

# **Bangladesh's position in the Dynamic Model of Postcolonial Englishes and in the Extra- and Intra-Territorial Forces Model**

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Bangladeshi English (BdE) is a South Asian variety of English (SAE) that has received little attention in the literature on World Englishes, unlike other neighbouring varieties such as Indian English, one of the most extensively researched in the field. The aim of the current paper is to fill this gap by exploring the development of BdE since it entered the linguistic ecology of the territory in the 17<sup>th</sup> century to its present-day status, from attitudinal, functional and structural perspectives. In particular, the analysis will apply the parameters of two different models for the analysis of World Englishes: the *Dynamic Model of Postcolonial Englishes* (Schneider 2003, 2007) and the *Extra- and Intra-Territorial Forces (EIF) Model* (Buschfeld & Kautzsch 2017).

Preliminary results on the evolution of BdE show that after independence in 1971, Bengali (the national language) was promoted as a sign of nationalism and local identity, to the detriment of English. Since then, and as contemplated in Schneider's (2007: 57) model, the linear progression of English in the country has been interrupted, leading to a decrease in proficiency. This places BdE between phases 2 and 3 of the Dynamic Model. In fact, Bangladesh has been described as falling "between an ESL and an EFL country" (Kachru 1994: 547) and BdE has been considered a foreign language rather than a nativized variety (Hoffmann, Hundt & Mukherjee 2011: 271). However, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century there has been a revival of English as a result of its promotion as the primary medium of education with the aim of creating a "strong and progressive knowledge-based and information technology-oriented society" (Chowdhury & Kabir 2014: 12). One of the key forces in the EIF Model, globalization, can account for the revival of English in Bangladesh. Thus, the EIF Model complements the Dynamic Model in that (i) it accounts for varieties whose linear progression has been interrupted and therefore do not comply with the unidirectional evolution expected here, and (ii) it includes current determinants of change absent from the Dynamic Model, such as the influence of globalization on varieties of English across the world.

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