



Irish English as a World English

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The objective of this chapter is to apply a synthesis of models for world Englishes to Irish English, for which data from ICE-corpora, the *Handbook of Varieties of English*, the *Mouton Atlas*, eWAVE, and the GloWbE corpus are used, and to which many approaches are applied: geo-political, dynamic-model, corpus, statistical, and multi-functional factor analysis. The chapter's relevance lies in its bringing together wide-ranging and seemingly disparate material through the lens of Irish English as a common denominator. The chapter shows the difficulties of applying top-down models to empirical corpus data and concurs that the gap is ultimately unbridgeable. Nevertheless, in so far as status distinctions can be inferred, this chapter also concurs with the many different findings that, as a standardized variety, despite a historical legacy of contact, Irish English is indeed an L1.

Keywords: Inner and Outer Circle, dynamic model, contact, koinéisation, functionality, multi-dimensional factor analysis, universals

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INTRODUCTION

This chapter will explore the relationship between Irish English and world English(es). It will cover many approaches and raise many issues. It will show the need for the notion of “Irish English” to be recurrently clarified—especially the distinction between the vernacular variety and the standardized variety; and it will acknowledge the importance of a critical awareness between the two. The chapter is also mindful that, because of the presence of both Hiberno-English features as well as features from Scots, as shown in standardized data, the wider reality of educated public discourse in Ireland is never fully standardized.

Three research questions arise in this chapter: How has Irish English been characterized as an English among world Englishes given the range of approaches used in different investigations? What status does Irish English have as a world English as a result of the particular approach used? What overall conclusion about the status of Irish English as a world English may be drawn?

Several possibilities regarding status within Ireland and between Ireland and Great Britain have been proposed. This chapter will consider the status which has been accredited to Irish English in those top-down models of varieties of English around the world, especially those by McArthur (1987), Görlach (1990), Mesthrie and Bhatt (2008), Mair (2013), Siemund (2013), and Onysko (2016), among a few others on the one hand, and on the other by the quite different approach taken by Schneider (2007). Schneider (2007) Dynamic Model will then receive a short summary of an interpretation by Ronan (2020). The general challenge for all models of world Englishes is their demonstration and vindication of hypotheses on the basis of empirical corpus data. The few attempts that have been undertaken are reviewed by Hundt (2020), whose findings will be presented and whose conclusion that the gap would appear unbridgeable will be acknowledged.

The chapter will go on to recognize that there is no shortage of both standardized as well as non-standardized data (resources ICE, eWAVE, GloWbE, and so on, to be discussed below) for comparison and statistical evaluation. A further section will use the GloWbE Corpus to deal with the status of lexical items originating in Ireland, some of which will be shown to have remained there as Irishisms, whereas others have spread their wings and are now to be found in almost every variety around the world.

These global comparisons of individual items will lead into the final part of the chapter, which is concerned with various statistical attempts to assess and relate Irish English data to a great range of varieties worldwide, including pidgins and creoles. Whether ICE-corpora are used for data or the list of observation data behind eWAVE, whether multi-dimensional factor analysis is used on the standardized data, or whether multiple correspondence analysis is used on the reported observations of Hiberno-English data, the chapter will show that Irish English becomes repeatedly vindicated as an L1 or (in the Schneider, 2007 model) a stage-5 differentiated, variety, *tout court*, in answer to the third research question.

To these ends, such a synthesis arises from a combination of the relevant research literature that has so far been published as well as a fresh application of some of these approaches to Irish English data. The approach taken in this chapter is also informed by the author's knowledge and experience both as a resident in Northern Ireland since 1983, as a dialectologist of Irish English, and as a corpus linguist, particularly of Irish English and increasingly of world Englishes.

THE EVOLUTION OF CONCEIVING IRISH ENGLISH AS A WORLD ENGLISH

This first section deals with how Irish English has been conceived within the various frameworks for the study of world Englishes which have been proposed. It was during the 1990s and early 2000s that there emerged a new paradigm for conceptualizing the status of national varieties of English: that of World Englishes.¹ The investigation of this paradigm was facilitated by the growing provision of national components of English for the International Corpus of English (ICE) corpus (cf. Greenbaum, 1996), particularly those of L2 varieties, where English was becoming shaped by mother tongue speakers absorbing features of indigenous languages and where speakers of those languages were gradually acquiring English, by immersion, bringing many of their own mother-tongue features with them, or by instruction, usually in a predefined norm of standardized English. A central

question which arose during a review of the ICE project (Kirk and Nelson, 2018) was how far the models used for the delineation of world Englishes were adequate to deal with such multilingual environments, or whether they were becoming outmoded—such as for instance, the Quirkian notion of a “monochrome international standard language” with only local deviations (Quirk et al., 1985, p. 6).

Languages and their related offspring have traditionally been conceived of as trees, so when that tradition is superimposed on a map of the world, as Strevens (1980) did, it shows two main roots of British English and American English from which all other branches are deemed to stem.

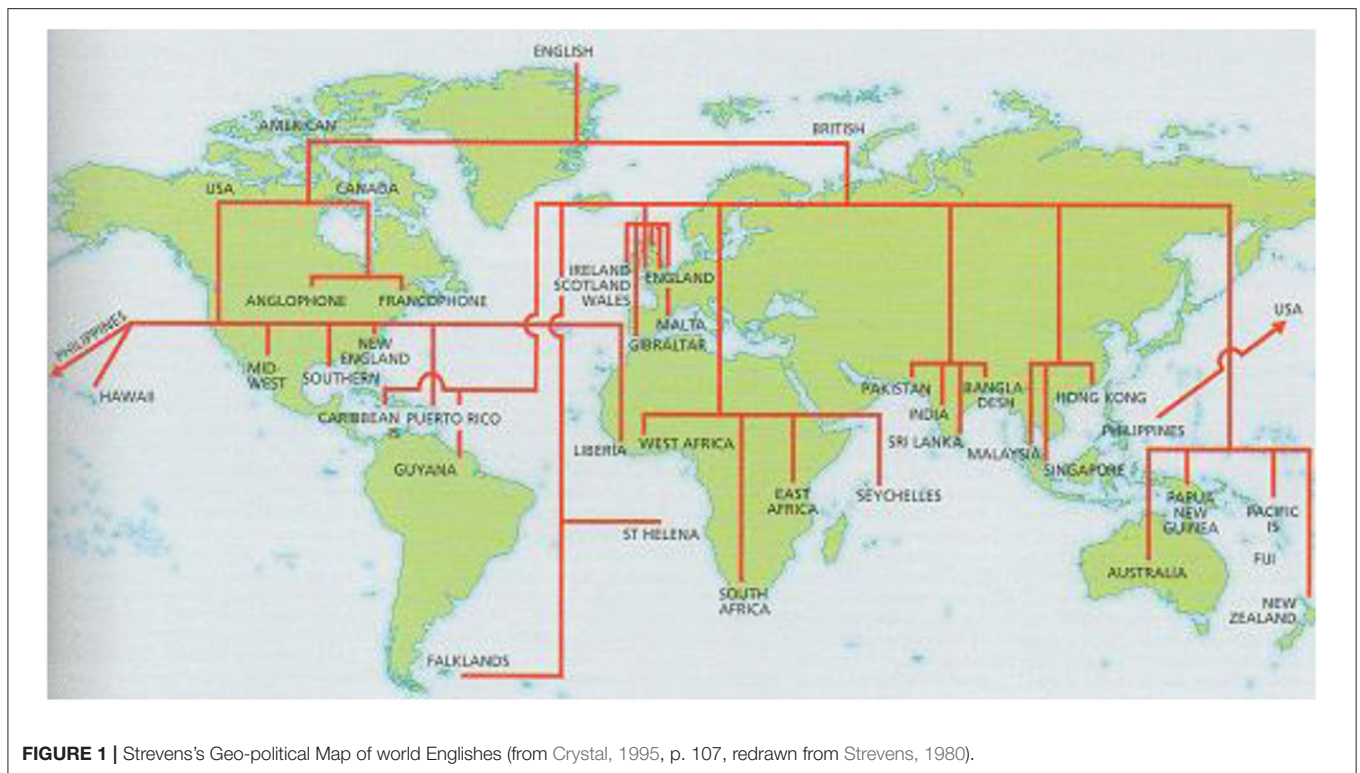
Not surprisingly, as **Figure 1** shows, the line to Ireland is the shortest. The lines are drawn on a geo-political basis and identify countries around the world where English (of some sort) is to be found. The schema simply denotes Irish English as a descendant of British English.

Another image for describing languages is that of the wheel—of the hub and the rim, with the spokes in between.

In **Figures 2, 3**, the hub is shown to be the part which is invariant and which holds all the other parts together—labeled as “World Standard English” by McArthur (1987) and “International English” by Görlach (1990), each not unreminiscent of Quirk's “monochrome international standard”. Indeed Mesthrie and Bhatt (2008) comment that McArthur's “World Standard English” is “obviously an idealization” (p. 27), perhaps best represented as “written international English”. For McArthur, “World Standard English” is a hub surrounded by a set of spokes, each labeled for a geographical area—with separate spokes for “British English” and “Irish English”. The space in between is labeled as “British and Irish Standard English”, as if a single entity. This view would appear to perpetuate the then prevailing view of Irish English as simply a matter of extra-territorial expansion, under exonormative (i.e., British) control.

