

VIEWPOINT

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New Perspectives English?

- Me & my research
- English as a Lingua Franca Check up:
facts & views
- Group conclusion



Me & My Research

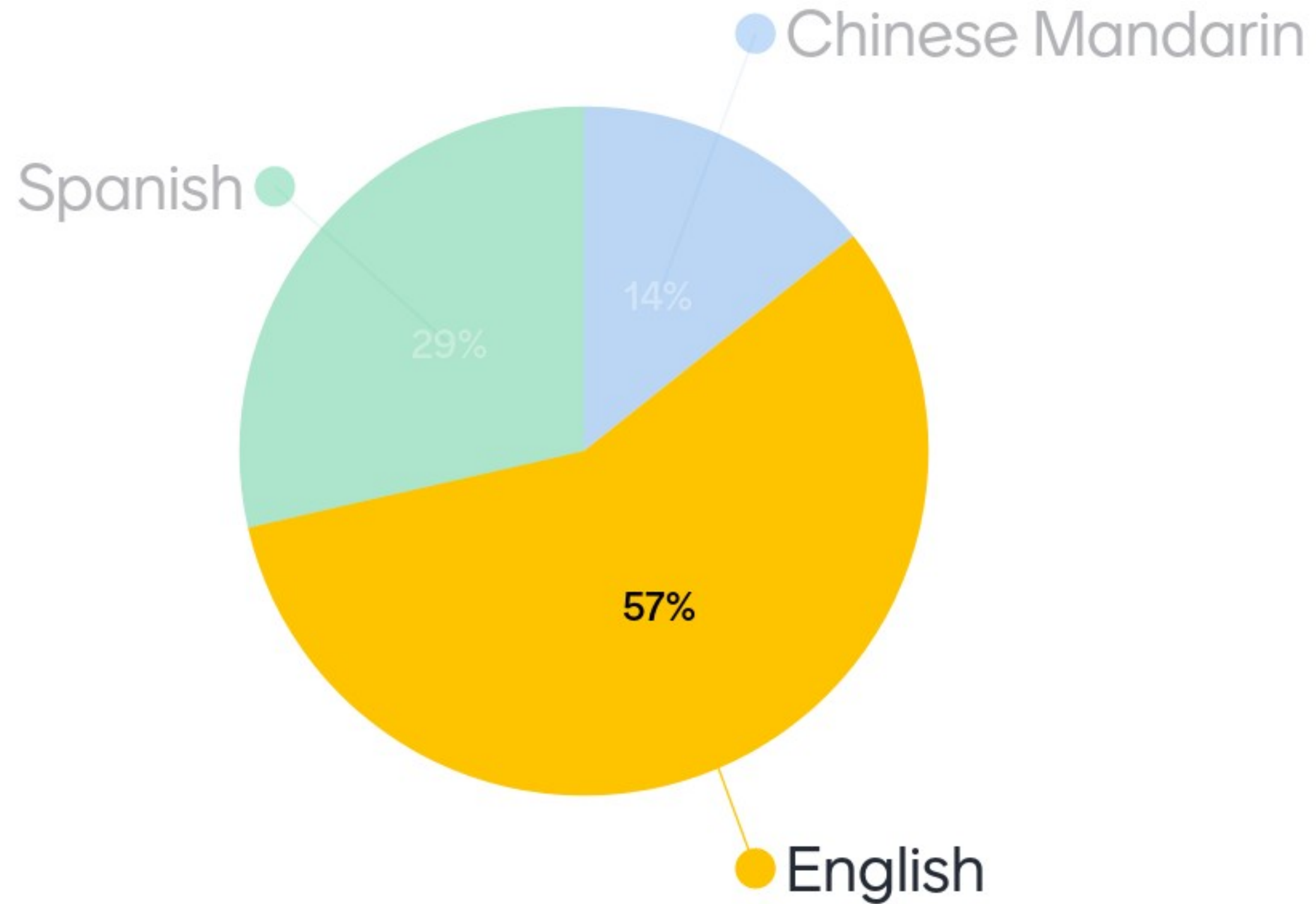
- Dr. Warda Nejjari: *warda.nejjari@ru.nl*
- English as a lingua franca (ELF)
- Accentedness sociolinguistics
- Professional communication contexts
- From language trainer, programme manager to assistant professor



