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ENGLISH AND ENGLISHES: Penny Silva, 23 August 2012

From John Florio's *Florio his firste fruites* (1578):

May a man learne a language ſo
ſoone, by reading?
Yea ſir, a man may learne it.
Certis I wold not haue thought
it: what thinke you of this En-
gliſh tongue, tel me, I pray you?
It is a language that wyl do you
good in England, but paſſe
Douer, it is woorth nothing.
Is it not vſed then in other cõ-
treyes?
No ſir, with whom wyl you that
they ſpeake?
With Engliſh marchants.

Engliſh marchantes, when they
are out of England, it liketh
them not, and they doo not
ſpeake it.
But yet what thinke you of the
ſpeach, is it gallant and gen-
tle, or els contrary?
Certis if you wyl beleeue me, it
doth not like me at al, becauſe
it is a language confuſed, be-
ceeſed with many tongues: it
taketh many words of the la-
tine, & mo frõ the French, &
mo frõ the Italian, and many
mo frõ the Duitch, ſome alſo
frõ the Grecke, & frõ the Bri-
taine, ſo that if euery lãguage
had his owne wordes againe,
there woulde but a fewe re-
maine for Engliſh men, and
yet euery day they adde.
How is this thing poſsible?
It is true, and very true.

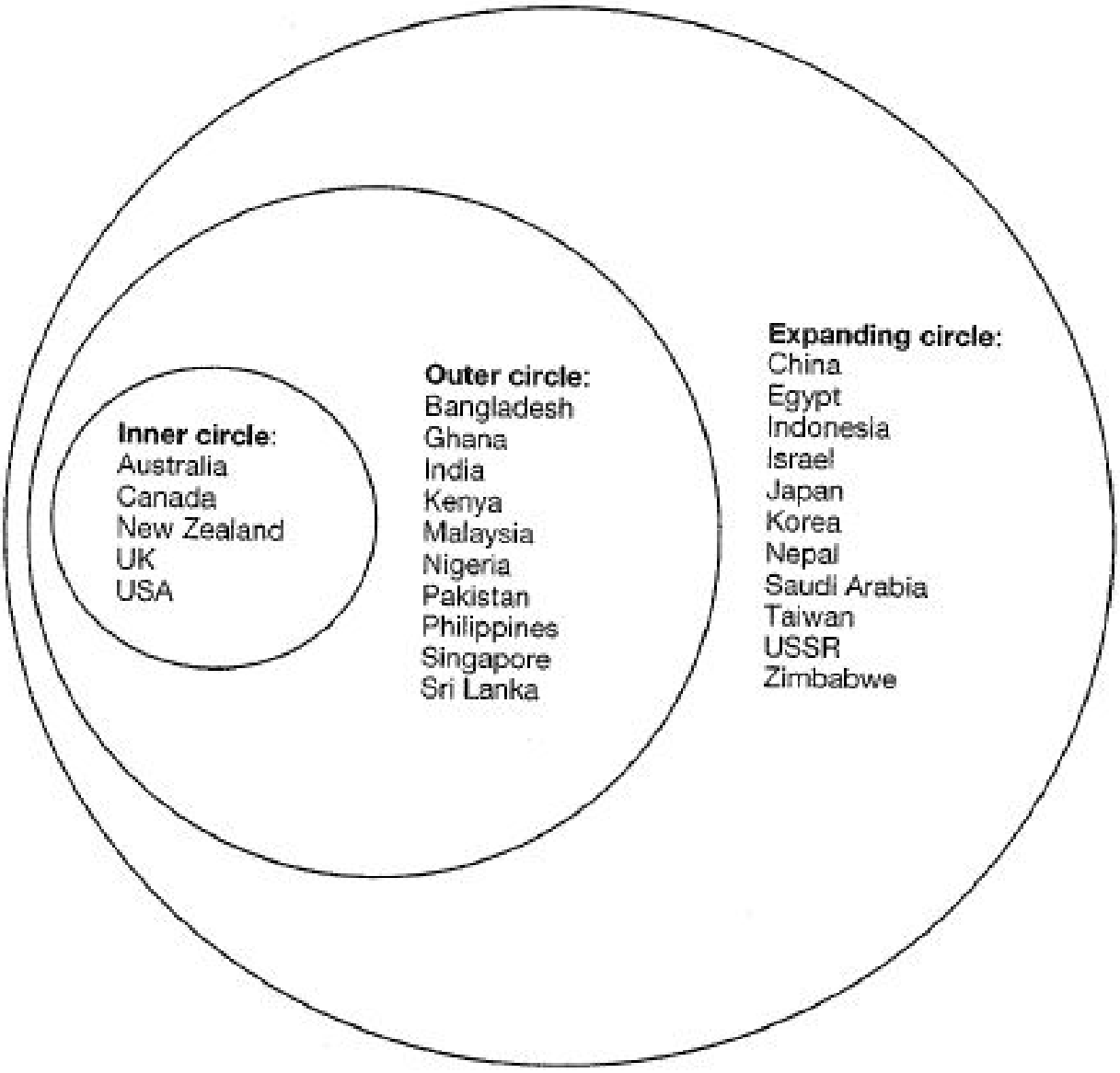


Figure 2.5 Kachru's concentric circles of English

From Kachru, Braj B. (1985) 'Standards, codification, and sociolinguistic realism: the English language in the outer circle' in Randolph Quirk and H. G. Widdowson (eds.), *English in the World*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Reproduced in Laurie Bauer (2002) *An Introduction to International Varieties of English* ii. p. 23 (Edinburgh University Press).

