

Book Review

English as a World Language

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Nowadays, English has played its important role in the global communication amongst citizens around the World from different native backgrounds in terms of languages, cultures, and societies. Historically, English has had a long development of its language, influenced by the languages of the three tribes (Anglos, Saxons, and Jutes), of the Germans from the German invasion, of the Scandinavian languages from an invasion, of French from the Norman conquest, and of the languages around the World from the colonization. This leads to varieties of English and the role of English as a global language (Pingkarawat 1992, 2008).

The book titled “English as a World Language [ภาษาอังกฤษในฐานะภาษาโลก]” by Intachakra (2018) has covered various aspects of English as a World language with 5 chapters in 226 pages. Each chapter has the structure of contents in sub-sections, followed by a summary and questions at the end. Chapter 1 is an introduction which includes the contents about a lingua franca or an international language; types of a lingua franca; and English as a World lingua franca. In Chapter 2, the author explains the English language in the aspects of its diachronic development and of areal features. Chapter 3 presents different characteristics of English, the standard forms of the English language, models of the English language teaching and learning, and the spreading and development of the English language. In Chapter 4, the English language is viewed in the aspects of globalization with the contexts of globalization, communication, communicative competence, intelligibility and English as a lingua franca. The author ends the contents in Chapter 5, where it foresees how English would become in the future and includes ongoing controversial issues of the English language.

“English as a World Language [ภาษาอังกฤษในฐานะภาษาโลก]” by Intachakra (2018) is the pioneer in presenting the contents about the diachronic and synchronic views of the English language as a global language in breadth and depth. In this book, it discusses not only the theory of the three circles: inner, outer, and expanding circles of Kachru (1985, 1988 in Intachakra, 2018, p.91), but also the comparative and contrastive views of the three-circle theory with other theories such as English as an international language (Intachakra, 2018, p.90). Interestingly, this book expands its knowledge in interdisciplinary aspects such as English, phonetics and phonology, semantics, syntax, pragmatics, language teaching and learning, etc.

In sum, for English teachers, students, and interested individuals, “English as a World Language [ภาษาอังกฤษในฐานะภาษาโลก]” by Intachakra (2018) will give them the well-rounded view of the English language as a global language, so as to broaden readers’ views for their future use in their further studies and careers.

References

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