ELF Check Up: Facts & Views



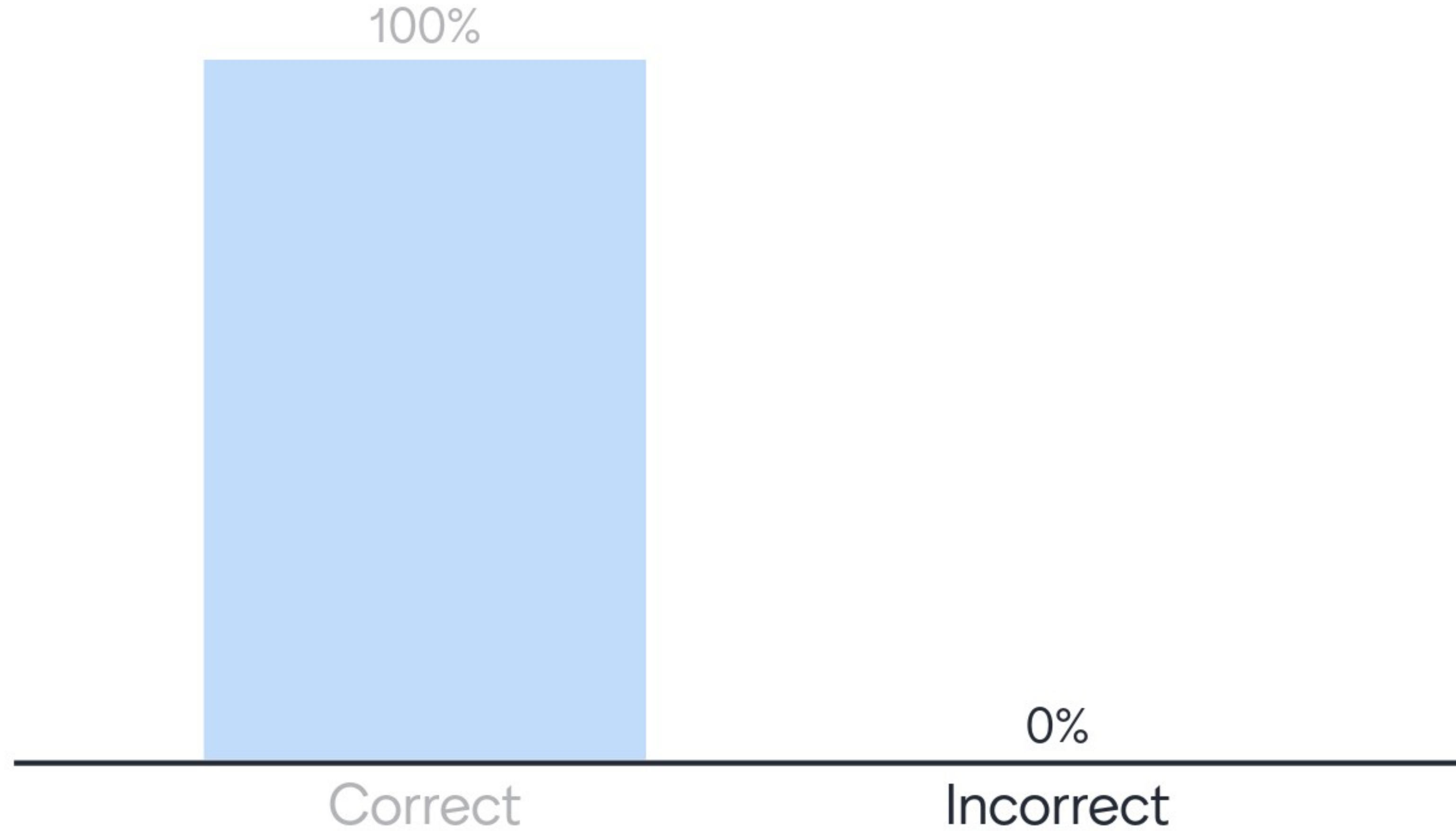
The most widely spoken language?