In Görlach (1990) circle, the spokes are not labeled but, as the concentric circles radiate out from the hub, the set of spaces in the first circle are labeled as “regional national standards”, the second as “sub-regional semi-standards”, and the third and outermost circle labeled as “dialects”, “ethnic semi-standards” or “non-standards”. Thus it is as a “regional national standard” that British English is labeled, and Irish English as a mere “sub-regional semi-standard”, albeit in the company of Scottish English, Welsh English and even English English. Elsewhere, Görlach (1995) laments that many words of Irish English do not appear in standard reference dictionaries and may not be known to people even with a good knowledge of English. Görlach (1995) challenge is addressed by Kirk and Kallen (2011) by looking at the vocabulary contained in ICE-Ireland (Kallen and Kirk, 2008). They show that there are many cultural references which are well known in each part of Ireland, of which people have clear awareness in their heads, which are used widely in broadcast media, but which are neither shared with the other part of Ireland nor with anywhere else. Examples include *decommission(ing)*, *peace process/dividend*, and *maracycle* (cf. Kirk and Kallen, 2011). Such terms involve familiar, everyday words used in specialized senses or with a meaning somehow altered and thereby expressive of a particular cultural value.

¹Since those times, the interest in World Englishes has grown exponentially, not least because of the increasing availability of ICE corpora. Publications range from handbooks (Filppula et al., 2017; Schreier et al., 2020; Kirkpatrick, 2021), numerous research monologs (Schneider, 2007; Mesthrie and Bhatt, 2008; Siemund, 2013), collections of research papers (e.g., Suárez-Gómez and Seoane, 2015; Seoane and Suárez-Gómez, 2016; Dehors, 2018; Ling Low and Pakir, 2018; De Costa et al., 2019; Buschfeld and Kautsch, 2020; Meierkord and Schneider, 2021; Onysko, 2021; Saraceni, 2021; Siemund and Leimgruber, 2021) and finally textbooks (Kirkpatrick, 2007; Siemund et al., 2012; Jenkins, 2014; Melchers et al., 2019; Lange and Leuckert, 2020; Schneider, 2020).



None of these words or expressions belongs to traditional dialect, and only some to the Irish language. Rather, Kirk and Kallen develop a cultural hypothesis which came to be substantiated by local semantic extensions or refunctionalisations in English, from the result of which emerges a cultural vocabulary which is finely-hewn for each polity, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Nevertheless, this vocabulary remains still relatively unfathomable to outsiders, so that a glossary for ICE-Ireland would not go amiss.

Shortly before the McArthur (1987) and Görlach (1990) models were published, a set of very different circles was proposed by Kachru (1982), as shown in **Figure 4A**.

Kachru extends Strevens's geo-political varieties to combine national varieties into groups depending on the status of English there: as a national language (ENL) or mother tongue (EMT), as an official additional or second language (ESL or EAL), or as a foreign language (EFL). These groupings comprise three non-overlapping circles respectively: an inner circle, an outer circle, and an expanding circle, which have been drawn by others in various ways. The outer circle comprises countries to which English had been taken during period of colonization such as India, Kenya, or Singapore. The expanding circle comprises countries where English has had no internal or institutional status such as most countries in Europe but also countries such as China or Brazil. To each of the three circles Kachru (1982) added a further designation: ENL-countries were "norm-providing", ESL countries were "norm-taking", and EFL countries were "norm-dependent", as shown in **Figure 4B**.

Although Kachru's model was concerned with postcolonial Englishes of relatively recent times, it was not supposed to be concerned with "old" colonies such as Ireland. Thus, after centuries of English use, Irish English was placed in the norm-providing, native/mother tongue category. That Irish English qualifies as a norm-provider may be adduced from its diasporic effects—in Newfoundland, in American English, and in emigration to the urban areas in Great Britain such as Glasgow, Liverpool or London. Although Kachru (1982) model has been much discussed and become hugely influential, as the present focus is on Irish English, many of the specific criticisms need not concern us here. However, Kachru (1982) model has recently been vindicated by Axel Bohmann (2020) in a multi-dimensional factor analysis of some 10 ICE-corpora, as discussed below.

Kachru's model shifted the focus away from nation states to different categories of speakers and users of the language, including learners. For Modiano (1999), for instance, among learners it's as much a question of proficiency in the language as it is with native speakers.

Although Ireland doesn't figure explicitly in Modiano's model (see **Figure 5**), the distinction around language functionality which he makes can be plausibly conferred on the Irish situation: between the low registers in the vernacular (often referred to as Hiberno-English) and confined to Ireland, and standardized English, acquired largely through education and exposure to situational need, which takes care of the higher registers and international communication.

Reconceptualisation was taken further by Mesthrie and Bhatt (2008) in what they came to call "the English Language

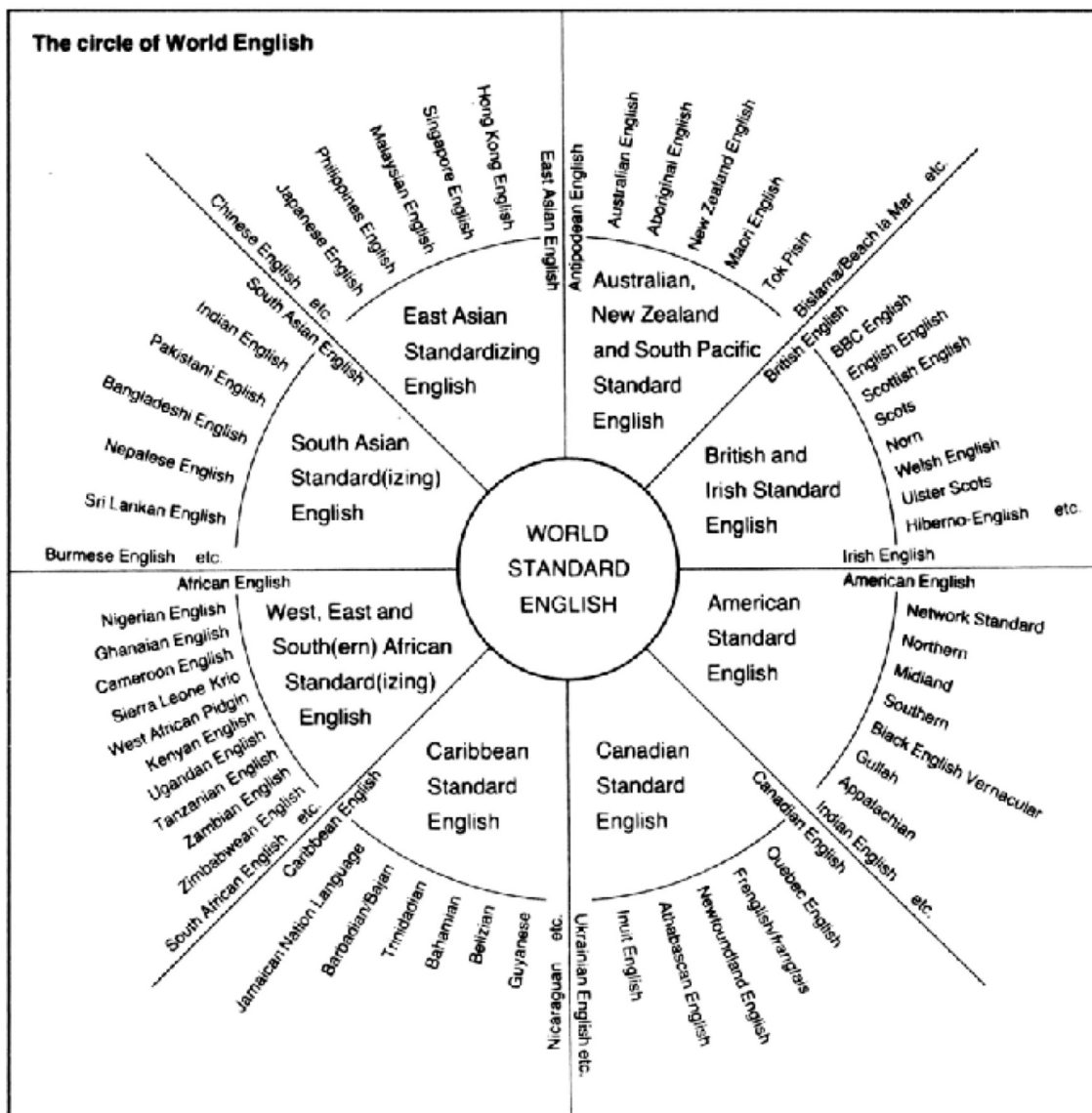


FIGURE 2 | McArthur's "The Circle of world English" (from McArthur, 1987, p. 11).

