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## **Towards International Standard English: Identifying Standards for an International Lingua Franca**

Lingua Franca communication in English often includes traces of incomplete language acquisition, first language substrata, as well as regional and social varieties of English. These traces can manifest themselves in non-standard morphosyntactic structures and lexico-grammar. This study investigates the reaction of L1 and L2 speaker groups to these non-standard structures in written international English.

Structures that are either considered acceptable or not identified as non-standard by a significant majority of speakers could become part of a standard for acceptable international written English. Such a standard would be less suitable as a target variety of language learning but enable language teachers to evaluate their students' language according to real-world attitudes rather than prescriptive textbook standards.

One example for this is the adverbial use of adjectives, which seems to pass unnoticed or is considered acceptable by many speakers. This does not imply that the distinction should not be taught any more. Yet time for language teaching and learning is usually limited and emphasis in curriculum planning and language assessment should, for this reason, be put on those structures that are considered unacceptable as, for example, the incorrect use of relative pronouns and particles.

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