Ethnologue/ Berlitz state:

- 1. English 1.5 B / 1,132 M
- 2. Chinese Mandarin 1.1 B/ 1,117M
- 3. Hindi 602.2 M /615 M
- 4. Spanish 548.3 M / 534 M
- 5. French 274.1 M / 280 M

Most ELF speakers are L2 English speakers



Most English speakers are L2 English speakers

Estimates range: about 75% are L2 English

<http://www.ethnologue.com/guides/ethnologue200> or

<https://www.berlitz.com/blog/most-spoken-languages-world>

What do these stats tell you about English?

It's very open to change.

No one country owns English

Global language

English has become a worldwide language of communication

English is the universal language.

Important for international communication

Learning and teaching English has changed because the focus has shifted from Britain to English as a global community

There are a lot of varieties of English

English as a language and ELF

- Must be useful (online & offline) in many contexts
- Many users, thus many varieties of learners and English
- Historically unique

Traditional views English Education, British Council 2013

'There is therefore a job to be done. There is a need for high-quality teaching of English even more than ever, if not to protect the purity or integrity of the language, then to ensure that the diverse dialects that are being allowed to flourish are clear about the source code from which they are diverging and share enough common elements to 'interoperate.'

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/english-effect-report-v2.pdf>



Changed perspectives? British Council 22-25

'Through our work in English language teaching (ELT) and assessment, we support a student-centred approach to learning, helping build core skills in critical thinking and shaping new ideas.

That is why we are working to grow the UK's reputation as a leader and trusted partner in English teaching, learning and assessment – both in our own teaching centres and in schools, universities, businesses and homes worldwide.'

https://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/corporate_plan_2022-25.pdf



Traditional research perspectives

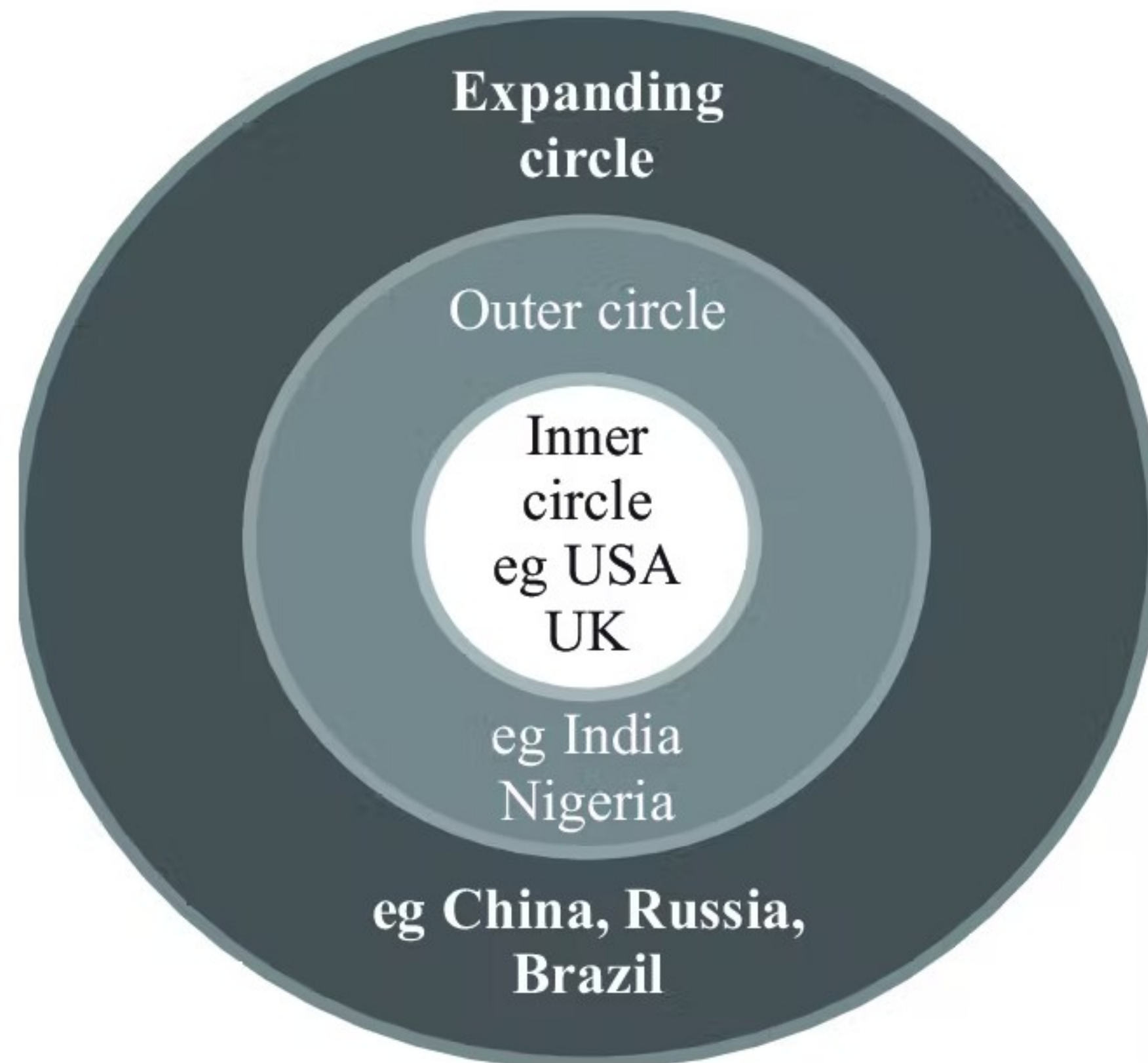
- Target language is L1 and all that deviates = incorrect, ineffective
- Core intelligibility = L1 foundation for learners
- Monolingual/ monocultural brain = default human brain, best for schoolgoing children (still politics/ education; home language restrictions)
- Postwar years: toddler's brain struggle with more than 1 language