Complex", with no fewer than 12 subtypes.² Of those, they claim that Hiberno-English, once a "language-shift variety",³ i.e. a variety which "has at some crucial stage of its development involved adult and child L1 and second-language (L2) speakers [as] one speech community [...] with L1 and L2 speakers of the dialect closely interacting with each other" (p. 6), is now "probably best classified as a social dialect" (p. 6) bound up in a community with only L1 speakers. Nevertheless, despite its comparability with other L1 dialects within Britain, and its role

²These 12 subtypes are "metropolitan standards", "colonial standards", "regional dialects", "social dialects", "pidgin Englishes", "creole Englishes", "English as a second language", "English as a foreign language", "immigrant Englishes", "language-shift Englishes", "jargon Englishes", and "hybrid Englishes".

³For Siemund (2013), too, Irish English ranks as a shift variety as a result of contact.

in turn as a superstrate variety in certain later colonial situations, Mesthrie and Bhatt (2008) revert to its origins as "a language shift variety" citing Hickey's observation that "the majority of the Irish acquired English in an unguided manner as adults" (p. 44). Without this significant contact with L1 speakers, Mesthrie and Bhatt (2008) claim that Irish English as an L2 came to result in and stabilize as an L1, and thus, because of its linguistic features similar to other colonial Englishes, Irish English is, in effect, a "new English" or a quasi-outer circle variety. This rather inductive view would seem be somewhat out of keeping with more empirical claims and findings discussed below.

A further model (Figure 6) along geo-political lines is the "World System of Englishes", put forward by Mair (2013), wherein circles are replaced by a hierarchical list, with a hub at

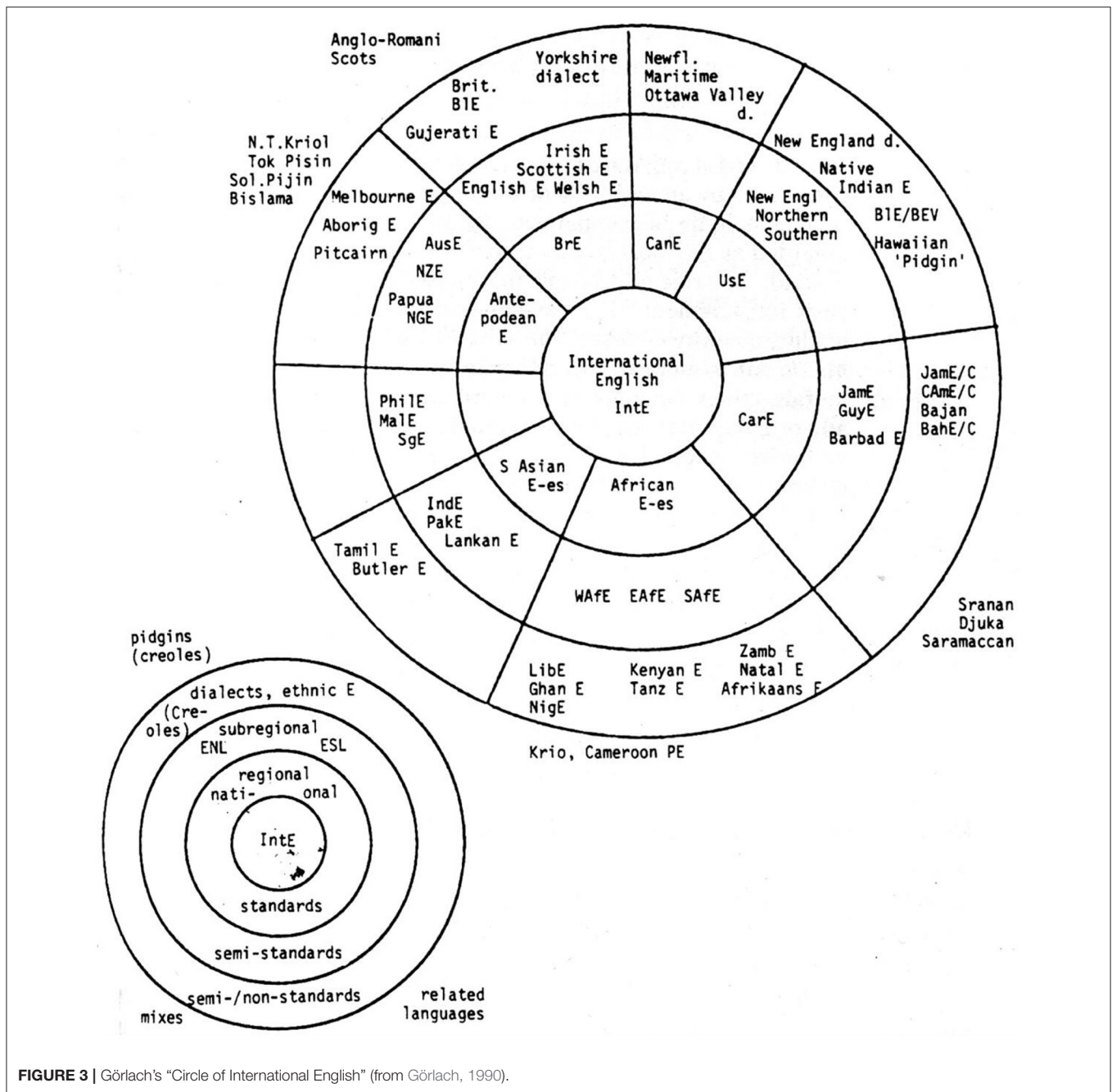
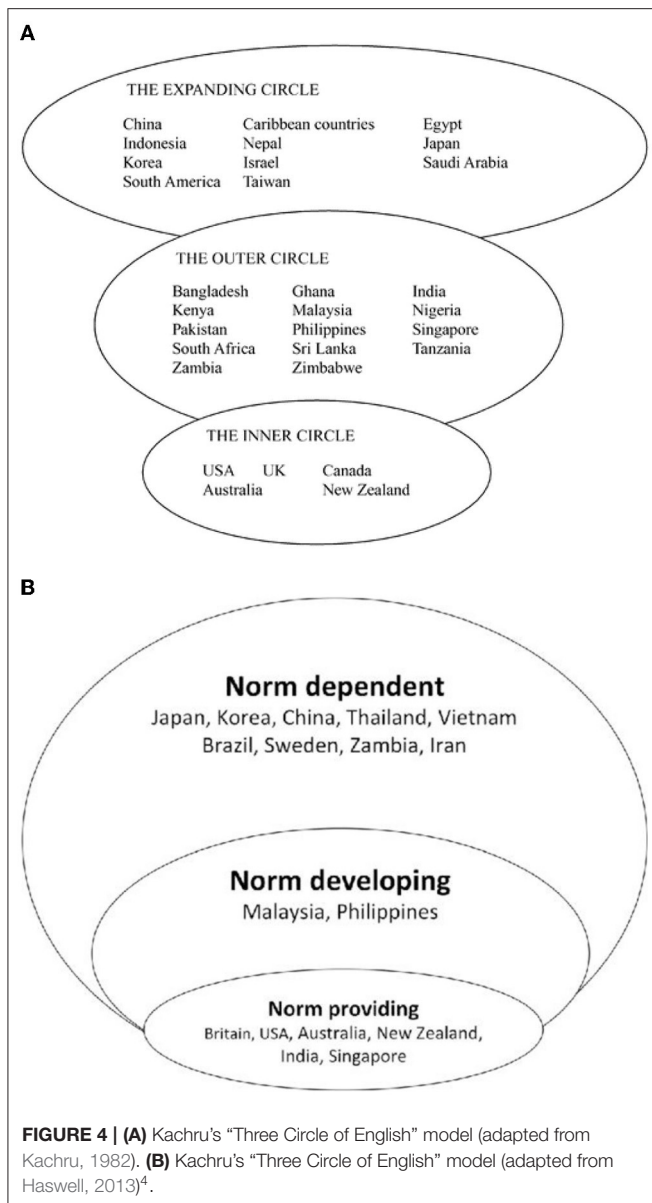


FIGURE 3 | Görlach's "Circle of International English" (from Görlach, 1990).

the top of this list, from which all other levels thence descend. Irish English is ranked as a “central variety”, perched along with (explicitly) “Scottish Standard English” between super-central varieties” (British English) and “peripheral varieties”. An innovation in Mair’s model is the inclusion and linking at each level of a separate hierarchy of non-standard varieties, ranging from the same set of levels. In terms of this model, if Irish standard(ised) English ranks as “central”, Hiberno-English ranks merely as “peripheral”.

The World System of Englishes entails a cascading-down approach: super-central varieties will influence central varieties

but not *vice versa*—thus British English on Irish English but not *vice versa*. As Mair comments: “there will be more British terms spreading into Irish usage than in the other direction.” (Mair, 2013, p. 262). It is doubtful that Irish English will cascade-down to influence “peripheral varieties”, unless perhaps, because of nineteenth-century emigration, on urban varieties in England such as Liverpool or Newcastle-upon-Tyne. But yet again, it depends on what is being meant by Irish English: simply vernacular Hiberno-English, whether northern or southern? And moreover what is meant by influence, or who the influencer is.



A more recent top-down classificatory model—the “Language Contact Typology of world Englishes”, by Onysko (2016) reproduced in **Figure 7**—is based on the premise that all variation arises from contact. Here, the early foundation of English in Ireland may be classified as an “English in multilingual constellation”.