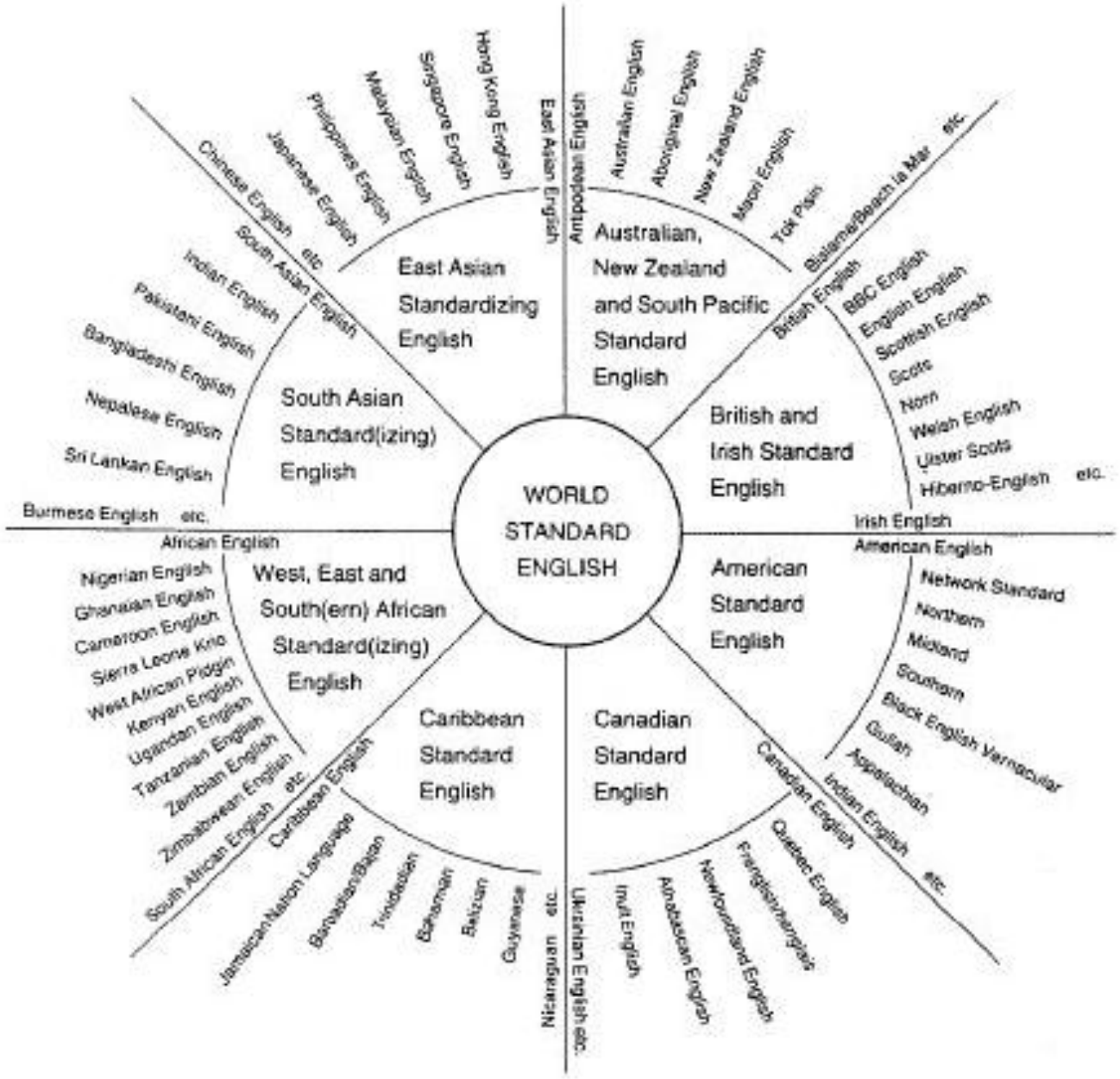
