE, as deficient in comparison to  
6  
7 American or British English and use terminology such as error, wrong or incorrect. In  
8  
9 contrast, first generation migrants appear to be more accepting of language variation and  
10  
11 acknowledge the authenticity of multilingual varieties of English. This is arguably derived  
12  
13 from exposure to dual or multiple language ideologies, the experience of growing up in a  
14  
15 multilingual society, and a higher level of exposure to different varieties of English. First  
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17 generation migrants appear to be more open to different varieties of English, referring to  
18  
19 these as dialects and they also appear to consider the distinction between named languages  
20  
21 and language as a social practice. The influence of competing ideologies is evident in the  
22  
23 attitudes of first generation migrants, suggesting that these attitudes are formed at a young  
24  
25 age and retained into adulthood despite the more prevalent influence of a standard language  
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27 ideology while they have been living in the UK.  
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### 33 **Competing Ideologies**

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35           One reason for the difference in language attitudes of the participants is the linguistic  
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37 environment in which first generation migrants grew up. Ashna, for example, was born in  
38  
39 Malawi and arrived in the UK around the age of 13. She maintains strong links with Gujarat  
40  
41 because of her mother’s family, and through her connections with the local Gujarat  
42  
43 community in Leicester. Ashna’s first language is Gujarati, and her initial education was in  
44  
45 Gujarati, but she was later taught at school in English. In the following extract from one of  
46  
47 the focus groups, Ashna explains her language use in Malawi and the UK.  
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#### 51 Extract 6

- 52  
53  
54           1. Ashna:           I I I used to speak English at the school (.) but I wasn’t exposed like  
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56           2.                   you know like when we we went school we used to speak English but  
57

- 1
- 2
3. then when we came back home (.) it was Gujarati all the time but
- 4
4. when I came to this country and when I started learning English it was
- 5
5. like we we we went to school in the morning and then we come back at
- 6
6. about 3 so then english just went all the way through it just run and the
- 7
7. programmes were in English everything was in English so (???) have
- 8
8. to speak in English everything conver- even with my mum
- 9
9. conversation became English even though my mum would answer in
- 10
10. Gujarati but I would speak in English (.) whereas before when I was in
- 11
11. Africa that wasn't the case English was in the school as soon as we
- 12
12. come back home it was Gujarati Gujarti Gujarati

The extract gives an indication of the multilingual linguistic environment in which Ashna grew up in Malawi. At school in the formal environment, Ashna notes that English was used, while upon returning home she would switch with her family to using Gujarati. In contrast, in the UK, she would predominantly use English both at school and at home, though noting that some of the elements of the linguistic environment were maintained as her mother continued to use Gujarati. It is likely that Ashna's linguistic environment during her formative years helped shape her language attitudes, which have been maintained to a certain degree since she arrived in the UK. Access to five different languages, Gujarati, English, Urdu, Hindi, and Chichewa provided a diverse linguistic environment which included codeswitching and exposure to different varieties of spoken English.

The differences between first and second-generation migrants is evident in the following extract from a focus group where Ashna and Arti are discussing teachers' prejudice towards other teachers whose first language is not English. Ashna appears to be more open to language variation and view language more in terms of a continuum, while Arti views language in binary terms, either being correct/incorrect or perfect/imperfect.

Extract 7

- 1 Ashna: I have heard some of the in in::: in our teaching environment they  
 2 will say well I just hate it when somebody speaks like that then I [yeah  
 3 Arti: [They  
 4 can't use correct English why are they teaching yeah course you do  
 5 there is  
 6 Ashna: They can't teach and I'm thinking to myself well what are you talking  
 7 about English is a mish mash of everything so (.) I think you need to  
 8 go and (.) research your language @@@@ @@@@  
 9 [...]  
 10 Ashna: I've come across I've come across teachers that will say that and they  
 11 say oh I really hate it you know oh I don't watch that I mean have you  
 12 seen in the oh I don't think his English correct and I'm thinking well  
 13 what are you talking about are you saying that your English is=  
 14 Arti: =Perfect  
 15 Ashna: Superior

Both Ashna and Arti agree that they have heard linguisticism in the teaching environment and express their dislike of this, positioning themselves as being more open to accepting language variation. However, there are some underlying differences in Ashna's and Arti's perception of this prejudice. For example, Arti states that 'they can't use correct English' (3-4), referring to teachers who are recipients of prejudice. Although Arti is reporting what other people believe, she appears to be agreeing that some teachers do not speak 'correct English'. However, despite her apparent agreement that the language used by 'non-native' teachers is incorrect, she indicates that they should not be the recipients of prejudice from other English language teachers. In contrast, Ashna also uses the term 'correct English' in reference to



1  
2  
3 other teachers' beliefs, but indicates strong disagreement with belief that the language is  
4  
5 inaccurate (6 and 13).

