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THE CULTURAL AND INTERCULTURAL DIMENSIONS OF ENGLISH AS A LINGUA FRANCA

Edited by Prue Holmes (Durham University) and
Fred Dervin (University of Helsinki)

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This edited volume is exemplary in threading together two hitherto parallel intellectual traditions – Intercultural Communication Studies and English as a Lingua Franca – innovatively and critically through a constellation of theoretical and analytical synergies. The empirical case studies across diverse settings will no doubt pave the way for future research-cum-pedagogy in the above two traditions and their intersection.

Srikant Sarangi, Aalborg University, Denmark

This timely book fills a gap in thinking about interculturality by recognising that lingua francas are not cultural vacuums but that in all contexts of language use language and culture are fundamentally connected. The wide-ranging contributions in this collection open up new ways of thinking about lingua francas and cultures and is a must for anyone working in the field of intercultural understanding.

Anthony J. Liddicoat, University of South Australia, Australia

This is a rich and multifaceted volume that tackles the difficult question of the relation between interculturality and English as a Lingua Franca. By bringing two fields together, ELF and intercultural communication, that up to now have shown little interest in one another, the contributors to this volume are able to ask provocative questions, present innovative views and make bold suggestions that will benefit research in both ELF and intercultural communication.

Claire Kramsch, University of California, Berkeley, USA



Languages for Intercultural
Communication and Education

The Cultural and Intercultural Dimensions of English as a Lingua Franca

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This book investigates the cultural and intercultural aspects of English as a Lingua Franca (ELF). Authors discuss how 'culture' and the 'intercultural' can be understood, theorised and operationalised in ELF, and how the concepts can be integrated into formats of ELF-oriented learning and teaching. The various cultural connotations are also discussed (ideological, political, religious and historical) and whether it is possible to use and/or teach a lingua franca as if it were culturally neutral. The chapters consider the communication and pedagogical implications of the cultural and intercultural dimensions of ELF and offer suggestions for new directions in ELF research, pedagogy and curriculum development.

Prue Holmes is Reader in the School of Education at Durham University and Adjunct Professor at the University of Helsinki. Her research interests include intercultural communication and education and language education.

Fred Dervin is Professor of Multicultural Education at the University of Helsinki and holds a number of Associate and Adjunct Professorships elsewhere. His research interests include intercultural communication and education, intercultural competence, academic mobility and migration and Chinese education.

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Acknowledgments

Contributors

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Part I: The Interconnections and Inter-relationships between Interculturality and ELF

1. Karen Risager: Lingua Francas in a World of Migrations

2. Richard Fay, Nicos Sifakis and Vally Lytra: Interculturalities of English as a Lingua Franca: International Communication and Multicultural Awareness in the Greek Context

3. Will Baker: Culture and Language in Intercultural Communication, English as a Lingua Franca and English Language Teaching: Points of Convergence and Conflict

Part II: Grounding Conceptual Understandings of Interculturality in ELF Communication

4. Chris Jenks: Talking Cultural Identities into Being in ELF Interactions: An Investigation of International Postgraduate Students in the United Kingdom

5. Anne Kari Bjørge: Conflict Talk and ELF Communities of Practice

6. Jagdish Kaur: Intercultural Misunderstanding Revisited: Cultural Difference as a (Non) Source of Misunderstanding in ELF Communication

7. Tiina Räisänen: Finnish Engineers' Trajectories of Socialization into Global Working Life: From Language Learners to BELF Users and the Emergence of A Finnish Way of Speaking English

8. Eric Henry: The Local Purposes of a Global Language: English as Intracultural Communicative Medium in China

Part III: Commentary

John O'Regan: Intercultural Communication and the Possibility of English as a Lingua Franca

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