

International Communication – An Alternative Model to ELF

Chia Suan Chong

International House London 

business training

excellence

London

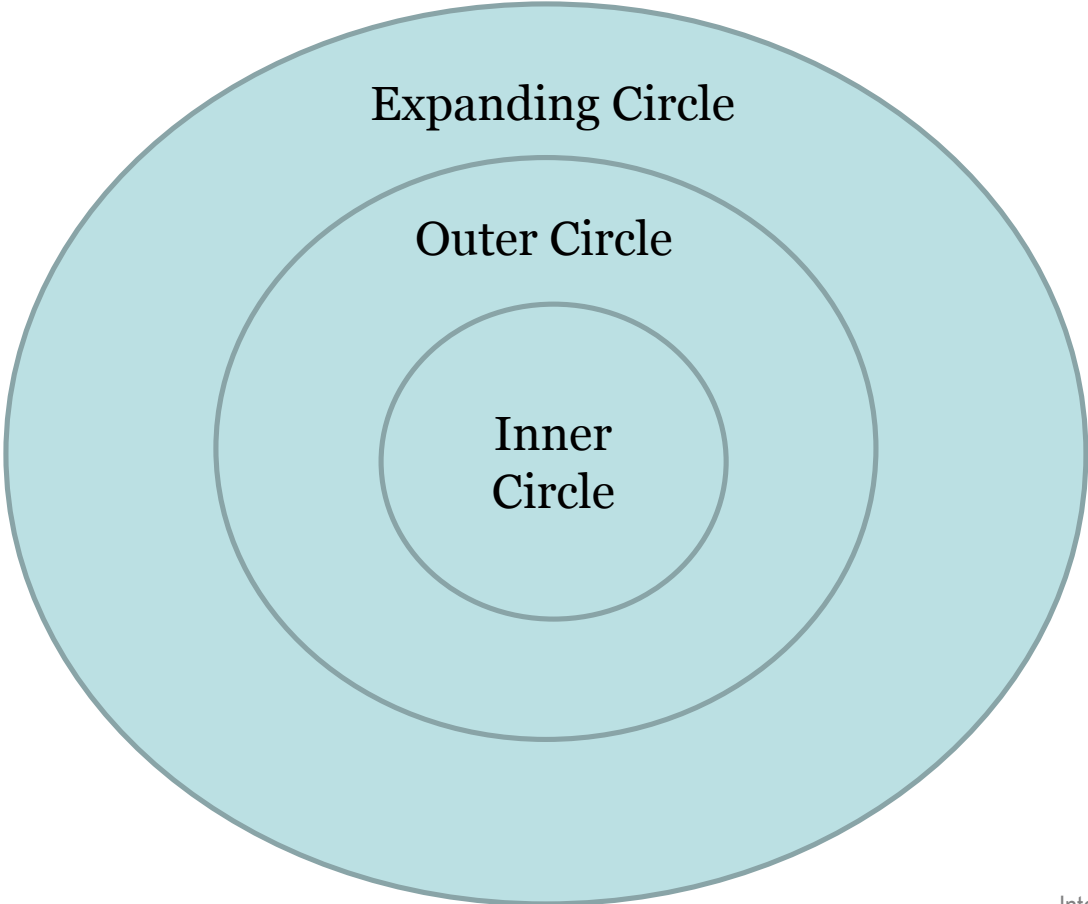
English language


international

- What is ELF?
- Some flaws in the discussions on ELF
- An alternative model
- Implications for business English teaching

What is ELF?

Kachru



International House London 

What is ELF?

Jennifer Jenkins

- 85% of English language use is NNS-NNS
- ELF – a variety in its own right
- Learning to speak like NS is ‘unnecessary, unrealistic & harmful’.
- Codification of NNS English - VOICE
- Whose standard is the standard?