Changed research perspectives

- 1960s onward, also benefits of bilingualism
- As learners, babies already deepen language knowledge: L1 is deepest
- One language store in brain: bilinguals code-switch between languages
- Monolinguals have quicker access (m-seconds) to richer vocabulary
- Bilinguals see puzzles more easily from another's point of view
- Suggested: bilingualism may delay onset of dementia up to four years
- Accentuatedness appears social categorization mechanism, stronger than race

L2 English alternative research perspectives (English L2)



Kachru's Concentric Circles of English

Categorization: define L1, L2; language spread history & function.

Kachru, B.B. (1985) "Standard, Codification and Sociolinguistic Realism: The English Language in the Outer Circle," in R. Quirk and H. Widdowson (eds) English in the World: Teaching and Learning the Language and Literatures, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 11–30.



Changed research perspectives

- L2 English speakers/ varieties are the norm
- New ELF speech community (no traditional language norms)
- Communicative effectiveness matters (adjusted vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation)
- L2 English speakers as language experts, not L1



The 'real' world?

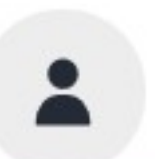
- Increased global competition
- Major corporations, universities, government increasingly need bilinguals, multilinguals
- E.U. strong focus on multilingualism, multiculturalism
- Global war on talent, global talent pool
- Emergence of hybrid teams/ cultures: creativity, innovation
- English dominates in all contexts, but multilingual is best

Accentedness research & ELF perspectives

- Accentedness is social categorization mechanism: accent discrimination
- Accent one of the first things heard, difficult adult learner
- Non-nativeness versus nativeness, non-standardness versus standardness
- Listeners generally good at L1 versus L2, standard versus non-standard
- Research generally focused on L1 listeners: L2 speaker loses social status, not likeability
- L2 listeners can be tolerant, also intolerant, but can prefer L2 (in several contexts)
- Familiarity aids comprehension & intolerance



Main take away? New perspectives gained? L2 English speakers' leverage?



Thank you!

