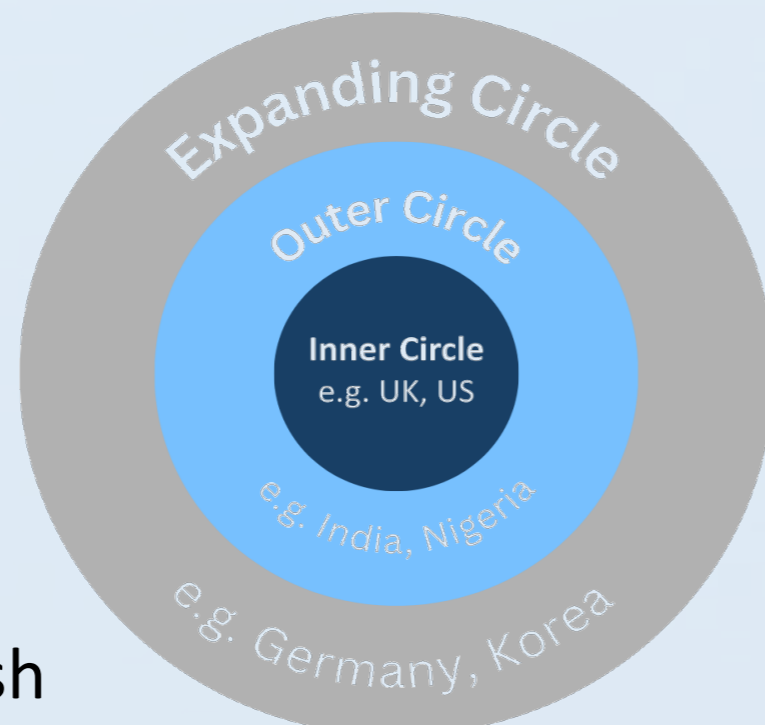


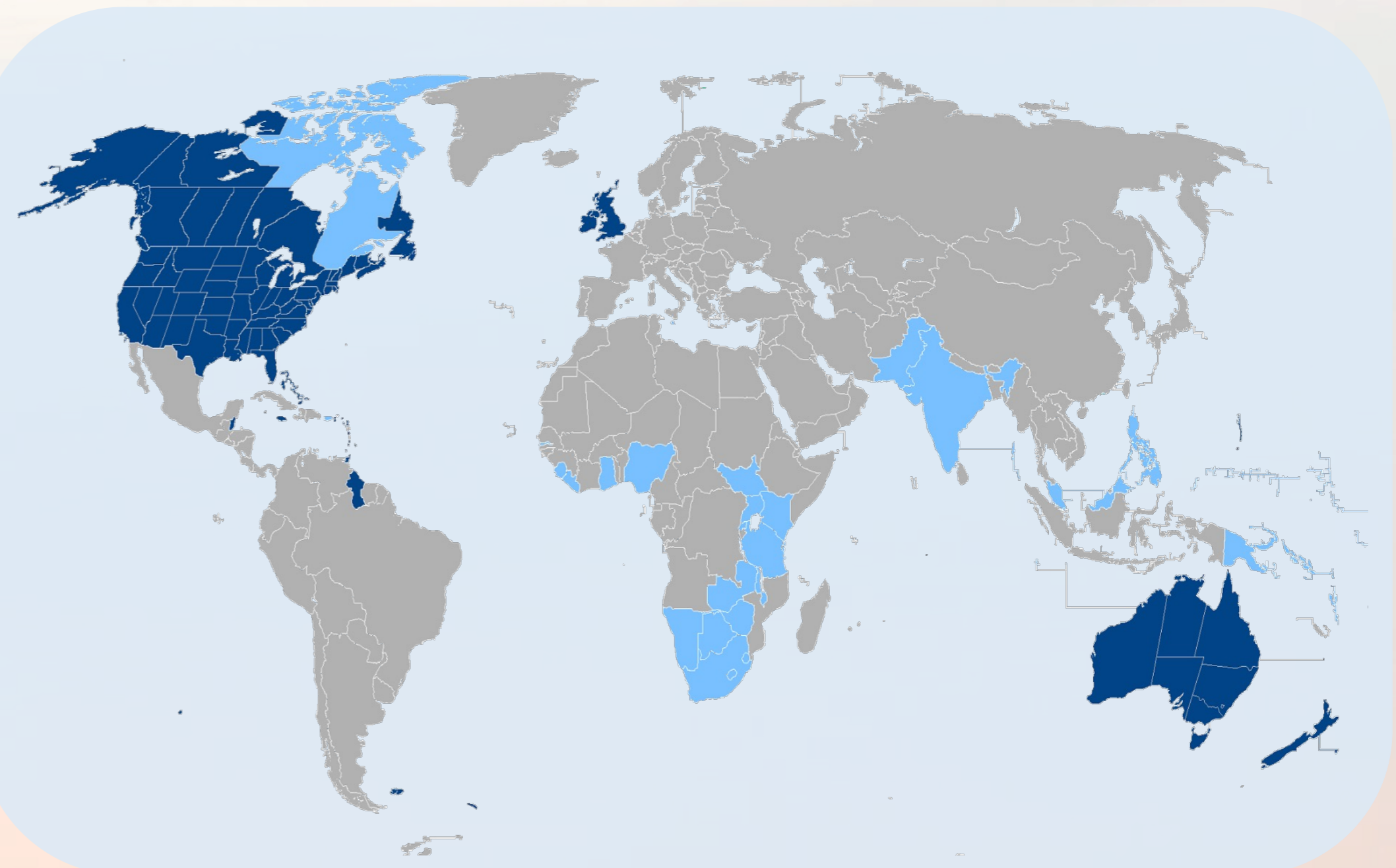
Varieties of English around the World

ENGLISH ENGLISHES

- English is a **pluricentric** language
- **Englishes** emerged through history, contact, and multilingualism
- **World Englishes** is a framework for studying the global diversity of English



- 🎓 **All Englishes are of equal value, and underrepresented ones deserve more visibility**
- 🎓 **At BAEL, we aim to document, analyze, and promote diverse English varieties**



Accent Discrimination

- As part of the **ERASMUS+ project CIRCE**, German students rated and commented on different English accents
- Aim: Determine nature and severity of accent prejudices



Can you guess which variety each person is speaking?



Respondents' answers

Standard British accent: "drinks tea and biscuit for breakfast"

Standard American English: "votes for trump"

African American English: "Er ist schwarz"

Indian English: "helo, your computer has virus"

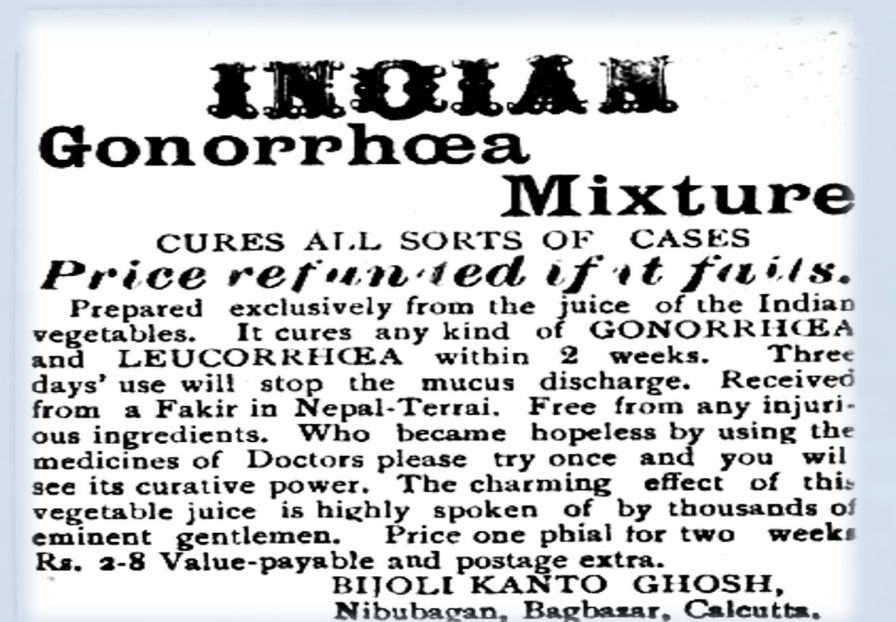
- 🎓 **Judging someone based on their accent is a form of discrimination like racism or sexism**
- 🎓 **Mutual intelligibility is most important**
- 🎓 **There are no inherently good or bad accents!**