In his model, Onysko (2016) applies Van Coetsem (1988, 2000) distinctions between a “source language” (in this case Irish) and a “recipient language” (in this case English). Onysko’s claim is that, if the source language is dominant in the contact situation, its impact on the recipient language will go beyond basic lexical influence (assumed to be borrowing) and be significant. In

⁴Haswell (2013) presents other models of world Englishes, but as their focus is on the Asian rim, they will not be discussed further here.

this contact situation, speakers of the recipient language (English) will thereby feel pressure to acquire the source language (Irish) and adopt many of its features from different levels. The corollary claim is that, if the recipient language (English) is dominant in the contact situation, it will remain dominant and absorb only lexical features from Irish. Thus, Onysko contends, it was this essentially parallelism in the bi-lingual contact situation which laid the foundations for what eventually led to the wholesale language shift from Irish to an Irish form of English, stretching from the late 18th to the early 20th centuries. From the view of the contact model (**Figure 7**), the emergence and early foundation of Irish English fits the general scenario of “Englishes in multilingual constellations” whereby continuing source language agentivity turned into a scenario of large scale language shift.⁵

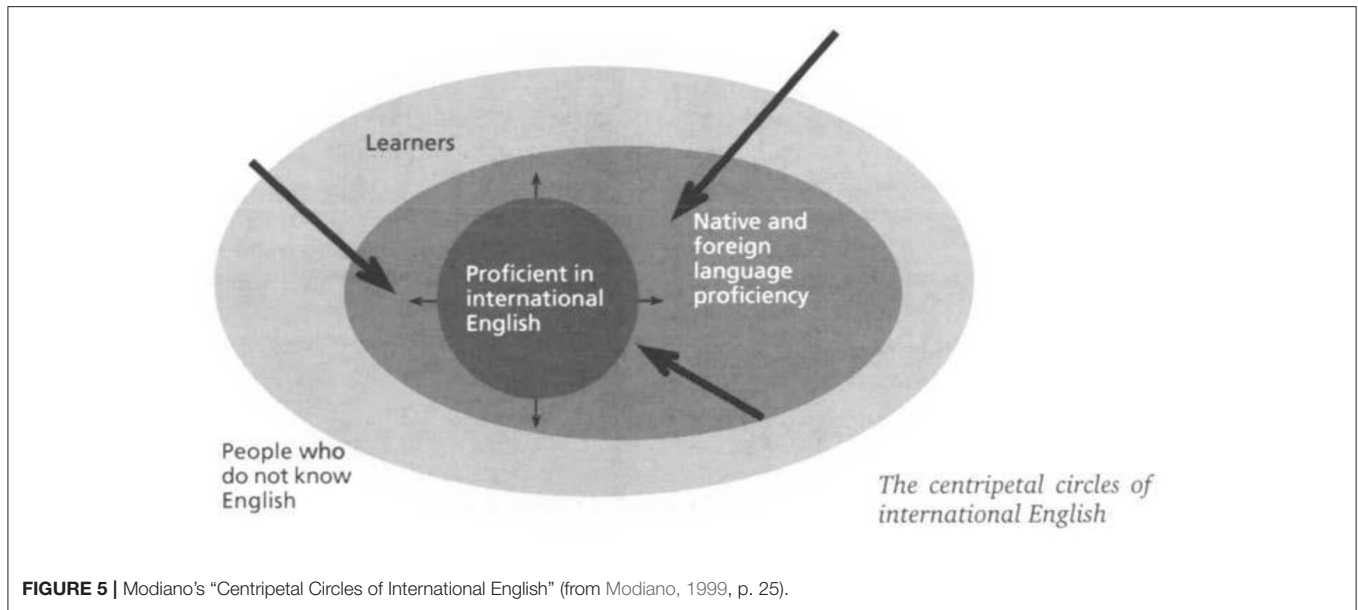
Either way, many Irish words found their way into Irish English. Although these words are considered as “loanword borrowings”, Kallen (1996) has urged that they are probably better understood as “apports”. For Kallen, apports are “Irish words retained in the English language after a community switch away from Irish” (Kallen, 1996, p. 109, cf. also Kirk, in press). The notion suggests the source-language activity of “survival” and the “carrying over” of elements in the Irish lexicon [which speakers of Irish felt they couldn’t give up]—rather than borrowing by English [and it] suits much of the development of Irish English, especially during the major period of language shift” (Kallen, 2013, p. 132).

After the completion of the shift for large parts of the population, Irish English can be considered as developing further—largely as a “Koiné English” (i.e., as a result of dialect contact between the emerging variety of Irishised English and other varieties of English).

More recently, a further contact development was to develop: spoken vernacular English in Ireland has come to find itself in contact with other dialects and varieties of English, most notably the standardized variety, but also British regional varieties, reinforcing further the classification of Irish English as a “koiné”. Koiné features from dialectal English are certainly shown to be present in southern Hiberno-English by Klemola (1994, 2002) and Anderwald (2002), and those from Scots in northern Hiberno-English (Kirk and Kallen, 2010)—all further evidence of source-dialect activity and of apportioning rather than borrowing. Most recently, Irish English is facing a new Koiné -contact situation. whereby it is *Irish* English that is being acquired as their English by communities of migrants, most predominantly from Poland. Thus in time, Irish English stands to become subjected to modification though their learning efforts (cf. e.g., Migge, 2012; Nestor et al., 2012; Diskin and Levey, 2019; Corrigan, 2020)—a further instance of emerging bilingualism in a multilingual constellation, with Irish English as the target L2 language for L1 speakers of Polish.

Against these top-down, geo-political approaches at explaining the relationships between world Englishes, there has arisen an alternative paradigm with an altogether different

⁵All the same, Irish multi-/bi-bilingual contact almost certainly continued after the language shift with prevailing code-switching, more likely among educated members of the middle-classes.



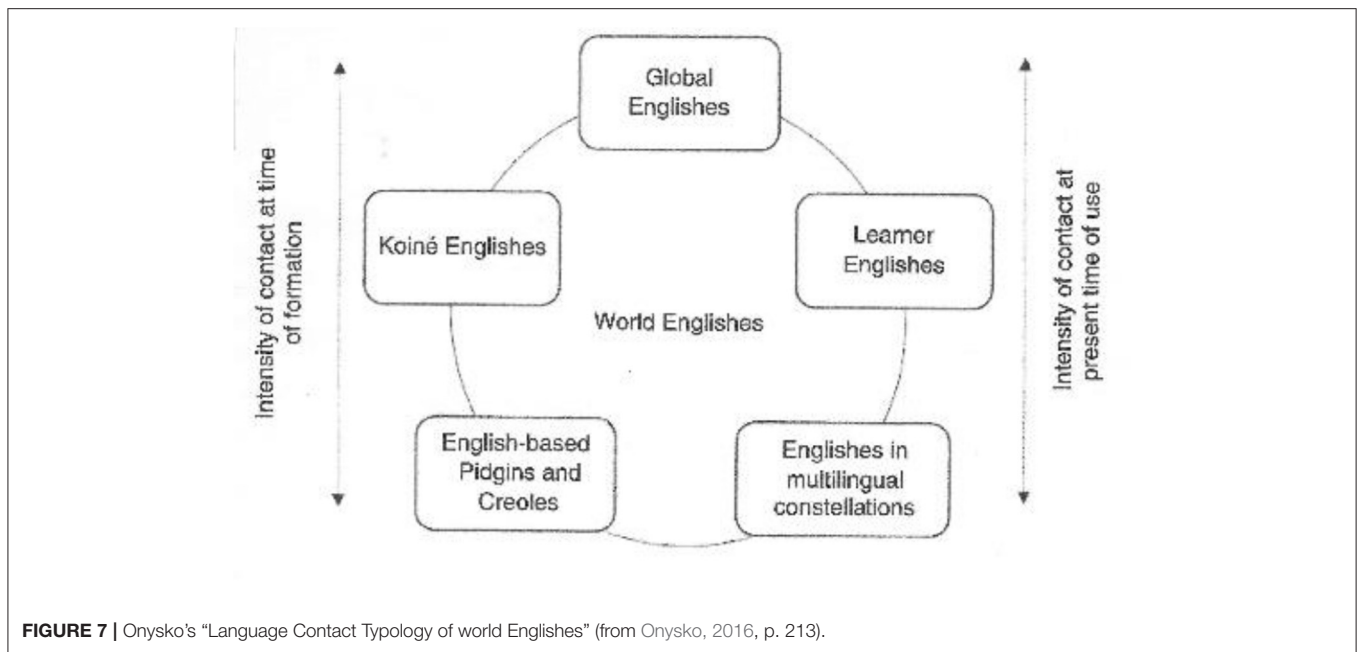
"World System of Standard and Non-Standard Englishes"