6  
7 Ashna's language beliefs are also evident when she mentions the mixing of English with  
8  
9 other languages in (6), showing an awareness of variation, language change and borrowing in  
10  
11 English, and implying that these teachers do not have this awareness. She also distances  
12  
13 herself from ownership of English, suggesting she believes the language belongs to 'native  
14  
15 speakers' with the phrase 'I think you need to go and research your language' (7-8) in  
16  
17 criticism of these teachers' attitudes. The differences in the attitudes of the two teachers is  
18  
19 also evident when Arti completes Ashna's sentence 'are you saying your English is' with the  
20  
21 word 'perfect' (13-15). However, rather than accepting this word choice, Ashna feels it  
22  
23 necessary to give a more nuanced word: 'superior'. This perhaps suggests Ashna's views of  
24  
25 language ability are on a cline, whereas the word 'perfect' may indicate that Arti conceives  
26  
27 language more in binary terms. There are some similarities between the participants, but  
28  
29 their choice of vocabulary and their presentation of other teachers' views suggest moderate  
30  
31 difference in their attitudes to language variability in English, and perhaps they have different  
32  
33 conceptualisations of language, based on personal experiences and background.

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37 However, although first generation migrants were exposed to greater variation in language  
38  
39 ideologies, this does not necessarily translate into conflict in their attitudes. In fact, it was  
40  
41 second generation migrants who sometimes have problems to coalesce their awareness of  
42  
43 different Englishes, multilingualism and the influence of a standard language ideology. For  
44  
45 example, Ashna uses seemingly conflicting terminology when she describes how she  
46  
47 responds to her students' spoken language.  
48  
49

50 Extract 8

- 51  
52 1 Ashna: Because you are teaching them the main (.) you know purpose of  
53  
54 2 language you know for them to learn in appropriate way you can't  
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3                   3                   teach them all you know because >he's Indian he speak differently<  
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5                   4                   but in the classroom if they speak you know with their own accent if  
6  
7                   5                   they're pronouncing wrong (.) then I would say you would interfere  
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9                   6                   like someone would pronounce it wrong then I would say it's not like  
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11                  7                   that you don't say it like that you actually say this (0.5) >but that's  
12  
13                  8                   what I mean< but if they're speaking in their (.) dialect you know I  
14  
15                  9                   don't normally change I've got in classroom you know they speak in  
16  
17                  10                  their singing English that I was telling them you know but this way I  
18  
19                  11                  just let it because this what it is  
20  
21

22                  Ashna uses several negative words to describe the pronunciation of her students and how  
23  
24 she would respond to it: 'wrong' (5 and 6), 'interfere', (5) 'it's not like that' (6). She also  
25  
26 places stress on certain words which perhaps indicates a strong attitude and belief about this  
27  
28 topic (2-7). This appears to index a standard language ideology which is derived from her  
29  
30 educational experience in her birth country and the UK which treat languages separately, as  
31  
32 well as from her training as an English language teacher. Interestingly, while she objects to  
33  
34 criticism of British-Asian English language teachers' spoken English by other teachers in the  
35  
36 previous extract, she still perceptually envisages language in terms of right and wrong in  
37  
38 relation to her students' spoken language. She notes that if the accent and pronunciation is  
39  
40 'wrong' she would use error correction methods (7). However, she performs a mock Indian  
41  
42 accent (3), with syllable-timing and omitting the third person singular, and refers to it as a  
43  
44 dialect and argues that she would not change it (7-9). The 'singing English' which she  
45  
46 mentions relates back to an earlier discussion on the rhythm and tone of the way IE is spoken  
47  
48 (10). This would seem to represent a conflicting response to students' language, and it is  
49  
50 unclear in what situation she would deem it appropriate to correct the language. These appear  
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52 to represent a duality of language attitudes, though seemingly not conflictual, of recognising  
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and accepting different varieties of English, but still believing that students should conform to British English norms.

On some occasions, it is second generation migrants who struggle to convey their moderate awareness of diverse Englishes and their conformity to 'correct language'. For example, Arti finds difficulty to express her belief in the importance of Standardised English.

