

English in China: A contemporary bibliography

KINGSLEY BOLTON*, WERNER BOTHA** AND WEI ZHANG***

ABSTRACT: The research bibliography presented here is a contemporary bibliography, providing a listing of relevant research articles, books, and other research outputs that were published between 2003 and 2015. The main focus of this bibliography is on major works published internationally as well as in core journals from the People's Republic of China (PRC). Despite the problems concerning the representativeness of this current bibliography, the authors hope that the following list of references will complement the articles in this current special issue. It is intended that the present bibliography complement the earlier bibliographical article by Adamson, Bolton, Lam and Tong (2002), and serve as a guide for current and future research in this field.

INTRODUCTION

The bibliography presented here comprises a listing of major research articles, books, and other research outputs that were published between 2003 and 2015. These dates were selected because this bibliography is intended to be a continuation of the Adamson, Bolton, Lam and Tong (2002) bibliography on English in China, entitled 'English in China: a preliminary bibliography', and readers are encouraged to use this current bibliography in conjunction with the earlier work. The need for a contemporary bibliography is also justified by the growing number of publications as well as academic interest in studies on English in China over the last decade. We have also included a number of important pre-2003 publications that were not included in the Adamson et al. (2002) bibliography.

The introduction to this bibliography comes with a necessary caveat. The publications presented here set out to provide a listing of major publications, with particular reference to world Englishes (WE) in the context of the People's Republic of China (PRC). However, as with any scholarship attempting to survey an academic field of study, this bibliography does not claim complete comprehensiveness, considering the diverse nature of English studies in China today. However, and despite this constraint on comprehensiveness, this bibliography offers a greater inclusion of sections not considered in the previous (2002) bibliography, such as sections on 'Sociolinguistic perspectives', and 'Features and varieties of English', among others. The range of sections, and publications provided within each of these sections in this present bibliography may provide a good point of departure for graduate students and others interested in researching contemporary issues in the world Englishes paradigm.

Another constraint of this bibliography concerns the sampling procedure employed in the selection of works. One issue concerns the selection of journals and domains included (and excluded) in this bibliography. There is an inevitable weighting given to publications from international journals, although we have also included a listing of key references from the People's Republic of China, and we hope that this will provide a useful guide to at least some of the research from mainland China. The inclusion of publications from within mainland China also intends to bridge academic exchange between countries, so that researchers can benefit from research issues, research paradigms, and methods of enquiry that are of concern in China as well as international

The categories in the bibliography are intended to be fairly transparent. In the first section 'Books and scholarly theses', we have attempted to include major book-length works that provide academic treatment of central (and contemporary) aspects of world Englishes in China. As with the previous bibliography (Adamson et al. 2002), the intention is to foreground which book-length studies are available to interested researchers. However, and as was stated earlier, some publications could equally be placed in more than one section, which led to a number of arbitrary decisions about where certain publications should be located. For instance, the section 'Sociolinguistic perspectives' contains works that could also be placed in 'Educational issues' or 'Discourse analysis and pragmatics', and many of the 'Corpus linguistics' publications could equally be placed in a number of other sections. Ultimately these works were grouped based on their representativeness, or based

* Nanyang Technological University, Division of Linguistics and Multilingual Studies, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, 14 Nanyang Drive, Singapore 637332, Singapore. E-mail: kbolton@ntu.edu.sg

** Nanyang Technological University, Language and Communication Centre, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, 14 Nanyang Drive, Singapore 637332, Singapore. E-mail: wrbotha@gmail.com

*** Department of English, Peking University, No. 5 Yiheyuan Road, Beijing 100871, Peoples Republic of China. Email: zwtoday@gmail.com

on some key feature which would make them more suitable in one section rather than another. The new section ‘Applied language studies’ predominantly focuses on publications from mainland China dealing with second or foreign language learning issues. The selected references for ‘Corpus linguistics’ feature publications that concentrate on corpus-based studies in within the PRC. Another new section ‘Features and varieties of English’ lists publications that mostly concern the growing number of publications dealing with the so-called ‘features’ of Chinese Englishes (or ‘China English’), as well as attendant debates regarding the status and functions of Chinese varieties of English. The section on ‘Sociolinguistic perspectives’ focuses mainly on works dealing with language in society or the sociology of language. With the list of references for the section ‘Selected works in English by Chinese writers’ a distinction is made with regards to prominent Chinese writers whose works are available in translation, such as those by the 2012 Nobel literature winner Mo Yan, or Geling Yan; Chinese émigré writers overseas who were born in China but live overseas and write in English, such as Yiyuan Li and Xiaolong Qiu; and Chinese writers in China mainland who write in English, such as Lijia Zhang. Due to space and time constraints this section ignores substantial bodies of diasporic Chinese-English writing from Southeast Asia, the Americas and other parts of the world, as well as notable historical works in English by Chinese writers, such as the ‘Silent traveller’ series by Yee Chiang.¹ Another new section on ‘Bibliographies of English in China’ includes references to recent bibliographies that concern English language issues in contemporary China, including the predecessor of this present bibliography. The other sections of this current bibliography, i.e. ‘Books’ and ‘Scholarly theses’, ‘Cultural studies, literary criticism, and translation’, ‘Discourse analysis and pragmatics’, ‘Educational issues’, are similar in scope to the Adamson et al. (2002) bibliography, presenting here (mostly) post-2002 references as well as a substantial body of publications from predominantly well-established journals and publications from the China mainland. However, one departure from the preceding bibliography is a discontinuation of the sections on ‘Chinese pidgin English’ and ‘Historical perspectives’, as much contemporary work on such issues has found publication in book-length treatments of the subject, such as Bolton (2003) and Adamson (2004), which are listed in the ‘Books and scholarly theses’ section of this present bibliography.

Despite the shortcomings of this bibliography, our hope is that it would serve as a springboard for scholars to research issues on English in contemporary China, and that the constraints on its comprehensiveness will serve researchers well in their explorations of this fascinating subject.

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NOTES

1. It is interesting to note that over the last decade or so there has been an explosion in the number of literary works that are written in English by so-called émigré Chinese writers, as well as those works by established Chinese writers in China whose works are now available in English translation. **COMMENT ON THIS A BIT MORE?**