

Learning about Global Englishes: Educational Video Project

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Overview

This project produced an educational documentary film entitled *World Englishes: Voices in Canada*, consisting of five episodes that are embedded in a website with additional information, including discussion questions and online resources. The target audience is mainly students who are studying about diversity of English or preparing to become English language teachers in Canada and abroad. The film aims to develop, assess, and transform viewers' knowledge of and attitudes toward linguistic and human diversity.

Rationale

As an international language, English is used by people from diverse backgrounds. Yet, there is a persistent belief that the best forms of English are standardized varieties spoken by native speakers from North America and England and that these varieties guarantee socioeconomic success. Moreover, these native speakers are often imagined as being White, leading to not only accent but also racial discrimination. This project counteracts these beliefs.

Overall Objectives of the Videos

1. Demonstrate global diversity of English
2. Show how the superiority of standardized English spoken by native speakers is reinforced, questioned, or resisted
3. Reveal people's views of and attitudes toward different varieties of English
4. Reveal their experiences of using their varieties of English in various settings
5. Explore how language and race intersect



<http://blogs.ubc.ca/worldEnglishesinCanada> (Note: Contents are work in progress)

Structure of the Film

The footage of the film comes from in-person or Zoom interviews that our team conducted. The film consists of the following five episodes with distinct themes generated as a result of our content analysis of the footage:

1. Linguistic diversity (06:30)
2. Standard English and language ideology (12:40)
3. Negative experiences (10:00)
4. Language and race (09:45)
5. Embracing diversity (11:00)

In addition, there will be a version that combines all the episodes into one video. English subtitles will be made available.

Supplementary Materials

The website includes pre-viewing and post-viewing discussion questions for each episode. Instructors can choose the questions suited for their class or they can develop their own questions or activities to meet the needs of the audience. A list of related online resources is included as well.