International House London



business training

London

English language

excellence

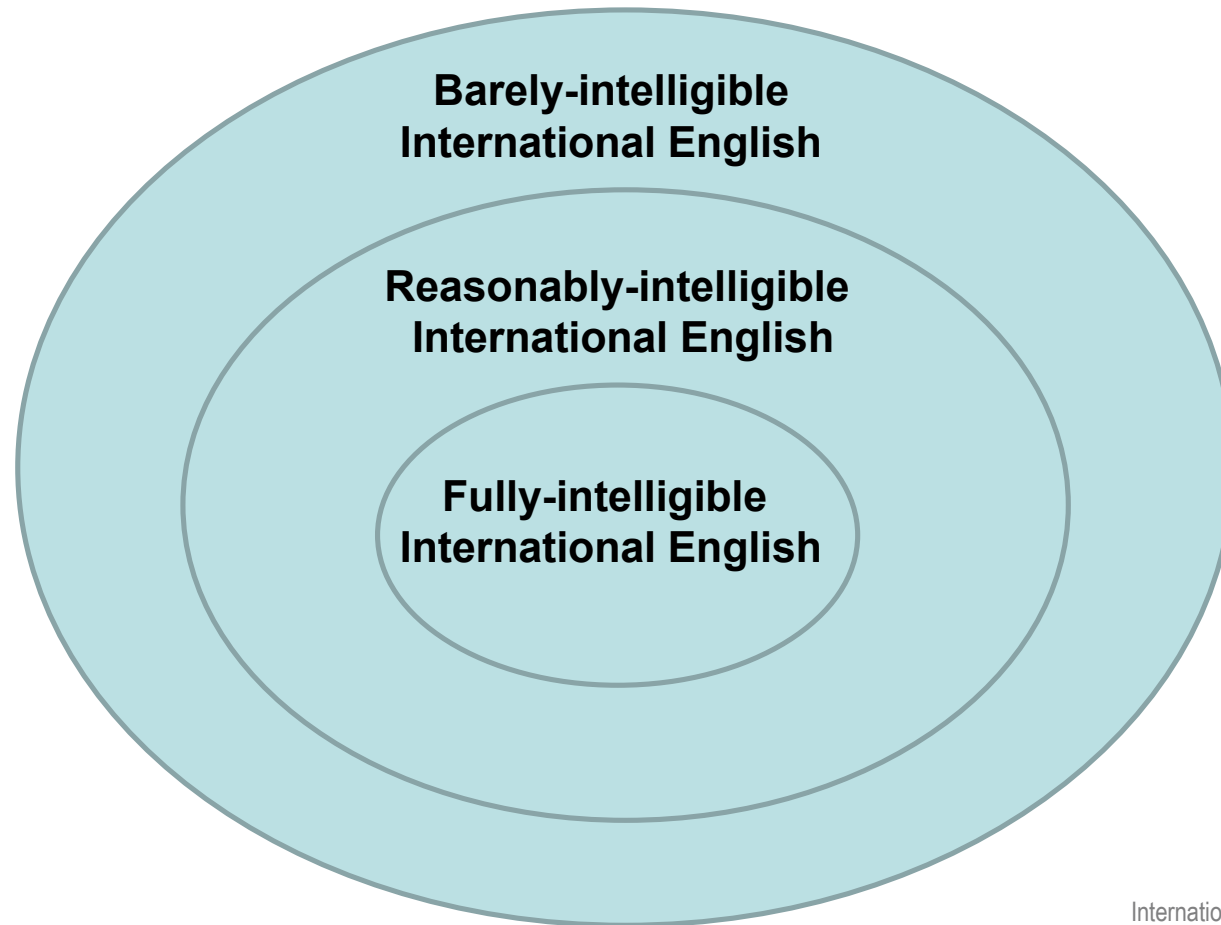
international

Flaws in the discussions of ELF

- Identity Issues:
Mother tongue vs EFL
- Intelligibility Issues :
Divergence vs Convergence
- Competence Issues:
Productive vs Receptive
- Communication Issues:
Basic meanings vs Real- life use of language

