

1.2 Linguistic diversity

Activities

Activity 1: Variability in ELF

Based on your experience as a user and a teacher of English, think about the following questions:

- What does linguistic diversity mean to you? Can you provide a brief definition?
- To what extent is the country or area you live in linguistically diverse?
- What do you think about linguistic diversity in the classroom? Does it affect English learning in any way?

Write your views in the text box below.

Activity 2: Linguistic diversity around us

Think about your own context – do some search on the Internet if necessary. Regardless of level of language proficiency and whether the users are native or non-native, how many languages are used:

- in the country where you live?
- in your city/town/village?
- in your workplace?

Write your views in the text box below.

Activity 3: Linguistic diversity with English

Watch the video “World Englishes: Implications for International Communication and English Language Teaching” by Andy Kirkpatrick. You can find the link in the “Supplementary Materials” part of this Section.

- To what extent do you agree with Kirkpatrick’s view that there are often prejudices against some English varieties? Do you personally think some varieties have ‘higher’ status? Why or why not?
- How do you personally feel as regards variation in English language use? Do you welcome it or do view it perhaps as something undesired or even dangerous?

Write your views in the text box below.

Activity 4: Linguistic diversity at school

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

- In general, what would you say are the benefits and challenges of linguistic diversity around the world, especially as regards teaching multilingual classes?
- Among all English varieties that there are nowadays, which one(s) do you teach your own learners? Why?
- In your opinion, to what extent should learners be exposed to and aware of linguistic diversity? Why?

Write your views in the text box below.