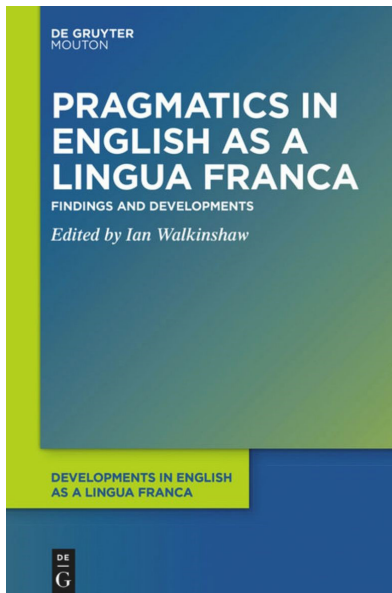


BOOK REVIEW



Title:	Pragmatics in English as a Lingua Franca: Findings and Developments
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Reviewers:	Wannapa Trakulkasemsuk, <i>King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Thailand</i>

The book “Pragmatics in English as a Lingua Franca: Findings and Developments” by Ian Walkinshaw, published in 2022, is a collection of chapters by leading experts in the field of pragmatics in English as a lingua franca (ELF). The book addresses both general theoretical work on pragmatics in ELF and recent findings on ELF pragmatics in the Asian region. The book is divided into three parts:

- Part 1: Developments in ELF pragmatic theory
- Part 2: Pragmalinguistic studies in English as a Lingua Franca
- Part 3: Sociopragmatic studies in English as a Lingua Franca

Part 1 begins with “Accommodation in ELF: Where from? Where now? Where next?” by Jennifer Jenkins. This chapter discusses accommodation theory in communication, including the concepts of ‘convergence’ and ‘divergence’, which are key to effective communication. Various studies related to accommodation in ELF are showcased. Findings from previous studies have demonstrated that ELF users are motivated to adjust their communication to be better understood by their interlocutors, and their adjustments do not always conform to native English norms. The chapter concludes by suggesting four areas for future research on ELF accommodation: higher education, refugee/asylum-seeking encounters, ELF couples, and social media.

The second chapter in Part 1 is “Pragmatic strategies in ELF communication: Key findings and a way forward” by Jagdish Kaur. Pragmatic strategies are defined as the strategies that speakers deploy to negotiate meaning in interaction and facilitate communication in ELF contexts. The author argues that pragmatic strategies in ELF communication can be categorized into two main categories: ‘comprehension-enhancing pragmatic strategies’ and ‘rapport and solidarity-promoting strategies’. These categories are further elaborated with examples from previous studies. The author concludes that there is room for future studies in this area and that the

findings will greatly contribute to English language pedagogy by providing learners with strategies to enhance their English communication.

The third chapter, “From cross to inter to trans - cultural pragmatics on the move: the need for expanding methodologies in lingua franca research” by Marie-Luise Pitzl, outlines the strong relationship between pragmatics and intercultural communication in ELF research. The author highlights the use of ELF corpora and corpus-based approaches in research and discusses the move from inter- to transcultural studies. The concept of ‘translanguaging’ is mentioned to encapsulate the multilingual communication reality where there are no boundaries among languages and cultures. Three case studies on different types of multilingual practices are presented.

The last chapter in Part 1 presents a research study entitled “(Im)politeness in video-mediated first conversations amongst speakers of English as a lingua franca” by Michael Haugh. The author argues that ELF speakers might focus on content understanding and can tolerate ‘abnormal’ or ‘non-standard’ behaviors. The study investigates the use of conversational openings and closings by ELF speakers, with data taken from the Corpus of Video-Mediated English as a Lingua Franca Conversations (ViMELF). The findings illustrate that “ELF speakers do not orient to L1 norms and are inclined to let it pass when faced with seemingly non-standard behaviors in interactions”. The author concludes that patterns of (im)politeness in ELF interactions can be situationally dependent.

Part 2 presents three research studies on pragmatolinguistic studies in ELF. The first study, “The pragmatics of other-initiated repair in ELF interactions among Southeast Asians” by Christine Lewis and David Deterding, explores how requests for repair are initiated and responded to when miscommunication occurs. The data were collected from 41 ELF speakers from nine Southeast Asian countries who attended two discussion tasks. Different types of OIRs were identified, and the speakers (repairers) used one or more strategies to fix misunderstandings. The authors suggest that the success of the repairs may depend on the speakers’ level of English proficiency.

The second study, “Pragmatic strategies of Asian ELF users in institutional settings” by Ke Ji, uses data from 18 recordings of interactions from ACE (Asian Corpus of English). The study aims to identify communicative strategies employed by Asian ELF users, including lexical suggestion, interlocutor explicitness strategy, self-rephrase strategies, and dealing with misunderstanding/non-understanding.

The last study in Part 2, “Interjections in spoken ELF interactions” by Alan Thompson, uses data from ACE to show that Asian ELF users are less likely to use interjections to express emotions. The reasons for the lack of interjections might be because users are uncertain about their precise meaning, because Asian speakers may prefer other syntactic strategies transferred from their first language, or due to the limited contexts, genres, and registers of the data.

Part 3 consists of three sociopragmatic studies and a chapter on future directions in ELF pragmatics. The first study, “You’re very rich, right?: Personal finance as an (in)appropriate or

(im)polite conversational topic among Asian ELF users” by Ian Walkinshaw, Grace Youe Qi, and Todd Milford, investigates how Asian ELF users talk about their personal finances. The data were retrieved from ACE and compared with data from VOICE. In Western culture, discussing personal finance might be considered taboo, but it may be more acceptable among Asian ELF users. However, the authors caution against overgeneralization or stereotyping.

The second study in Part 3, “From SLA pragmatics to ELF pragmatics: (Re)conceptualizing norms of appropriateness” by Naoko Taguchi, presents two case studies collected at a university in Japan, involving interactions between Japanese students and a native English teacher. The findings suggest that ELF users collaboratively co-construct their hybrid pragmatic norms, combining native English norms and local norms.

The third study, “Unpacking pragmatic norms of Chinese speakers of English for English as a lingua franca (ELF) communication” by Zhichang Xu, interviews several Chinese speakers of English in different countries. The findings suggest that Chinese speakers are aware of pragmatic norms when they communicate in English and tend to accommodate them in their English communication. However, in ELF contexts, their Chinese norms can be considered salient.

The last chapter of the book, “Where to now? Future directions in ELF pragmatic research” by Ian Walkinshaw and Andy Kirkpatrick, provides a summary of the preceding chapters, applications to ELF communication, and recommendations for future research into ELF pragmatics. The authors also emphasize the need for consideration of ELF pragmatics in higher education.

“Pragmatics in English as a Lingua Franca” is overall, a valuable resource for exploring how global users of English bring their cultural norms to their communication, not just their knowledge of the language. Research into pragmatics in ELF interactions generally helps to expand our understanding of real-world English communication. This book is also suitable for a wide audience. The clear organization facilitates readers who are new to ELF and/or pragmatics by providing background theoretical discussions in the first part, followed by research studies and further readings. Researchers in the field of pragmatics, language teachers, and postgraduate students will find it useful and informative as well.

THE REVIEWER

Wannapa Trakulkasemsuk is an associate professor at the Department of Language Studies, School of Liberal Arts, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Thailand. Her research interests include World Englishes, English as a Lingua Franca, language and communication, discourse analysis and corpus-based language analysis.

wannapa.tra@kmutt.ac.th