1.1.2 Key issues in using English as a Lingua Franca

Activities

Activity 1: Your experience as a user and teacher

Think about your own experience as a user and a teacher of English.

- In general, how do you view yourself as a user of English? What characteristics would you say may describe who you are as a user of this language?
- Who would you say English 'belongs' to? Why?
- To what extent would you say that you and your learners have the 'right' to think that English 'belongs' to you as well? Why?

Write your views in the text box below.

Activity 2: Defining terms

Have a look at the following terms and think about your own experience as a user and a teacher of English.

Standard English
Non-standard English
Correct English
Good English

- How would you define each of these terms?
- What characteristics would you say each of them has?

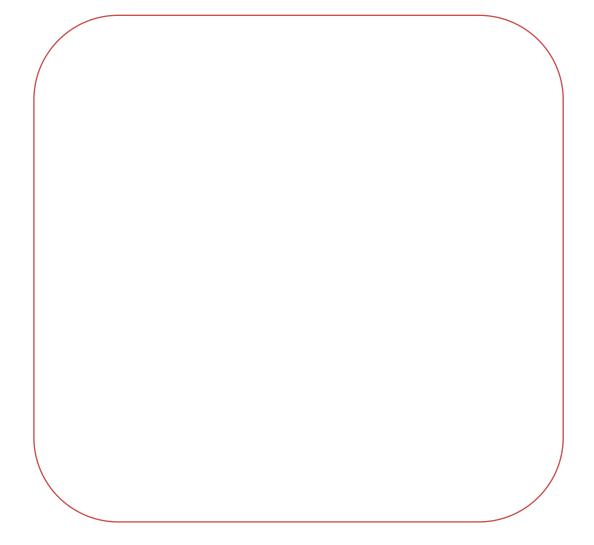Write your views in the text box below.

Activity 3: Non-native speaker listening exercise

Listen to the audio file "Non-native speaker recording", which contains a brief excerpt of a conversation between two non-native speakers of English. You can find it in the "Supplementary Materials" part of this Section.

After listening to the audio file, consider the following questions:

- Which communication strategies can you notice being employed by the speakers?
- In general, what do you think about the way these people use English?
- Would you ever use such a listening excerpt in your own classroom? Why or why not?

Write your views in the text box below.

Activity 4: Non-native speaker Eurovision interview

Watch the video "Sakis Rouvas Interview", where reporters from Malta interview Sakis Rouvas, a Greek singer, before the Eurovision Song Contest. You can find the link in the "Supplementary Materials" part of this Section.

After watching the video, consider the questions below.

- What do you think about the way the speakers use English? Would you describe them as competent users? Why or why not?
- To what extent is your own definition of 'Good English' illustrated in this interview?
- Have you ever used / Would you ever use such a video in your own classroom(s)? Why or why not?

Write your views in the text box below.