English in China: A contemporary bibliography

KINGSLEY BOLTON,∗ WERNER BOTHA,** AND WEI ZHANG†

ABSTRACT: The list of research publications presented here is a contemporary bibliography, providing details of research articles, books, and other research outputs that were published between 2003 and 2015. The main focus of this bibliography is major works published internationally as well as in core journals from the People’s Republic of China (PRC). Despite the problems concerning the representativeness of this current bibliography, the authors hope that the following list of references will usefully complement the research articles in this special issue on ‘English in contemporary China’. It is intended that the present bibliography will complement the earlier bibliographical article by Adamson et al. (2002), and serve as a guide for current and future research in this field.

INTRODUCTION

This research bibliography comprises a listing of major research articles, books, and other research outputs that were published between 2003 and 2015. These dates were selected because this bibliography is intended to be a continuation of the Adamson et al. (2002) survey, entitled ‘English in China: a preliminary bibliography’, and readers are encouraged to use this current bibliography in conjunction with the earlier work. The need for a contemporary bibliography is also justified by the growing number of publications as well as the burgeoning academic interest in studies on English in China over the last decade. We have also included a number of important pre-2003 publications that were not included in the Adamson et al. (2002) bibliography.

The introduction to this bibliography comes with a necessary caveat. The publications presented here set out to provide a listing of major publications, with particular reference to world Englishes (WE) in the context of the People’s Republic of China (or PRC). However, as with any survey of an academic field of study, this bibliography does not claim complete comprehensiveness, which would be difficult to achieve considering the diverse nature of English studies in China today. Nevertheless, this bibliography offers a greater range of topic areas compared with the previous study, and includes such sections as ‘Applied language studies’, ‘Sociolinguistic perspectives’ and ‘Features and varieties of English’.

Another constraint of this bibliography concerns the sampling procedure employed in the selection of works, and the selection of materials included (and excluded) in this bibliography. There is an inevitable weighting given to publications from international journals, although we have also included a listing of key references from the People’s

∗Nanyang Technological University, Division of Linguistics and Multilingual StudiesSchool of Humanities and Social Sciences, 14 Nanyang Drive, Singapore, 637332, Singapore. E-mail: kbolton@ntu.edu.sg

**Nanyang Technological University, Language and Communication CentreSchool of Humanities and Social Sciences, 14 Nanyang Drive, Singapore, 637332, Singapore. E-mail: wbotha@ntu.edu.sg

†Department of English, Peking University, No. 5 Yiheyuan Road, Beijing 100871, Peoples Republic of China. E-mail: zwtoday@gmail.com

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Republic of China, and we hope that this will provide a useful guide to at least some of the research from mainland China. The inclusion of publications from within mainland China also intends to bridge academic exchange between countries, so that researchers can benefit from research issues, research paradigms, and methods of enquiry that are of concern in China as well as internationally.

The categories in the bibliography are intended to be fairly transparent. In the first section ‘Books and scholarly theses’, we have attempted to include major book-length works that provide academic treatment of central (and contemporary) aspects of world Englishes in China. As with the previous bibliography (Adamson et al. 2002), the intention is to foreground which book-length studies are available to interested researchers. As may be apparent, certain publications could be appropriately placed in more than one section, which led to a number of decisions about how certain publications should be categorised. For instance, the section ‘Sociolinguistic perspectives’ contains works that could also be placed in ‘Educational issues’ or ‘Discourse analysis and pragmatics’, and many of the ‘Corpus linguistics’ publications could equally be placed in a number of other sections. Ultimately these works were grouped based on their representativeness, or based on some key feature which made them more suitable in one section rather than another.

The new section ‘Applied language studies’ predominantly focuses on publications from mainland China dealing with second or foreign language learning issues. The category of ‘Corpus linguistics’ features publications that concentrate on corpus-based studies in within the PRC. Another new section ‘Features and varieties of English’ lists publications dealing with the so-called ‘features’ of Chinese Englishes (or ‘China English’), as well as attendant debates regarding the status and functions of Chinese varieties of English. The section on ‘Sociolinguistic perspectives’ focuses mainly on works dealing with language in society or the sociology of language. In the case of the section ‘Selected works in English by Chinese writers’, these are categorised according to whether the authors are émigré writers, translated writers, or creative writers resident in mainland China. Thus, a distinction is made between Chinese writers whose works are available in translation, such as the 2012 Nobel literature winner Mo Yan, or Geling Yan; Chinese émigré writers living overseas, such as Yiyuan Li and Xiaolong Qiu; and Chinese writers in mainland China who write in English, such as Lijia Zhang. Given the primary focus on mainland China, this section ignores a substantial body of diasporic Chinese-English writing from Southeast Asia, and other parts of the world, as well as notable historical works in English by Chinese writers, such as the ‘Silent traveller’ series by Yee Chiang. Another new section on ‘Bibliographies of English in China’ lists recent bibliographies dealing with English language issues in contemporary China. The other sections, namely, ‘Books’ and ‘Scholarly theses’, ‘Cultural studies, literary criticism, and translation’, ‘Discourse analysis and pragmatics’, ‘Educational issues’, are similar in scope to those in the Adamson et al. (2002) bibliography, although here we include (mostly) post-2002 references as well as a number of relevant publications from mainland China. One departure from the preceding bibliography is a discontinuation of the sections on ‘Chinese pidgin English’ and ‘Historical perspectives’, as much contemporary work on such issues has found publication in book-length treatments of the subject, such as Bolton (2003) and Adamson (2004), which are listed in the ‘Books’ section of this present bibliography.

Despite the shortcomings of this bibliography, our hope is that it will prove useful for researchers investigating linguistic issues related to English in contemporary China, as
well as serving as a guide to this broad area of inquiry for interested scholars from a range of other disciplines.

BOOKS


SCHOLARLY THESES


Yan, Hong. 2011. 社会文化与语用认知视角下的中国英语研究 [China English from the perspective of social culture and pragmatic cognition]. Shanghai: Shanghai International Studies University PhD thesis.


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FEATURES AND VARIETIES OF ENGLISH


Han, Ling. 2007. “中国英语”研究现状分析 (A Review of the study on Chinglish). Foreign Languages and Their Teaching 223(10). 28–32.


He, Deyuan & David C.S. Li. 2009. Language attitudes and linguistic features in the “China English” debate. World Englishes 28(1). 70–89.


Wen, Qifang & Yu, Xi. 2003. 英语的国际化与本土化 [The internationalization and localization of English]. Foreign Language Teaching 3. 6–11.


SOCLINGUISTIC PERSPECTIVES


SELECTED WORKS IN ENGLISH BY CHINESE WRITERS

Émigré writers


Translated Chinese writers


*Writers in the PRC writing in English*


**BIBLIOGRAPHIES OF ENGLISH IN CHINA**


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