Defining English as a Lingua Franca (ELF)

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ACTIVITY 1

Before we begin, think about **your own experience** as a user of English, as well as the discussion in the '**English as a Lingua Franca**' section of the Course

- Based on **your own understanding** of the term '**English as a lingua franca**', what **key words or phrases** could be used to describe this **role** of English? Provide as many such key words or phrases as you can

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Definition 1

"[ELF is] a 'contact language' between persons who share neither a common native tongue nor a common (national) culture, and for whom English is the chosen foreign language of communication."

(Firth, 1996: 240)

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Definition 1: Key concepts

Contact language

"a **simplified variety of language** that develops in situations where most speakers have **no common language**, such as ports, trading posts, plantations, and colonial garrison towns. It generally **retains features of the varieties** that contribute to it, usually local vernaculars and one or more languages brought by traders, settlers, soldiers, and missionaries. It may also draw on **universal strategies for communicating** without a shared language."

(Concise Oxford Companion to the English Language. *Encyclopedia.com*)

Definition 2

"ELF interactions are defined as interactions between members of two or more different linguacultures in English, for none of whom English is the mother tongue."

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Definition 2: Key concepts

Linguaculture (or languaculture)

"a concept that focuses on **culture in language** or the **cultural dimensions of language**." (Risager, 2015: 595)

"The *langua* in languaculture is about **discourse**, not just about words and sentences. And the *culture* in languaculture is about **meanings** that include, but go well beyond, what the dictionary and the grammar offer." (Agar, 1994: 96; italics in the original)

Definition 3

"English as a Lingua Franca (...) refers, in a nutshell, to the world's most extensive contemporary use of English, in essence, English when it is used as a contact language between people from different first languages (including native English speakers)."

(Jenkins, 2013: 2)

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(Jenkins, 2013: 2)

ACTIVITY 2

Think about **your own experience** as a **user** as well as a **teacher** of English

- How would **you** define a '**native speaker**' and, in turn, a '**non-native speaker**' of English? What **similarities** and/or **differences** would you say there are between them?
- In general, what **role** do the images of a 'native' and a 'non-native speaker' of English play in **teaching and learning**?

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Definition 3: Key concepts

Native Speaker

"A person who learned to speak the language of the place where he or she was **born as a child** rather than learning it as a foreign language."

(https://www.merriam-webster.com)

"National identity should not be a basis of classification of speakers of an *international* language. The more English becomes an international language, the more the division of its speakers into 'native' and 'non-native' becomes **inconsistent**." (Brutt-Griffler and Samimy, 2001: 105)

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Definition 4

"The significance of ELF transcends the contact of any particular individual or group with English. ELF is not just a contact language where English is a domestic language or otherwise especially salient in a given community, but a non-local lingua franca, the means of communicating between people from anywhere in the world. Neither is its global weight restricted to elite usages in politics, international business or academia, but it is also employed by tourists, migrant workers, asylum seekers and just anyone in their daily lives over digital media."

(Mauranen, 2018: 7)

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3 phases in defining ELF

- **Phase 1:** focus on forms (pronunciation, lexicogrammar); possibility of identifying / codifying ELF varieties

- **Phase 2:** variability of ELF, ELF features, ELF transcends boundaries

- **Phase 3:** ELF within a framework of multilingualism, English as one among other languages, complex and emergent nature

(Jenkins, 2015)

ACTIVITY 3

Think about **your own experience** as a **user** and a **teacher** of English and the discussion provided so far about **English as a lingua franca (ELF)**

- What does **ELF mean to you**? Could you provide **your own** brief definition of this role of English?
- To **what extent**, **where** and **with whom** do **you** use ELF in your personal / professional life?
- To **what extent**, **where** and **with whom** do you think **your learners** use ELF in their own lives?

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Defining ELF – An overview

- Contact language

- Linguaculture: the cultural dimensions of language

- Native vs. non-native speakers of English
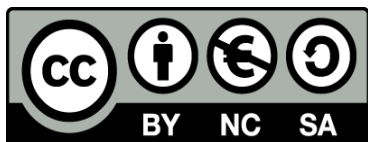
- ELF: Where? Who? What for?

The several phases of ELF:
ELF1 → ELF2 → ELF3

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**English as a Lingua Franca practices
for inclusive multilingual classrooms**

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