



### Attitudes Towards English as an International Language in English Major Freshmen Students

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The notion of English as an International Language (EIL) recognizes that different norms exist for the use of English around the world. These norms include different accents when speaking the language, as well as the acceptance of all cultures. EIL perceives the English language as belonging to all countries around the world and is against the concept of nativespeakerism. The purpose of this qualitative study was to delve into the attitudes of freshmen students majoring in English about the notion of EIL, including the acceptance of various accents and cultures outside Inner Circle Countries. Thereby, a group of students of English Language and Literature studying in their first year were interviewed. The number of participants was not set a priori, and with 18 students, the saturation point was gained. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual interviews were held. The interviews were semi-structured and investigated the attitudes of the participants towards EIL in terms of accent and culture. The themes extracted from the interviews included the following: Superiority of American/British accents, Superiority of American/British cultures, and Disagreement with the localization of ELT. The findings overall revealed that freshmen students of English do not agree with EIL and are very much in favor of nativespeakerism. Thus, the results demonstrated that freshmen students' way of thinking is not in line with the current trends of English learning around the world. University instructors and material designers should take this into account, especially for conversation classes, which are usually in the first two semesters of the B.A. curriculum. They can be good opportunities to practice the principles of EIL and pave the way for a change of attitude in the students' forthcoming years of study.

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