# Analysis on Features of China English Chunks

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**Abstract.** As a member of big English family, "China English" has been proposed and well accepted by many scholars' interest at home and aboard. Through summarizing the status of research on China English in recent 20 years, this paper tries to describe and analyze specific chunks features of China English compared to native English, including general features and six specific features.

## Introduction

What is China English? In 1982,Ge Chuangui first introduced the term of China English in the article "*On some Problems in Han—English Translation*". It is a variety of English with Chinese unique characteristics. Chunks are also called lexical chunk, prefabricated chunk, prefabricated pattern, formulaic language, speech formula, formulaic unit, collocation, lexical phrase, ready-made complex unit, and lexicalized sentence stem. No matter what it is called, it is a construction with lexical and grammatical feature to serve a specific function. This paper aims to study the features of chunks of China English, which is a special feature of China English. The scope of the present paper includes introduction, three chapters and conclusion. The first chapter is an introduction. The second chapter provides an analysis on the status of research on China English, in which the development of world English and China English are briefly mentioned. The next chapter provides a detailed analysis of chunk features of China English compared to native English, including general features and six specific features and the last chapter, serving as the conclusion of the whole article, points out that the article is of practical value.

## Literature Review

### Development of World English

It is necessary to introduce the development of World English, because China English is developed based on World English. With the globalization, it is estimated that English has become the most popular among all natural languages in the world and has become an international language as the communicative media for people from different nations around the world. At the same time, the development of English has caused rapid localization of English, resulting in different varieties of English with regional and cultural characteristics. The phenomenon leads to a new term called "World English" or "New English". The recognition of World English arouses great interests of many scholars in the field of linguistics to discuss the classification of World English. There are two famous models for the classification of World English. One is Kachru's three circles' model as below shows, the other is McArthur's "circle of World English". This thesis chooses Kachru's three circles' model as the model of World English. According to Kachru, World English is divided into three circle: the inner circle, the outer circle and the expanding circle. He explains his model as follows: the inner circle represents the norm-proving, including countries where

English is used by native speakers (ENL), like USA, UK and Australia. The outer circle stands for the norm- developing, English as the second language (ESL) in the countries which have experienced colonization in the history, including Indian, Nigeria and Singapore. The expanding circle is the norm-dependant. English as the foreign language (EFL)in those countries, including China, Japan and Egypt.
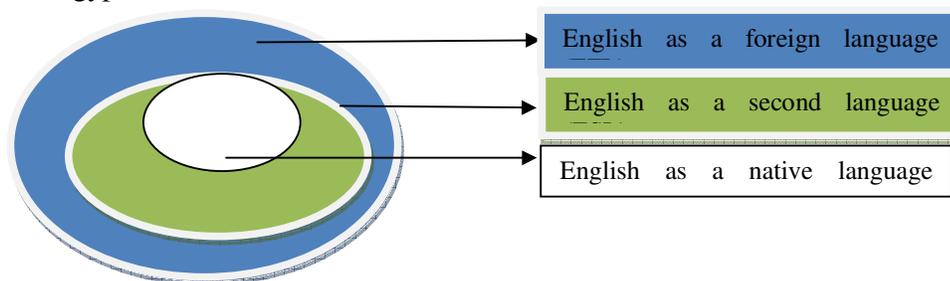


Figure 1. Circle of World English.

## Development of China English

After Ge Chuangui first introduced the term of China English in 1980, the tendency of domestic research on China English is slowly rising and scholars gradually paid their attention to the research of China English in recent years. The range of research direction of China English is very extensive, including various aspects. Zhao Jing (2011) does research on the confirmation of objective existence of China English and proves that there exist Chinese characteristics on the linguistic levels in China English, which is based on the standards of China English. Qiu Lizhong (2008) puts forward the fallacy of nativization of China English, and he advocates that English localization can bring people who speak English as foreign language into an embarrassed situation. Li Shaohua stresses the relation between China English and World English. China English is one of the varieties of English, which constitutes world English together with other varieties. Xu Jun (2008) emphasizes the influence of China English on translation. When translated into English, Chinese classics should be translated into China English, which can promote the spread of China English. Du Zhengming (1998) highlights China English is the result of the cross-culture communication, which is an important part of Chinese culture. Fang Chengyu (2012) explores China English based on corpus, in order to make a quantitative analysis on the grammar and a syntactic analysis on China English. Yan Hong (2009) puts forward the implication for English teaching. Teachers should internalize the variant theory to guide the teaching of English and students should be encouraged to use Chinese English.

## Methodology

### Research Questions

This thesis tries to answer the following questions:
1. Do China English have special features in chunks?
2. What are the special chunks features of China English?

### Instruments

We use AntCont to analyze the data. AntCont is a freeware corpus analysis toolkit for concordancing and text analysis. We use its cluster function and choose n-gram to select 3-4chunks.

