

English as a Lingua Franca – Looking back from ELF1 to ELF11 conference and looking forward with ELF pedagogy and assessment

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With the rapid development of English as a lingua franca (ELF) at the outset of the 21st century, extensive research has been undertaken to explore in further detail the nature of ELF in communication and to try to integrate and apply the notion of ELF in English language teaching (ELT) practices. Undoubtedly, ELF has challenged native ideology in language use and has emerged as a thriving publication and research area. However, there is still a deficiency in ELF-informed pedagogy and assessment where native language ideology is still entrenched. Many ELT practitioners are reluctant to apply an ELF-informed pedagogy because many language policies and assessment practices remain native language oriented. During my talk, I will examine the themes of ELF conferences over the past 11 years and link them to current issues related to ELF in ELT, with a focus on pedagogy and assessment. I will then discuss the future development of ELF from the paradigm of multilingualism. I will conclude my talk by arguing the importance of viewing English not as a language per se, but as a resource and a mechanism that reflects struggles of power. I will also briefly address some of the issues arising from the resistance to applying ELF in language assessments with some recommendations to address these issues. Therefore, ELF use should be empowered and multilingual practice should also be recognized in English language pedagogy.