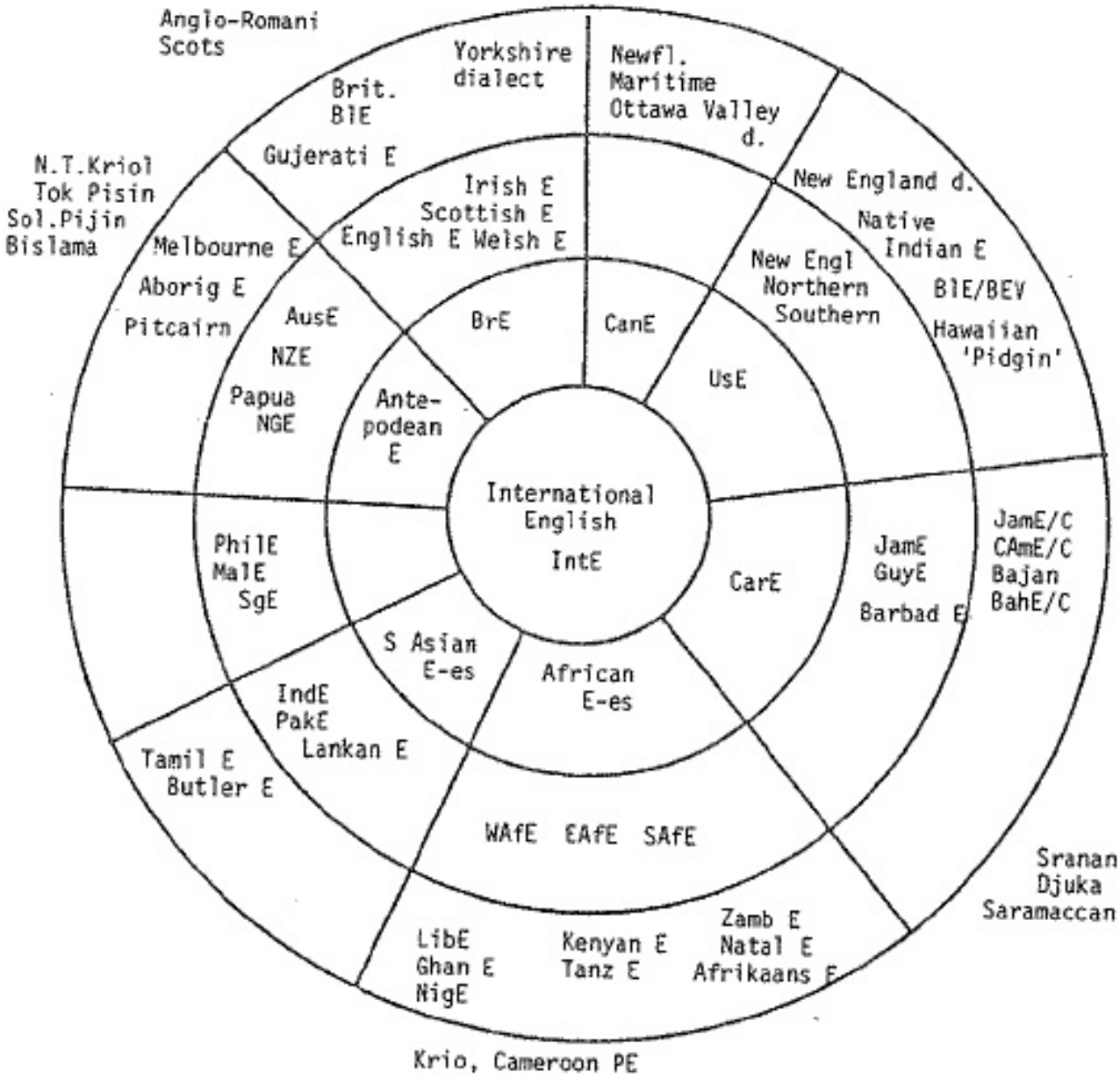