- **Hyper-central variety**/"hub" of the World System of Englishes: Standard American English
- **Super-central varieties:**
 - (1) **Standard:** British English, Australian English, South African English, Nigerian English, Indian English, and a very small number of others
 - (2) **Non-standard:** AAVE, Jamaican Creole, popular London, and a very small number of others
(+ **Domain-specific ELF uses:** science, business, international law, etc.)
- **Central varieties:**
 - (1) **Standard:** Irish English, Scottish (Standard) English, Jamaican English, Ghanaian English, Kenyan English, Sri Lankan English, Pakistani English, New Zealand English, and a small number of others
 - (2) **Non-standard:** Northern English urban koinés, US Southern, and a small number of others
- **Peripheral varieties:**
 - (1) **Standard:** Maltese English, St. Kitts English, Cameroonian English, Papua New Guinea English, and others
 - (2) **Non-standard:** all traditional rurally based non-standard dialects, plus a large number of colonial varieties including pidgins and creoles

FIGURE 6 | Mair's "World System of Standard and Non-Standard Englishes" (from Mair, 2013, p. 264).

approach. This is the "Dynamic Model", advanced by Edgar Schneider, initially in an article (Schneider, 2003), later in more detail in a monograph (Schneider, 2007). The focus of this model is on the English of former (mostly British) colonies, and is "dynamic" because it sets out explanations for the evolution and development of the Englishes in these countries. There is a basic premise whereby Englishes developed through an evolutionary process which is uniform, and which can be

accounted for in separable stages. In such countries, two groups of speakers are always identifiable: firstly, the settlers (in the case of Ireland, English in the South; English and Scots in the North) who brought their mother tongue with them and who, over time, come to acquire features taken over from local languages native to the place; and, secondly, the indigenous, colonized people—the Irish—who begin to acquire the language of their new colonial masters. Initially, for the early phases, the English



is based on that of the settlers and follows their (largely British) “norm-providing” or “exonormative” patterns (Schneider’s second tier). Over time, and inter-generational transfer and inter-marriage, and in Ireland advanced by language shift, the English of each group comes to merge, with features becoming transferred from Irish and now shared in common and thus nativized (Schneider’s third tier) (similar to Mesthrie and Bhatt’s “language-shift” variety above). Over further time and deeper integration, features come to have local characteristics of their own or “endonormative” patterns (Schneider’s fourth tier). Finally, there is full linguistic independence or “differentiation” (Schneider’s fifth and final tier) or independent variety.⁶

So what of English in Ireland, Britain’s oldest colony? A trenchant case for the development of English in Ireland in line with the Dynamic Model is made by Ronan (2020). Ronan recognizes that the model’s foundation stage is not met—English arrived on the back of Anglo-Norman French, the speakers of which were the colonizers and in due course the power-holders, so that, for much of the later Middle Ages, the prestige languages of Ireland were French, Irish, and Latin. As Hickey (2007) and Ronan (2020) comment, English didn’t really take off in Ireland until the Plantations of the North in the early 17th century and in the South later that century—what amounted to a second colonization. Large numbers of Gaelic population groups began then to shift to English. For Ronan, “it is in [...] examples of seventeenth-century Irish English that we find examples of exonormatively standardized English on the one hand, and on the other hand heavily contact-marked varieties [...] which could

be seen as typical markers of ongoing nativisation of the English language in Ireland.” (p. 336) As time went on, Ronan argues, “a situation of diglossia started to emerge, in which English was increasingly used in all domains while Irish was relegated to daily life particularly in rural areas.” (p. 338) Here, Ronan contends, “we can speak of a second nativisation process of the English language”. She elaborates: “English made further inroads when a National School system was introduced in 1831, and the death blow was dealt to [Irish] by the depopulation of rural areas during the famine years in the 1840s (p. 338). Over time, the widespread Irish monolingualism turned into bilingualism and was replaced by English monolingualism. The growing importance of English, especially in the economy and in politics, led to a steady decrease of Irish speakers in all areas of the country. “Arguably”, Ronan continues, “it is this spread of English as the first language of the education system and the increasing loss of the Irish contact language which caused the endonormative stabilization of the language” (p. 338), including the incorporation of many well-known features of Irish as discussed above which had become transferred.⁷

Schneider’s final stage of differentiation is equated by Ronan with regional dialect differences (northern vs. southern, as mentioned above) and social differences which are ongoing (as, for instance, with the Dublin accent, and its supra-regional

⁷To explain the development of English toward endonormative stabilization Ronan’s case is supplemented by the adoption of the Dynamic Model’s sequel: the Extra- and Intra-Territorial Forces Model (Buschfeld and Kautsch, 2017), Ronan argues: “In effect, we find two colonization phases, with the second one starting in the seventeenth century, 600 years after initial settlements. Extra-territorial and intra-territorial language policies after this second settlement were considerably stricter, and the use of English, as well as the suppression of the Irish language, were enforced rigorously. Intra-territorially, the necessity to submit to the English language and culture was also stronger from the seventeenth century on than after the initial, twelfth-century settlements” (Ronan, 2020, p. 341).

⁶An example of a variety clearly differentiated from British English is American English, with its own spelling variants, its many differences of morpho-syntactic variation, and especially its long-standing tradition of lexical codification, all the result of demographic and social merger and, in terms of Onysko’s categorisation, “koinéisation”.

influences further afield; cf. Hickey, 2005). A further case for differentiation must surely be the distinctiveness of the vocabulary and its extensive codification in recent dictionaries: *A Dictionary of Hiberno-English* (Dolan, 2014), *Slanguage*, (Share, 2014), and the *Concise Ulster Dictionary* (Macafee, 1996) (cf. also Kirk, in press).

Schneider's model has been well-received, with some debate about the stage of development to which a variety is allocated, and about whether some nativised varieties have developed their own norms. Recent vindication comes the multi-dimensional factor analysis in Bohmann (2020), as discussed below.

Meanwhile, the Dynamic Model's applicability to non-colonial countries has been tested in investigations of European and Asian countries, with positive results, although, inevitably, the first two stages cannot apply. In such countries, where English has no settler population or institutional status, it has been acquired entirely through education with an inevitable focus on the standardized language (Edwards, 2016, p. 190).

Thus, to accommodate developments in common, there has arisen the notion of what Schneider (2014) calls "transnational attraction", a further dynamic concept intended to explain the influence of English on languages everywhere, no matter their status. Behind this notion lie notions of globalization, of instantaneous electronic-mediated communication, widespread global travel, affluence in westernized societies and, increasingly, migration into large urban centers of multi-ethnicity or what's become labeled as super-diversity, such as Singapore, Hong Kong and Dubai (cf. Siemund and Leimgruber, 2021). Of such social influences, Irish English has certainly not been exempt, with many multi-national companies such as Apple, Google and Microsoft setting up production facilities in Ireland, or the influx of particularly eastern and southern Europeans to Ireland.

To sum up this synthesis of proposals for conceptualizing the status of national varieties, we have thus seen that Irish English has been categorized internal-linguistically as: "standard" (McArthur, 1987), "sub-regional semi-standard" (Görlach, 1990), "inner circle"/"ENL"/"EMT" (Kachru, 1982), "contact", "central" (Mair, 2013), "koiné" (Oynsko, 2016) and "differentiated" (Schneider, 2007); also externally as "postcolonial" (Schneider) and "new" (Mesthrie and Bhatt, 2008). Can they all be credible? The differences of focus in Ireland have inevitably split between high and low prestige languages in an earlier period (as well documented in Kallen, 2013, p. chs. 1 and 5; Kallen, 2017) and, in the modern period, between vernacular Hiberno-English and the standardized variety. Although features of the vernacular occur in the standardized variety only in small measures, the latter is no less Irish in their indexicality. The two extremes remain joined through the abiding distinctiveness of the vocabulary.