Students' Reactions

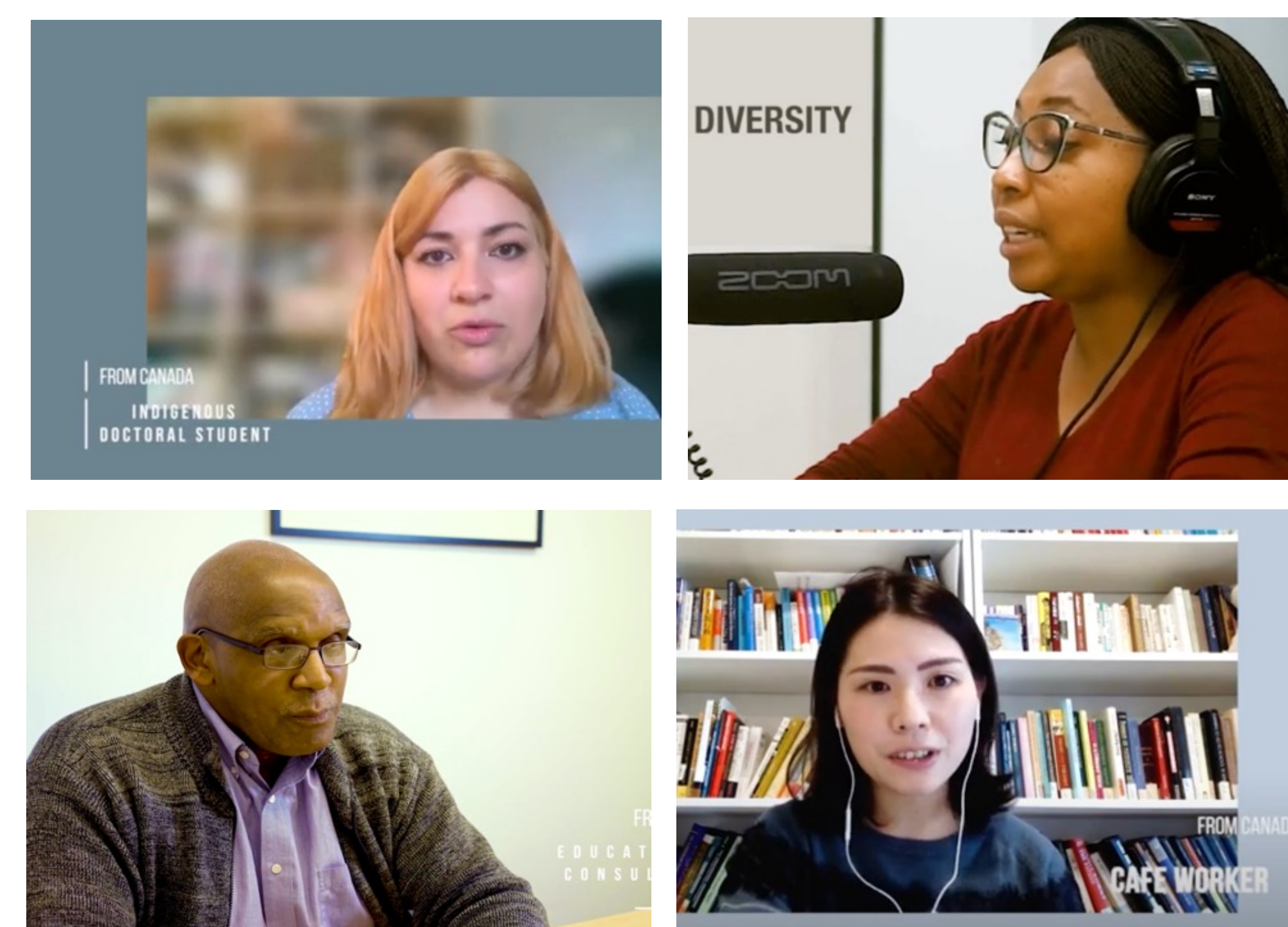
Different episodes were shown to graduate [GR] and undergraduate [UG] students in four different courses in Winter Term 2 of 2022/2023. Students were invited to react to selected questions. Their responses evidence how the videos facilitated reflection about the diversity of English and its array of intersections with other human attitudes, attributes, and sociomaterial circumstances:

"This video made me reflect how often I tend to assume people's backgrounds based on my first impression and their appearances. In addition, I tended to judge someone with their linguistic characteristics. I would like to always remind myself the fact that I always have biases" [GR]

"I know English is not White people's language, but in this video more people than I expected felt uncomfortable when they speak English. My perspective changed, and I will try to communicate without any prejudice." [UG]

"I realized how having different types of English accents not only validate one's identity but also promote potential for solidarity. I loved looking at different accents working not as their deficiency but rather as what completes them." [GR]

"From this episode, I realized that there are a lot of people who have same concerns about conversation in English, so I felt that I do not have to be afraid of my fear and I would like to speak with confidence without thinking if my English accent is good or bad." [UG]



Future Directions

We plan to share *World Englishes: Voices in Canada* widely across UBC and outside of UBC. The film will also be screened during the 2024 conference of the American Association for Applied Linguistics. The film can be used across diverse geographical and institutional locations. The educational impact of the film can be further investigated through research projects.



Related Scholarly Activities

We have produced the following publications:

Aoyama, R., Kajigaya, T., Takeda, Y., Kubota, R., & Deschambault (2023). On pedagogical applications of World Englishes: Stumbling blocks, stepping stones, and utilities of boundaries in ELT. R. Tierney, F. Rizvi & K. Ercikan (Eds.), *International Encyclopedia of Education* (4th ed.), volume 10, 825–836. Elsevier.

Kubota, R., Aoyama, R., Kajigaya, T., & Deschambault, R. (2022). Illuminating language users in the discourse of linguistic diversity: Toward justice-informed language education. *Educational Linguistics*. <https://doi.org/10.1515/eduling-2022-0011>

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