Figure 2.4 McArthur's model of Englishes

From McArthur, Tom (1987) 'The English Languages?' in *English Today* 11:9–11. Reproduced in Laurie Bauer (2002) *An Introduction to International Varieties of English* ii. p. 23 (Edinburgh University Press).



From Görlach, Manfred, *Studies in the History of the English Language*. Heidelberg: Winter. Reproduced in Laurie Bauer (2002) *An Introduction to International Varieties of English* ii. p. 21 (Edinburgh University Press).



From James Murray's 'General Explanations' in the front matter of the *Oxford English Dictionary* (ed. 1, 1933), p. xxviii.



(Penny Silva)

Foreign (in the OED)

á la mode

en fête

nil desperandum

Dialectal (regionalisms)

addle v./1, to earn or merit something, (northern England);

alcatote, a silly or foolish person (Devon),

handsmooth, completely, flatly, thoroughly (East Anglian);

mouldwarp, a mole (*Sc.* and northern);

snicket, an alleyway (northern) (called a *jigger* in Merseyside, a *pass* in *Sc.* and Irish English (north.), a *trance* or *vennel* (*Sc.*), a wynd (*Sc*. and *northern Eng*.).

bergie — regional (W. Cape)

titihoya — regional (KwaZulu-Natal)

Slang

Abyssinia — "I'll be seeing you"

AC/DC — bisexual

axeman — a guitarist

banjaxed (Irish) — ruined, destroyed

bovver boy (Brit.) — a hooligan or member of a skinhead gang

Examples of 'colonial' words in the OED

hartebeest, *karee*, *knobkerrie*, *laager*, *meerkat*, *outspan*, *paauw*, *tickey* from South Africa

boomerang, dingo, fossick, gibber, *kookaburra* from Australia

huia, *kahikatea*, *manuka*, and *Maori* from New Zealand

Questions

How should one treat the English of second-language speakers in dictionaries?

How does one decide which scientific and technical words are in common enough use for inclusion?

How much of the *local* English of regions of (say) South Africa does one include?

What factors make SAE different from the rest?

Will the different varieties of English within South Africa, the result of decades of apartheid and separate education, slowly merge into one South African English as children mix in schools and adults work together more freely? *Should* they merge?

What about the language of children? It is so ephemeral and difficult to document: how can we capture it? (SAE words include *arlie, arvie*, *doedoe, dabbies, ghoen, kiepie, puttysticks.*)

Is there a variety called 'Southern African English' which includes, for instance, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Swaziland, and Botswana? Do our Englishes overlap?

How can a large and inclusive English dictionary cover all international varieties of English efficiently, with limited resources and staff based in only two geographical areas?

How should dictionaries treat 'incorrectness'?

Where do the creole and pidgin Englishes fit in?

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