### Data Source

All the data is collected from the China Daily and VOA. China Daily is one of the most authoritative English media outlets and it covers the information in various fields, which is an important source for Chinese readers to learn about the world. Voice of America (VOA) is a United States government-funded multimedia news source and the official external broadcasting institution

of the United States, serving as a consistently reliable and authoritative source of news. Both of them are reliable sources for the current study. We try to select data from China English and native English about the same topic to analyze the chunk features of China English.

## The Features of China English Chunks

### General Features

The selected data in China English (China Daily): type frequency is 2609 and token frequency is 8505. The selected data in native English (VOA): type frequency is 2643 and token frequency is 9172. The number of the type and token frequency of the two Englishes is similar. We use software AntConc to find out chunks from 3 words to 4 words. The number of chunks in China English is 115 and the number of chunks in native English is 39. There are more China English Chunks than those used in native English. China English users use more chunks than native English users.

### Specific Features of China English Chunks

#### Chunks about Topics

Table 1. Token number and type number of chunks about topics in China English(CE) and Native English(NE).

|  | Token Number | Type Number |
|---|---|---|
| China English | 131 | 28 |
| Native English | 3 | 1 |

According to the data, Table 1 compares the token number of chunks about topic in China English and native English. The token number of chunks in China English is significantly large than the native English, which indicates that Chinese English uses more topic chunks, like "the Belt and Road", "China Pakistan Economic" and "and Road initiative". A comparison is also made on Table 1. The type number of chunks about topic is 28 in China English, while only 1 exists in the native English. It is obvious that Chines English tend to use more topic chunks. Topic, as the key words, is frequently repeated in the China Daily, while similar phenomenon is not occurred in native English.

#### Chunks about Institute

Table 2. Token number and type number of chunks about institute in CE and NE.

|  | Token Number | Type Number |
|---|---|---|
| China English | 14 | 4 |
| Native English | 12 | 4 |

According to the data above, as for chunks about institute in Chinese English and native English, like "the White House", "the University of California", and "Supreme Court to", the token number is similar. At the same time, same type number of chunks occurs in the data source. The reason maybe lies in the name of institute is always fixed both in Chinese English and native English.

#### Chunks about Unrelated Topics

Table 3. Token number and type number of chunks about unrelated topics in CE and NE.

| Type | Token Number | Type Number |
|---|---|---|
| China English | 4 | 1 |
| Native English | 11 | 3 |

As it is shown above, both the type number and the token number of chunks about unrelated chunks in native English is more than that in Chinese English. Native speakers do use some kinds of expressions frequently, like "is likely to", "as well as" and "according to the", however, most Chinese people just use English to achieve the goal of expressing their ideas.

**Chunks including Personal Names**

Table 4. Token number and type number of chunks including personal names in CE and NE.

| Type | Token Number | Type Number |
|---|---|---|
| China English | 26 | 8 |
| Native English | 31 | 9 |

It can be seen from Table 4 that native speaker use more chunks including personal name than Chinese, while similar type number of chunks about personal names exists in Chinese English and native English, since the name is fixed and consists of several words. It can also be found that the collocation of the personal name is always the address, like President Donald Trump.

**Chunks including Nations' and Places' Name**

Table 5. Token numbers and type number of chunks in CE and NE.

| Type | Token Number | Type Number |
|---|---|---|
| China English | 49 | 15 |
| Native English | 24 | 6 |

According to the table 5 above, in terms of type number and token number, chunks that include nations' and places' name exist more in Chinese English than in native English. Like " at the Rio", " the Elysee Palace" and " the US". Therefore, in Chinese English, more attention is paid on the names of nation and place.

**Chunks including Central Event**

Table 6. Token numbers and type number of chunks including central event in CE and NE.

| Type | Token Number | Type Number |
|---|---|---|
| China English | 129 | 33 |
| Native English | 0 | 0 |

When it comes to the central event, the token number of chunks is significantly higher in China English than that of native English. China English presents many kinds of examples, such as "medal ceremony of", "Olympics on Sunday" and "springboard at the", while we cannot find such topic in native English. It can be concluded that Chinese media tends to focus more on central event.

**Conclusion**

China English, a variety of English, which is the combination of Chinese characteristics and English language. Therefore, it has its own characteristics which can be shown in the features of chunks. Through the study chunks of China English, we find there are more China English Chunks than those used in native English. China English uses more chunks about topics, central events and nations' and places' names. As to chunks about institute and persons' name, the number is similar. However, native English uses more chunks about unrelated topics than those in China English. However, there are also some problems and limitations in this thesis. The token frequency of the selected data is not enough although they are in the same topic. The thesis is far from perfection. In my view, more hard research and further studies are needed in the future.

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