

## **Morphosyntactic variation in British and Indian English: The sentential complementation of factual verbs**

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Research in grammatical variation between varieties of English has attracted much of scholars' attention in the last two decades. Studies of varieties of English have shown that verb complementation, which is a core area of lexicogrammar, is often considered to differ regionally (Kjellmer 1985, Algeo 1988, Mair 1995, 2002, Mukherjee & Hoffmann 2006, Mukherjee & Schilk 2008) and forms a classic instance of the grammatical innovation of varieties in the nativization phase of the Dynamic Model (cf. Schneider 2007:86). So far, studies of New Englishes based on corpus approaches have shown that verb complementation has been largely under-researched as a characteristic field of variation (Mukherjee & Hoffmann 2006). Most of the studies have concentrated basically on the study of ditransitive verbs and transfer-caused motion verbs TCM (Olavarria de Ersson and Shaw 2003; Mukherjee and Hoffmann 2006; Mukherjee & Schilk 2008, Schilk et al. 2012). Other studies have very recently concentrated on the variation between infinitival and gerundial complementation constructions (Bernaisch 2015, Deshors 2015; Deshors & Gries 2016). This considered, my present paper will explore the variation noticed in the sentential complementation including both finite and non-finite complement clauses (CCs) of what Quirk et al. (1985:1181) refer to as "factual verbs", namely *hope* and *decide*. The varieties selected are British English (as a reference corpus) and Indian English (as a nativized L2 variety of English).

The present study aims to: 1) examine the distribution of finite (that-clause, zero complement clauses) and non-finite (to-infinitive) in the previously stated varieties of English; 2) identify any existing convergence and/or divergence in the complementation clauses of *hope* and *decide* in both varieties; 3) examine the influence of Rohdenburg's complexity principle (1996:151) on the envelope of variation between finite and non-finite CCs in both varieties, 4) evaluate the contribution of some of the potential language internal factors affecting the choice of complement clauses after the mentioned verbs. These factors include subject denotation (co-referentiality between the main clause and the CC subjects), animacy and type of subject in CC, the voice in the CC (active/passive/copular), presence or absence of a negative marker in CC, presence of intervening material in words between the complement taking predicate *hope* and *decide* and the CC (cf. Cuyckens & D'hoedt 2015). By analyzing the previously mentioned factors, the causes of the variation noticed are pointed out. The obtained results will be subsequently discussed in light of an extensively used theory, namely Schneider's (2007) dynamic model of postcolonial Englishes.

The source of evidence comes from the British and Indian components of the International Corpus of English, ICE corpora (See Greenbaum 1991). Global Web-based English is also used as a helpful complementary source of data for this relatively less frequent morpho-syntactic phenomenon. After manual pruning of spurious tokens, all corpus attestations are manually coded against six grammatical factors in Excel spreadsheet and then entered into SPSS software package for statistical analyses.

The results show a tendency for both varieties to prefer non-finite structures with both verbs, when the subject of the CC is co-referential with the subject of the main clause. The study also shows that determinants contributing to the syntactic complexity of the sentence such as negation, passivization, and the presence of intervening material between the main verb and the subordinate CCs are likely to result in the use of grammatically more explicit variant i.e. finite CCs with both verbs across the varieties under scrutiny. More results will be discussed minutely in the presentation.

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