

## **The changing shape of English in 2020: How should we teach it?**

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century English is an international language: A worldwide mode of communication used by both native- and non-native speakers (Modiano 1999). And non-native speakers are now the majority: Of the estimated 1.5 billion users of English worldwide (Graddol 2006), more than half learned to use it as a second/foreign language. So learners of English are just as likely to use their skills with other multilingual users of English as an additional language as they are with native speakers of English. This raises questions about how English should best be taught to learners who need to be aware of how the language is used outside 'the Anglosphere', and how they can best communicate with other multilingual English users.

My presentation therefore explores a range of practical methods for supplementing existing models of English with a localised 'English as an international language' strand that reflects how English is used in contexts where most users are not native English speakers. These include: Using speakers of international English as a model in listening activities; adapting textbooks and other materials to include examples of international English; and knowledge of strategies which speakers of English as an international language use to optimise communication despite limitations in English proficiency.

### **References:**

Graddol, D. (2006). *English Next* (Vol. 62). London: British Council.

Modiano, M. (1999). International English in the global village. *English Today*, 15(2), 22-28.

### **Biography:**

Dr Ian Walkinshaw is a senior lecturer in applied linguistics and TESOL in the School of Humanities, Languages and Social Science at Griffith University, where he teaches into the Master of TESOL program. He previously worked in New Zealand, Japan, Britain and Vietnam. Ian's research explores how English is learned, taught and used in East and South East Asia. His most recent work is the co-edited book *English Medium Instruction in Higher Education in Asia-Pacific* (Springer, 2017).