THE EMPIRICAL COMPARISON OF IRISH ENGLISH WITH WORLD ENGLISHES

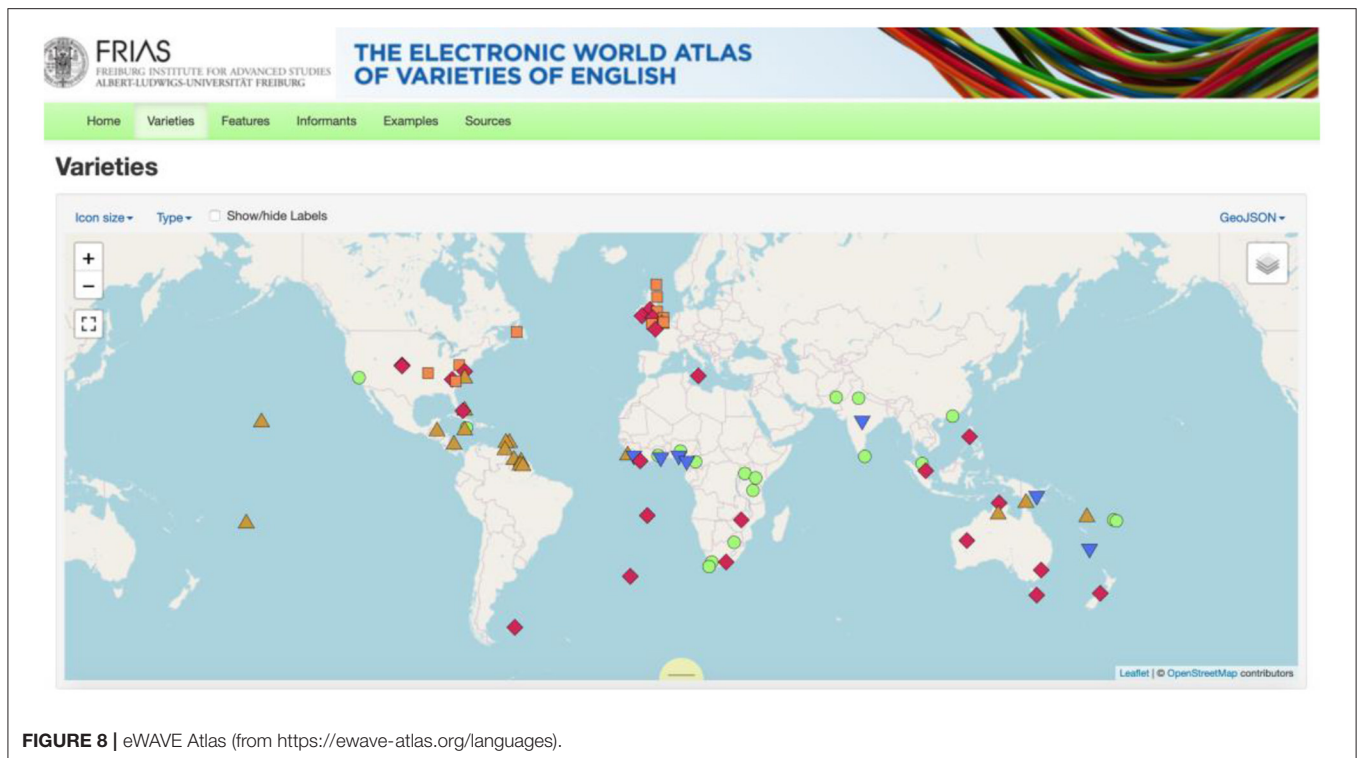
Top-down conceptualization has not been the only approach to considering Irish English within world Englishes. For there has been a further development of a further paradigm. With

the growing availability of ICE-corpora, Irish English has come to feature as a national "dialect" in inter-corpus comparisons. A great many studies have compared the data of ICE-Ireland with the data of other ICE-corpora. The recent textbook by Lange and Leuckert (2020) encourages inter-ICE-corpora comparisons with a set of five exercises (on phrasal verbs, the definite article, embedded questions, processes of compounding and suffixation, and adverbial intensifiers). Such studies are facilitated by the ICEonline software which at a stroke can compare up to 15 national components. A recent article by Hundt (2020) reviews the research which uses ICE-data to substantiate the claims of various WE models as outlined here. Section §22.4.1 of Hundt (2020) is entitled "Corpora as a Testing Bed for Models of world Englishes"—specifically Kachru's Three Circles Model, Schneider's Dynamic Model, and the Epicenter Hypothesis.⁸ With respect to the Three Circles Model, Hundt comments: "numerical evidence on individual grammatical patterns does not necessarily support the distinction between ENL, ESL, and EFL varieties ..." (Hundt, 2020, p. 515) and provides examples of those which do and those which do not.

For testing Schneider's Dynamic Model of the evolution of WEs for different degrees of nativisation, Schneider himself urges that "the most promising road to a possible detection of early traces of distinctive features is a principled comparison of performance data collected along similar lines, i.e. systematically elicited corpora" (Schneider, 2004, p. 227). To this end, the verbal complementation patterns intransitive, monotransitive, or ditransitive, and their lexical exponence are investigated in ICE-India, ICE-Hong Kong, ICE-Singapore along with ICE-GB in a range of articles by Mukherjee and Gries (2009) and Gries and Mukherjee (2010). Hundt reports favorably: "[...] Mukherjee and Gries (2009)" collocation analysis reveals that a variety's divergence from BrE tallies well with its respective developmental stage [...]" (Hundt, 2020, p. 516), so that if ICE-Ireland data were used, and with stage 5 differentiation, close or comparable similarity with ICE-GB data would be likely. Using the same corpora, however, in an investigation of n-grams and their bundling, Hundt reports further: "Gries and Mukherjee (2010) study of lexical bundles did not provide additional evidence that the more advanced a variety is in the evolutionary cycle, the more it will have developed region-specific usage patterns" (Hundt, 2020, p. 516). Whereas these findings may hold for the Asian varieties which were investigated, there are two implications for Irish English: firstly, if applied to ICE-Ireland, distinctive patterns of lexical exponence in complement types may not be found either as the corpus is far too small for such purposes.⁹ That notwithstanding, as differentiation in Schneider's model entails lexical distinctiveness, we know that such distinctiveness exists from the recent lexicographical records, as discussed above. From

⁸As Irish English can hardly be claimed to be an epicenter, the topic won't be developed further here.

⁹Recent online corpora such as GloWbE (with its sourcing of material solely from the Internet) or NOW (corpus of current newspaper material from the Internet) may well reflect more of Irish English's lexical distinctiveness. But see further below.



Hundt's comprehensive article, it would be fair to infer that there must be extremely few research publications which have used (or, moreover, can use) corpus data directly to substantiate the claims or implications of top-down, largely geo-political models of world Englishes. The inference gap appears to be simply unbridgeable—or at least so far.

In what other ways is it possible to relate and compare Irish English to other varieties of English. One is to use the *Electronic World Atlas of Varieties of English* (eWAVE),¹⁰ compiled by Bernd Kortmann (see **Figure 8**). Here, information on maps and in lists for some 225 features in 77 countries is presented. It is a database, not any kind of corpus. The list of features was drawn up in the early 2000s by Kortmann on the basis of what was then known about non-standard features in varieties of English world-wide and collated into an organized list. A list of areas was compiled where coverage might be revealing and the inclusion of which was considered important. The upshot of all these data is that Irish English (covered by Markku Filppula) is categorized as a “high-contact L1 variety”.

Of the 23 features given an A-rating (“feature is pervasive or obligatory”) for Irish English in eWAVE, the rarest occur in only one other variety: the *after*-Perfect (feature 98) in Newfoundland, and the unsplit *for to* in infinitival purpose clauses (feature 202) in Tristan da Cunha; two other features occur in only three other varieties: the absolute use of reflexives (feature 15) in Manx English, Saramaccan English and Eastern Maroon Creole,

