Contents

List of illustrations xi
Preface xiii
Acknowledgments xvii
List of symbols xix
List of abbreviations xxi

Introduction: World Englishes and Cultural Contexts 1

English in the world 1
Numerical strength and status 5
Functions of English 6
The organization of the book 7
The sources 10

Part I: Verbal Interaction and Intelligibility **15**
Introduction 15
Theoretical approach to verbal interaction 16
Intelligibility 17

1 Interaction as Cooperation 19

Introduction 19
Information exchange 20
Relevant concepts 20
Conclusion 27

2 Context of Culture 31

Introduction 31
Context and context of situation 32
Structure of background knowledge 34
Culture, context of situation, and language use 37
Conclusion 38

3 Parameters of Politeness 41

Introduction 41
Conclusion 54

4 Intelligibility and Interlocutors 59

Introduction 59
Is intelligibility always necessary? 60
Intelligibility defined 61
Comprehensibility 62
Intelligibility vs. Comprehensibility 62
Interpretability 63
Intelligibility, comprehensibility, and interpretability 64
Relation to language fluency and cultural competency 66
Examples of cultural conventions of communication 66
Conclusion 68

Part II: Sound, Sentence, and Word 71

Introduction 71
Language variation 72
Rhythmic patterns 72
Grammatical patterns 74
Vocabulary and idioms 75

5 Sounds and Rhythm 77

Introduction 77
Stress and rhythm 77
Sounds 80
Sounds and intelligibility 82

6 Phrases and Sentences 85

Introduction 85
Grammar 85
Thematic information 100
Conclusion 100

7 Words and Collocations 103

Introduction 103
Issues in compiling dictionaries 104
The Asian context 105
Processes of nativization 106
Considerations in compiling regional dictionaries 109
Conclusion 110

Part III: Conversational and Writing Styles **113**

Introduction 113
Conversation 114
Writing 114
Spoken vs. written language 114
Text types 115
Interactional vs. transactional text 116
Imaginative text 116

8 Conversational Interaction 119

Introduction 119
Organization of conversational interaction 120
Crosscultural differences 121
Implications for crosscultural conversation 127
Speech acts, cooperative principles, and politeness 128
Issues of identity 133
Conclusion 133

9 Interaction in Writing 135

Introduction 135
Letters 136
Academic writing 141
Argumentative text 154
Genre analysis 156
Conclusion 161

10 Contextualizing World Englishes Literatures 165

Introduction 166
Why literary text? 167
Cultural themes 168
Exponents of creativity 172
Teaching English literatures in various contexts 174
Conclusion 175

Conclusion: World Englishes: Legacy and Relevance 177

Introduction 177
Attitudes and ideologies 177
English in human knowledge and interaction 180
Conclusion 181

References 185
Index 211