

## English in a Multilingual World

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English is often axiomatically indexed with globalization. Many school systems emphasize the learning of English with the aim of preparing students for employment, mobility, and English-medium tertiary education. Universities, in turn, increasingly focus on the English proficiency of students, staff, instructors, and researchers. English continues to be, as Bamgbose (2003) puts it, a “recurring decimal” in language planning and policy. But how all-encompassing is it? In this talk, I situate English in the world’s ecology of languages. I begin by problematizing the notion of English as a global language. I then consider how we can view English-medium instruction (EMI) and English as a lingua franca (ELF) through a multilingual lens (e.g., Jenkins, 2015; Kirkpatrick, 2014; Ou, Gu & Hult, 2020) in order to look beyond the ‘E’ to see how English can be positioned vis-à-vis the many guises of multilingualism (e.g., Blackledge & Creese, 2014; Canagarajah, 2013). Finally, I argue for renewed attention to language ecology (e.g., Hult, 2013; Li, Steffensen & Huang, 2020) in the study of multilingualism as a way to avoid a fragmented view of English in the world..

### References

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