Extract 9

- 1 Arti: Just because it's erm (5.0) I think it's I know it sounds really bad this does but  
 2 I think it's the correct way to (1.0) er I don't know I think it's the correct way  
 3 to er (3.0) because you need standard English to write basically that's what  
 4 I'm trying to say it's fu- it's funny that transition (.) do you know what I mean  
 5 I don't think we should be so hung up on it then you know if articles aren't in  
 6 the right place or whether you know they're n- they're not using the past  
 7 perfect for example no I don't think that makes an issue at all right because  
 8 they are communicating and you know that I- it's enough to get (.) through (.)  
 9 you're day to day life it's functional

It is noticeable that Arti struggles to find the words to express her meaning in terms of describing Standardised English, saying the 'correct way' twice (2), but retreating from completing the sentence. There are also long pauses (1-3) as she tries to formulate her opinion. She tries to balance her beliefs about functional English and 'correct' English, and as a compromise, relates Standardised English to writing. She has a noticeable difficulty balancing her beliefs about accuracy and communication. Arti also mentions articles and the past perfect as features which 'we should not be hung up on' (5-7).

These extracts suggest that there are some differences in the underlying attitudes towards language between first and second-generation migrants. It appears that first generation migrants do not necessarily consider language in the same way that second generation

1  
2  
3 migrants do. This may be related to their personal experience of engaging with different  
4 varieties of English, living in a multilingual environment and being influenced by multiple  
5 language ideologies. Second generation migrants are more inclined to view language as  
6 having boundaries and belonging to 'native speakers', indexing a standard language ideology  
7 and an EFL orientation. In contrast first generation migrants are negotiating between an EFL  
8 and ELF orientation, perhaps as a consequence of being influenced by competing language  
9 ideologies, which has some similarities with Chand's (2009) study of attitudes towards IE.  
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### 20 **Conclusion**

21  
22 In returning to the first research question it is apparent that there are certain differences  
23 between the multilingual speakers in this study. While the first-generation migrants tend to  
24 give a positive definition of different varieties of English, the second-generation migrants  
25 view these varieties as deficient in comparison to Standard or British English and as an  
26 interlanguage. Although the five participants have South-Asian ancestry and are multilingual,  
27 there are attitudinal differences which appear to be related to their experience of different  
28 exposure to language ideologies. It appears from the analysis of the data that second-  
29 generation migrants orientate more towards a standard language ideology and an EFL  
30 orientation, while first generation migrants are influenced by competing language ideologies,  
31 and indicate elements of both an EFL and ELF perspective. However, it should be noted that  
32 the data presented in this study is drawn from just five individuals and a wider study would  
33 be required to ascertain the validity of this assertion.  
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48 Both Makoni and Pennycook (2012) and Canagarajah and Liyanage (2012) argue that  
49 people in some multilingual non-western countries are more open to variation because the  
50 "language ideologies and values that still exist there sustain plurilingual practices"  
51 (Canagarajah & Liyanage, 2012, p. 51). Elements of this belief system appear to be retained  
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3 by the first-generation migrant participants in this paper. However, there appears to be no  
4 ideological transference in the belief system to second generation migrants. Interestingly the  
5 three participants who migrated at an early age and have been living in Britain for thirty or  
6 forty years still retain this openness to language variation to a certain extent. Therefore,  
7 societal ideologies in relation to language variation appear to impose a strong attitude on  
8 participants and become relatively fixed when people are children or young adults.

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16 Niedzielski and Preston (2009) assert that attitudes towards correct language are formed in  
17 adolescence, and this is related to the environment that an individual has experienced.  
18  
19 Although the five participants in this study are multilingual this does not translate into a  
20 uniform opinion about language and English language varieties. Ellis (2004) has argued that  
21 there is a more relevant division between monolingual and multilingual teachers than the  
22 distinction between 'native' and 'non-native' speakers in relation to language and language  
23 learning. However, this small-scale study suggests that this might depend on the type of  
24 education and environment that the multilingual individual experienced in their formative  
25 years, and how languages are treated and conceptualised in society. The findings from this  
26 study suggest that attitudes towards what is considered correct language are deep-rooted, and  
27 that it is necessary to incorporate critical language awareness, World Englishes and ELF  
28 more centrally in teacher training. However it is questionable how effective a transformative  
29 approach (Sifakis & Bayyurt, 2015) would be in changing the attitudes of English language  
30 teachers towards World Englishes and ELF, given that language attitudes are formed in  
31 adolescence, have a strong affective component and are resistant to change (Illés, 2016;  
32 Pajares, 1992).

