Guide for Multilingual Student Writing World Englishes in U.S. Classrooms: Working with Indian English Speakers

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Introduction

This guide categorizes ten of the most

Table of Contents and Summary

Section	IE Example	SAE Example
1. Verbs and Verb Complements	She is knowing the answer.	She knows the answer.
2. Question Formation	Which way you are going?	Which way are you going?
3. Topicalization	Five minutes I am not getting.	

1. Verbs and Verb Complements

Туре	IE	SAE
Verbs	I was not knowing this.	I did not know this.

In the examples below, the noun, which acts as the direct object, is implied, and the context clarifies the meaning of the sentence:

IE SAE

Ok, I'll take for transport. Ok, I'll take money for transport.

I didn't expect. I didn't expect this party.

We enjoyed very much. We enjoyed ourselves very much.

This occurrence could happen because Indian languages permit omission of the object.

1.5. Subject-verb agreement:

In many varieties of IE, the verb does not agree with the subject as in SAE.

IE SAE

Your father **send** you love. Your father sends you love. She **know** JavaScript. She knows JavaScript.

1.6. Use of conditional would:

Would describes something that was in the future at the time of the original action but is no longer in the future now: She said that she would do the job.

Would also functions as a conditional: I would go to space if I had the money.

However, IE uses would to indicate the future where SAE uses will.

The next step would be to identify the features.

Malware binaries would be converted to images using a Python script.

Other potential factors would be considered during data collection.

It is possible that theld1.6

2. Question Formation

Type	IE	SAE
Wh-questions	Which way you are going?	Which way are you going?
Yes-no questions	You will come?	Will you come?
Tag questions	They should do the job, isn't it?	They should do the job, shouldn't they?

2.1. Wh-questions:

In SAE, for question formation, two different processes occur: the question word is moved to the front, and the subject and verb are inverted: What would you like to buy? is the question transformation for You would like to buy __? In IE, often the declarative word order is maintained in interrogative construction. The question word is fronted but without subject/auxiliary inversion: What you would like to buy?

IE SAE

When you will be there? When will you be there? How you will come? How will you come?

2.2. Yes-no questions:

SAE constructs yes-no questions by inverting the subject and the auxiliary, as in this example: *She is coming* to *Is she coming?* IE, in contrast, retains the structure of the statement, and speakers use a rising intonation to indicate a query: *You are waiting?*

2.3. Tag questions:

IE uses the invariant tag *isn't it* in all situations regardless of the anchor clause in the question. For example, *Isn't it?* is a generalized question tag that ignores both the verb and the pronoun in the question: *They are coming tomorrow*, *isn't it? You were in San José*, *isn't it?*

IE	SAE
You had seen it before, isn't it?	You had seen it before, hadn't you?
She gave her address, isn't it?	She gave her address, didn't she?

According to Meshtrie and Bhatt (2007):

IE speakers find this non-impositional and mitigating placing them high on a scale of politeness....IE users use undifferentiated tags to sound less demanding in the requests that they make. Such tags have the added advantage of avoiding pronoun forms for the addressee, which would require other deference strategies. (p.134)

IE, similar to SAE, also uses yes and no as question tags:

He is coming, yes?

She was helping you, no?

However, according to Sailaja (2009), IE uses the invariant no to a greater degree.

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3. Topicalization

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Lypc		SAL

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5. Reduplication / Repetition / Fused Phrases

Type	IE	SAE
Reduplication	I have a bad bad cough.	I have a very bad cough.
Fused phrases	Included are three-four	Included are three or four
	references.	references.

6. Articles and Prepositions

Туре	IE	SAE
Articles	I did internship at Ascent.	I did an internship at Ascent.

Prepositions To discuss about ... To discuss...

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8. Lexicon

Туре	IE	SAE
Neologisms	Batchmates	

9. Literal Translation from the L1

Туре	IE	SAE
Literal translation	Open or close the lights	Turn on/off the lights

IE incorporates distinct phrases that are direct, literal translations from Indian languages:

IE SAE

What's your good name? What's your proper name? My sister is eating my head. My sister is annoying me.

10. Style and Usage

Type	IE	SAE
Modifiers and filler words	Long sentences with multiple	Shorter sentences getting
	modifiers forming noun	straight to the point
	phrases	
Use of flattery	Flattering the recipient	Flattery frowned upon
Mechanics	British spelling, punctuation	American spelling,
	and capitalization	punctuation, and capitalization

10.1. Long sentences with modifiers and filler words:

IE writing often privileges the older Victorian style used by the British colonialists in the 18th and 19th centuries when the Indian sub-continent was ruled by the English. Some

10. 2. Use of flattery:

Formal IE, both in speech but particularly so in writing, demonstrates a tendency to flatter the recipient if they happen to be of higher status and if the speaker/writer wants something of value from them. A possible explanation for this is that speakers or writers want to mitigate the impact of their need or desire on the hearer or reader. In an attempt to acknowledge the recipient's right not to be imposed upon, the speaker or writer uses flattering modifiers to save face. In SAE, overt flattery in professional settings, especially at initial points of contact, is considered inappropriate.

ΙE

I wish to work for your well-regarded company.

Dear honorable respectable professor...

I am applying for an internship at your esteemed company.

I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to work and learn from you and your **talented** team.

10.3. Mechanics:

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