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References: Fuchs, R., Wiltshire, C., & Sarmah, P. (2025). The role of English in the linguistic ecology of Northeast India. In P. Siemund, G. Stein, & M. Vida-Mannl (Eds.), *World Englishes in their local multilingual ecologies* (Vol. 9, pp. 291–316). John Benjamins. <https://doi.org/10.1075/hslid.9.13fuc>
Moral, D. (1994). North-East India as a linguistic area. *The Mon-Khmer Studies Journal*, 27, 43–53.

Corpus of Historical Indian English (CoHind)

- A large digital collection of **Indian and British newspaper texts** (1780s–2010s)
- Size: Already **1.8 million** words processed; final goal **6.9 million** words
- Types of communities: **Indigenous Indian** newspapers, **settler/Anglo-Indian** newspapers, **British** newspapers
- Goal: Document how IndE has changed over the last 200+ years and provide empirical evidence for the field of World Englishes



English in Northeast India

- Part of **DFG-funded Research Unit**: 7 projects in 7 countries
- Aim: Investigate the role of English in the multilingual region of Northeast India
 - Around **220 languages** from three different language families spoken (Moral, 1994)
 - **English** spoken in school, administration, as lingua franca (Fuchs et al., 2025)
 - Results will shed light on the effects of a **multilingual environment** on the **locally spoken English variety**
- **PhD thesis**: The sociolinguistics of English in Northeast India: Dominant language constellations and lexicogrammatical complexity (Tjorven Halves)