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50 While the three first-generation migrants view language in different terms and are more  
51 accepting of variation in spoken English, they also tend to support Standard British English  
52 most specifically in the classroom environment. Therefore, in terms of the second research

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3 question, the influence on their teaching beliefs from their experiences, background, training  
4 and the social environment, there is less of a sharp distinction between the five participants.  
5  
6 While as mentioned, teacher training does not appear to influence the teachers' underlying  
7  
8 conception of language, the five teachers believe students need to conform to Standard  
9  
10 English in the classroom environment, but they also stress the importance of language for  
11  
12 communication purposes, and that meaning is more important than accuracy. Maio and  
13  
14 Haddock (2009) point out that attitudes are dependent on normative behaviour; how people,  
15  
16 who are important to the individual, expect him or her to act to comply with expectations.  
17  
18 Teachers might be prohibited from performing an action or believe specific individuals will  
19  
20 approve or disapprove of their behaviour and are therefore conditioned into acting in certain  
21  
22 ways in the classroom. This will impact on how the teachers in this study articulate their  
23  
24 attitudes towards language and their teaching practices. However, it should be noted that this  
25  
26 study included a small group of teachers and further research is needed with teachers in other  
27  
28 contexts with different language and teacher training backgrounds to give a fuller  
29  
30 understanding of how societal ideologies interact with teacher training to formulate teachers'  
31  
32 attitudes about language. This would contribute to how teacher training programmes can be  
33  
34 developed in the future to maximise the effectiveness of critical language awareness among  
35  
36 English language teachers. Moreover although this study has outlined teachers' beliefs about  
37  
38 their teaching practices, attitudes do not always correspond with behaviour in the classroom,  
39  
40 (Garrett, 2010) and therefore understanding the relationship between multilingual teachers'  
41  
42 attitudes and their teaching practices still needs further investigation.  
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49

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#### 16 Appendix A - TRANSCRIPTION CONVENTIONS

- 17  
18 @@@@ Laughter: The length of the @ indicates the length of the laughter  
19  
20 [ Left sided bracket indicate where overlapping speech occurs  
21  
22 ° Indicates talk which is noticeably quieter than the surrounding talk  
23  
24 > < 'Greater than' and 'less than' symbols indicate talk which is noticeably faster  
25  
26 than the surrounding talk  
27  
28  
29 (1.5) Numbers in parentheses indicate the periods of silence in tenths of second  
30  
31 (.) Indicates a pause in talk of less than 0.2 seconds  
32  
33 Becas- A hyphen indicates words which are incomplete because of abrupt cut off or  
34  
35 self-interruption  
36  
37 He says Underlined words indicate stress or emphasis  
38  
39 = Equal signs indicate latching with no noticeable silence between the talk of  
40  
41 different people  
42  
43  
44 ::: Colons indicate the sound was prolonged  
45  
46 [... ] Parentheses with three dots indicate that there is a gap between the sections of  
47  
48 the transcription which were not included  
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Table 1: EFL contrasted with ELF (Jenkins 2006, 140)

<b>EFL: Part of modern Foreign Languages</b>	<b>ELF: Part of World Englishes</b>
Deficit Perspective	Difference perspective
Transfer/interference and fossilization metaphors	Contact/evolution
Conformative, monolingual bias	Transformative, bilingual
Codeswitching/code-mixing = interference errors	Code-switching/codemixing = bilingual resources

Table 2: Participant Information

Name	Age	Generation and arrival in UK	Number of spoken languages	Years of English Teaching Experience
Arti	46	2 <sup>nd</sup> generation	2: Punjabi, English	15 years
Jashith	43	2 <sup>nd</sup> generation	3: Hindi Gujarati English	8 years
Nalini	54	1 <sup>st</sup> generation: arrived in the UK aged 21	6: Hindi, Gujarati, Urdu, English, Swahili, Punjabi	17 years
Mahima	56	1 <sup>st</sup> generation arrived in the UK aged 16	4: English, Urdu, Arabic Gujarati	18 years
Ashna	49	1 <sup>st</sup> generation: arrived in the UK aged 14	5: Gujarati, Hindi, Urdu, English Chichewa	12 years