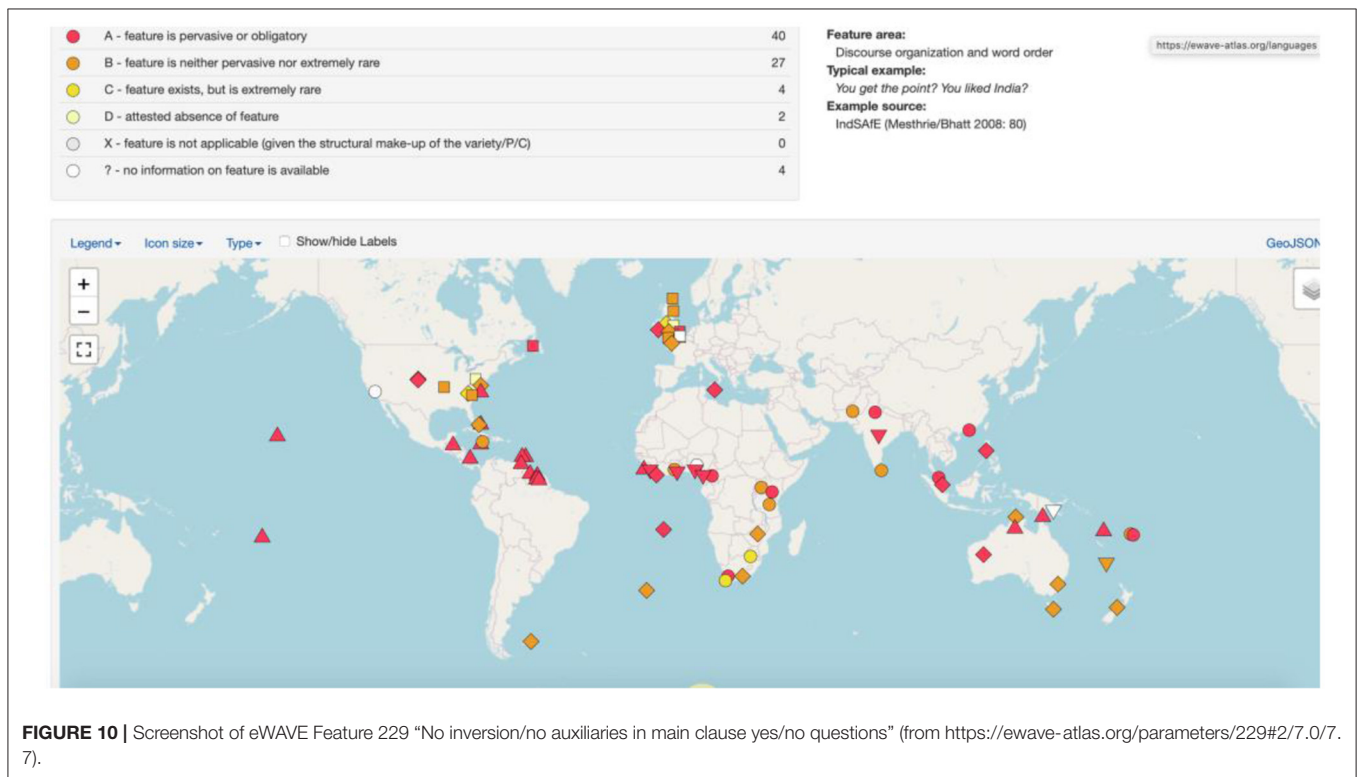
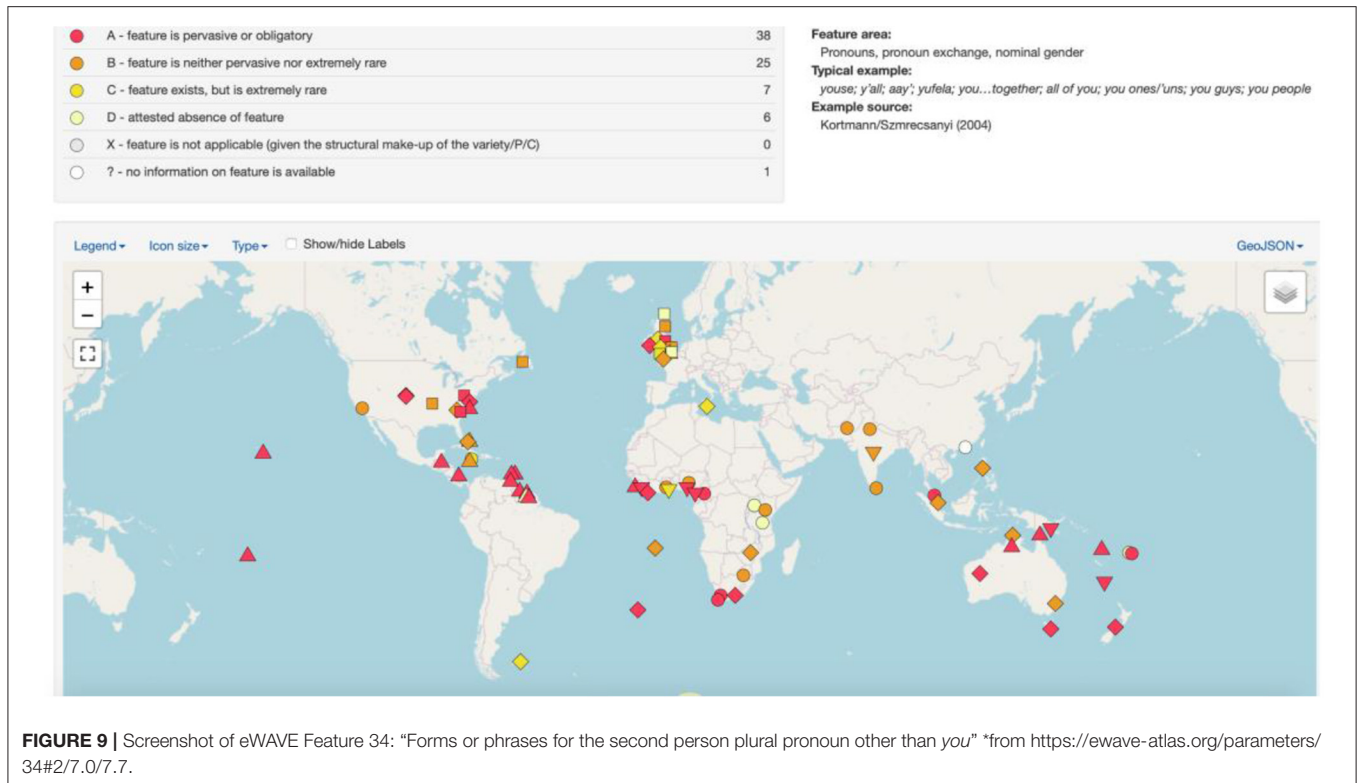
and forms or phrases for the second person singular pronoun other than *you* (feature 35) in Orkney and Shetland English, Gullah, and Saramaccan English. A further feature occurs in only four other varieties: the use of definite article where StE favors zero (feature 64) in Manx English, Indian English, Hong Kong English, basilectal Fiji English. For the far-flung distribution of some of these features, there is probably no single explanation. But in view of their rarity, it would not be inappropriate to consider them Irishisms (and the *after*-perfect usually is!). On the other hand, some of these “pervasive and obligatory” features are quite widely distributed: in some 60 (out of the total of 77) countries, alternatives for the second person plural *you* pronoun (feature 34; see **Figure 9**) are listed for 63 countries, and the lack of inversion and elision of the auxiliary in questions (feature 229; see **Figure 10**) is attested in 67 countries.

The eWAVE maps are thus able to show at a glance how widespread a feature of Irish English actually is—with maps that not only show the A-D ratings¹¹ of the response but also the categorization of the variety (as an L1, L2 or creole type).

The online atlas derives from the earlier *Mouton World Atlas of Variation in English* (Kortmann and Lunkenheimer, 2013), where slightly different results are to be found. For Irish English, the *after*-perfect is the only A-rated feature. However, there are listed some 16 B-rated features (p. 695). In the *Mouton Atlas*, Irish English is again categorized as a “high-contact L1 variety”,

¹⁰<https://ewave-atlas.org> (last accessed January 05, 2022). Cf. Kortmann et al. (2020).

¹¹For B, a feature “is neither pervasive nor extremely rare”; for C, a feature “exists but is extremely rare”; for D, a feature is attested as “absent” (<https://ewave-atlas.org/parameters/1#2/7.1/43.4>).



one of five broad classes of variety types.¹² The *Mouton Atlas* presents various groupings such as the most frequent features across 28 of the 30 L1 varieties surveyed (p. 681–682). Whereas Irish speakers of English are aware of features they have and which seem to depart from the codified standard—and have responded well to acceptability judgements¹³—these speakers simply do not know how widespread within Ireland or how localized to Ireland any feature actually is. Without comparison, “it is not possible to establish any variety-exclusive and variety-preferential features of any (regional, socio-economic, ethnic, etc.) dialect”, according to Barron and Schneider (2008, p. 429). It is not only to qualitative and quantitative comparisons of this kind that the *Mouton Atlas* lends itself but also to multi-factorial and typological analyses. For individual morpho-syntactic and discourse-pragmatic features, the *Mouton Atlas* and eWAVE stem from a database that has been rigorously annotated to enable multi-factorial and multi-dimensional analysis and interpretation. No doubt this has all been made possible by the nature of the data upon which they are based: sentences that were rated for their occurrence and acceptability.

The question then arises whether the automatic approach provided by eWAVE can be replicated on the basis of corpus data. As discussed above, Hundt (2020) finds that that very few corpus-based studies have satisfactorily substantiated the apparent differences claimed by world English models, whether those by Kachru or by Schneider. Nevertheless, there are two approaches using corpus data which go a long way toward operationalising instantaneous comparisons between Irish English and world English: the ICEonline software, already mentioned, and the GloWbE corpus.

It's well known that one-million word corpora such as ICE components are ideal for providing data for many morpho-syntactic or discourse-pragmatic investigations but much less for lexical phenomena. It was shown above how a key word approach to lexis, by looking at the incidence of vocabulary in the corpus as a whole, was able to substantiate cultural differences between the two parts of Ireland (cf. Kirk and Kallen, 2011). However investigating individual lexical items on their own proves unsatisfactory in corpora of that size because of the limited amount of data. Of the best known Irish words in English: *brogues*, *galore*, *gob*, *slew*, *slogan*, *whiskey* (cf. Phelan, 2016), ICE-Ireland yields only one instance of *galore*, and there are no occurrences in any other ICE component. A further category of words, claimed by Mullally (2017) to be Ireland's favorite words, includes: *hooligan*, *leprechauns*, *langers* and *eejits*, *donnybrooks* and *Tories* as well as the eponymous cases of *boycott*, each of which has its origins in Irish. Of this latter set, there are no occurrences in ICE-Ireland and only one occurrence of *Tory* in ICE-GB. More widely, there are 26 occurrences of *boycott* (shown by ICEonline). Happily, lexical enquiries on the basis of corpus

data can be undertaken with the use of the GloWbE corpus.¹⁴ Not only can enquiries be executed online automatically but the results can be instantaneously displayed in a table which amounts to, if not a map of the world, as with eWAVE, a horizontal cartographical-like display of relative distributions with illustrations like bar graphs. GloWbE is a massive corpus of about 1.9 billion words of text from some twenty different countries, from the years 2012–2013. Its data are taken from the Internet, including blogs, so that it comprises a mixture of fairly informal material from both spoken-like and written-like texts, tending probably more toward the informal or colloquial end of a stylistic continuum (cf. Davies and Fuchs, 2015).