An Alternative Model of Speaker Types

Emmerson & Modiano



International House London 

business training

excellence

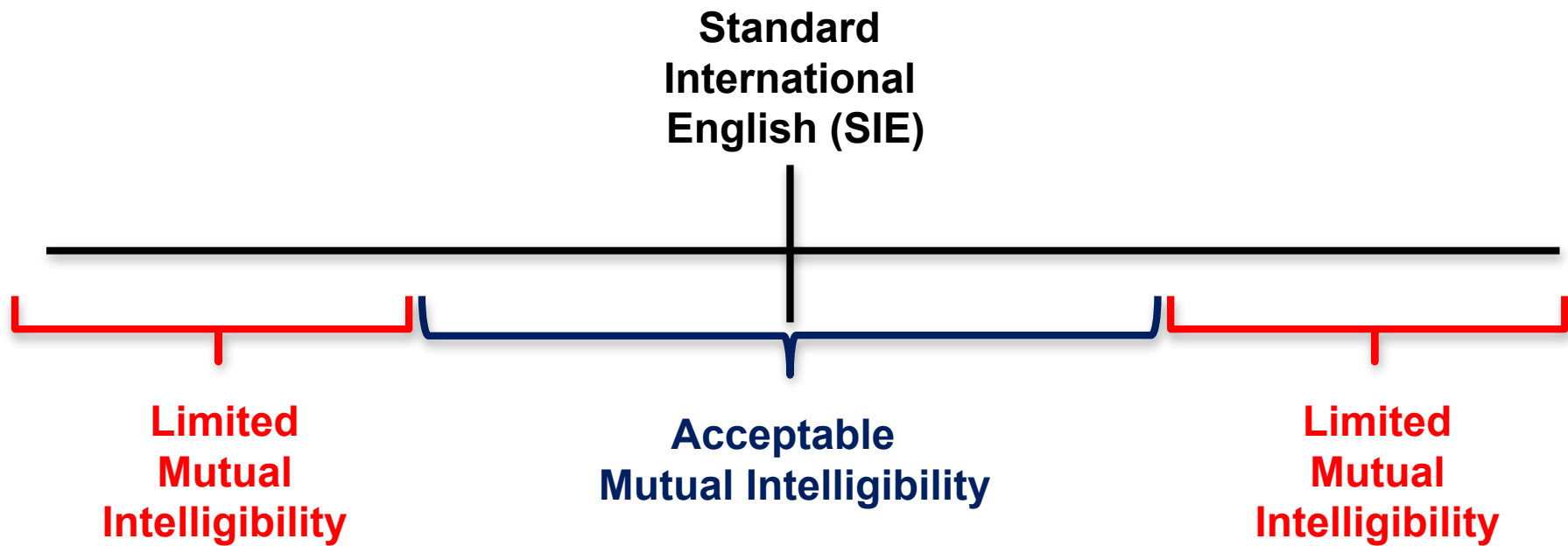
London

English language

international

An Alternative Model of Pedagogy

Lowe and Chong



An Alternative Model of Pedagogy

ELF (Pragmatic International English)

- allowed in class but not used as standard
- pragmatic international communication only

SIE (Standard International English)

- Target 1 for productive purposes
- Approximately FCE, IELTS 6, CEF Mid B2

SNSE (Standard Native Speaker English)

- Target 2 for productive purposes
- Approximately CPE, IELTS 8.5, CEF Upper C2

Implications in English Language Teaching

Target 1, Target 2 and Off the Radar

Selection Criteria

Frequency

Surrender Value

Ease of Learning

Register

Implications in English Language Teaching

Target 1, Target 2 and Off the Radar

Sources of Information

- Corpus
- Coursebooks & Reference Books
- Tests
- Practised Intuition

Implications in English Language Teaching

Examples from Coursebooks

- ...was reckoned to...
- ...got lumbered with...
- an unmitigated disaster
- She'll do her nut if she catches you
- I was lugging her suitcases around
- Stop faffing around
- ...got mangled...
- ...was knackered.

Implications in English Language Teaching

Making Lexical Choices

Target 1

How are you doing?

Everything's going to be fine.

a small problem

exhausted

awful

rebellious

shocked

to make fun of sb

Target 2

What's up?

Everything's going to turn out peachy.

a setback

worn out

appalling

fiesty

dumbfounded

to mock sb

Off the Radar

How are you diddling?

She'll be apples.

a snag

knackered

the dog's breakfast

bolshy

gobsmacked

to take the mickey of sb

International House London



business training

London

English language

excellence

international

Target 1

As far as I'm concerned,...

The most important thing is...

I see what you mean.

It was absolutely certain that...

We're in agreement.

It'll never happen.

...in an impossible position

Be patient.

Target 2

Arguably,...

It all comes down to...

I see where you're coming from.

It was taken granted that...

We're on the same page.

It'll never come into fruition.

...between a rock and a hard place

Bear with us.

Off the Radar

I'm going to stick my neck out and say...

It all boils down to...

I get your drift.

It was a foregone conclusion that...

We're singing from the same hymn sheet.

It'll never see the light of day.

...between the devil and the deep blue sea

Hold on to your horses.

International House London