Of the above words which Ireland gave to the English language, GloWbE does indeed show at a glance that such words as *brogues*, *galore*, *gob*, *slew*, *slogan*, *whiskey* are known and used throughout the world—both in terms of raw occurrences and of relativised or normalized frequencies per one million words (pmw), as shown in **Figure 11** for *galore*:

The worldwide spread of *galore* shown by of the GloWbE distribution confirms the DHE claim that “this is one of the few words of Irish origin that have made their way into SE usage” (p. 109) particularly as a predicate adjective. In fact, the Irish frequency of 1.46 pmw is below the word's global average of 1.51 pmw, with a highest scores of 2.79 pmw in Malaysia and 2.33 in Jamaica. Here is an example from Northern Ireland:

He has got cups **galore**, that man up there (NITCS Text 20, Doagh Co. Antrim) (cups referring to trophies won as prizes).¹⁵

Of all the words which Ireland has given the world, *brogue/brogues* must rank as a strong candidate. According to DHE, *brogue* (singular) refers to “the Irish way of speaking English” and, according to Murphy (1943), originated as an English word to describe an Irish accent, being first recorded in the early 16th century with reference to a parrot which could imitate accents including Irish English (Hickey, 2007, p. 7). Nowadays, its meaning has been generalized to refer to the whole way Irish people are perceived to speak English “unintelligibly (as a result of contamination from Irish syntax and vocabulary)” (DHE).¹⁶

In **Figure 12**, the GloWbE map shows how widespread *brogue* and *brogues* are, but not surprisingly that most occurrences remain in Ireland.

Another word claimed to have been given to the English language from Ireland is the noun *slew*, meaning “a large number or amount of something” < Irish *slua* “a crowd, a host, a multitude” (DHE) notwithstanding the OED: “originally U.S.”

¹²The other four types are “Traditional L1 varieties”, “indigenized L2 variety”, “English-based pidgins”, and “English-based creoles”.

¹³Cf. for instance, those carried out at different times by Henry (1995) (for her 1995 book *Belfast English and Standard English*) or Ray Hickey (for his Survey of Irish English Usage, reported in Hickey, 2007).

¹⁴<https://www.english-corpora.org/glowbe/> (last accessed January 05, 2022).

¹⁵The example is from the *Northern Ireland Transcribed Corpus of Speech* (Kirk, 2004).

¹⁶By contrast, *brogues* (plural) refers to a pair of strong leather shoes with a pattern of holes and stitches, supposedly from Irish *bróg* “a shoe”, or else narrowed from Old Norse *brók* (“trousers”, whence *breeches*) (cf. Bergin, 1943, cited by Hickey, 2007, p. 7), but it is unlikely that the reference to shoes has transferred to speech to suggest that the way the Irish speak English was “as if they had a shoe on their tongue” (DHE) (clearly a false etymology!). It is only this shoe meaning which features in the entry in *A History of Ireland in 100 words* (Arbuthnott et al., 2019, p. 86–87).

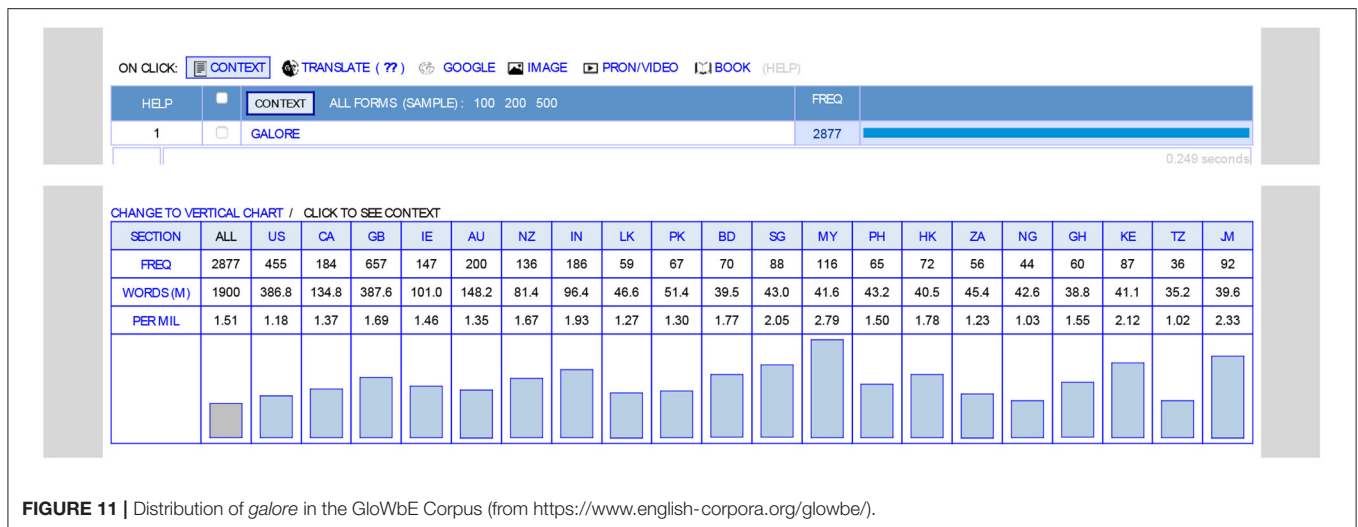


FIGURE 11 | Distribution of *galore* in the GloWbE Corpus (from <https://www.english-corpora.org/glowbe/>).

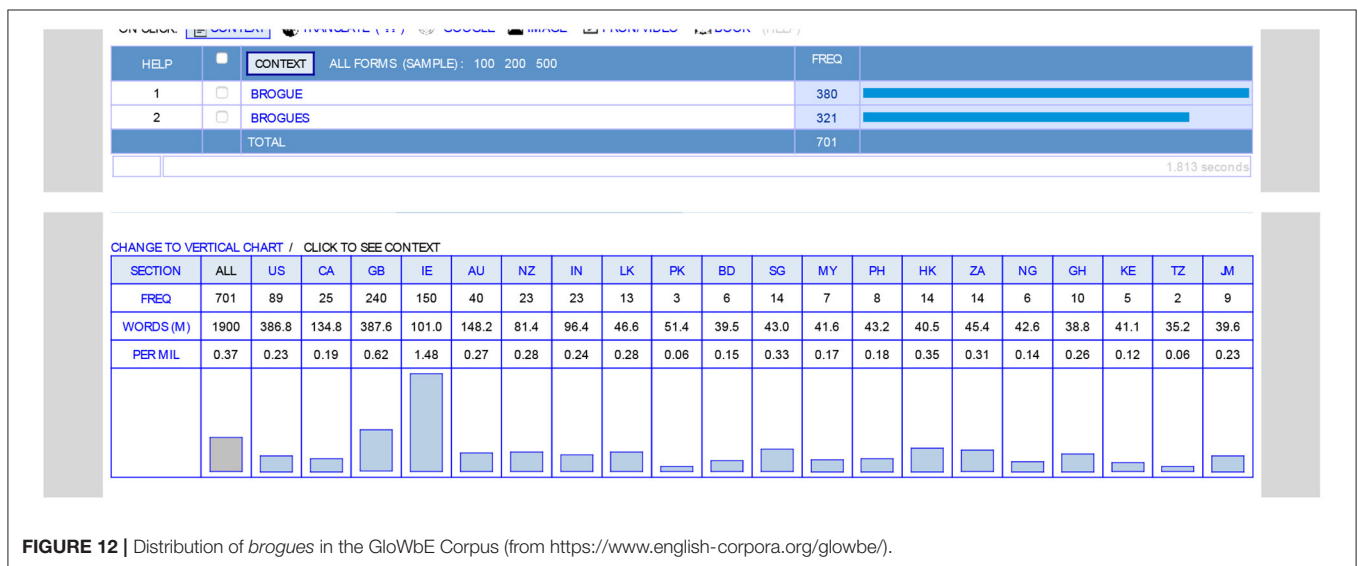


FIGURE 12 | Distribution of *brogues* in the GloWbE Corpus (from <https://www.english-corpora.org/glowbe/>).

In **Figure 13**, the GloWbE map shows a widespread distribution, with Ireland (with a pmw of 1.40) far from predominating compared with Jamaica (pmw 6.44), India (pmw 3.53) and the USA (pmw 3.39).

The word *slogan* in English is claimed as often to come from Scottish Gaelic as it is from Irish. Originally it meant “a war cry”, from the Irish *slua-ghairm* or Scottish Gaelic *sluagh-ghairm* “a battle cry”. However, it is its metaphoric sense of “a distinctive word or phrase used by a political or other group”, first attested 1,704, according to Etymonline, which has gone round the world, as the map in **Figure 14** shows.

Slogan would appear now to be most frequent in Ghana (pmw 12.67) and Malaysia (pmw 10.76), compared with a pmw of 5.12 in Ireland.

The final word for consideration as an Irish contribution to English is *whiskey/whiskeys*, from Irish *uisce* “water” + *beatha* “life”, whence *eau de vie*, itself probably a loan-translation of Medieval Latin *aqua vitae*. In Scotland, the word is spelled *whisky*, which came through Scottish Gaelic from Irish as well.

In **Figure 15**, the GloWbE map shows not surprisingly that, although nowadays an international beverage, *whiskey* is most common in Ireland itself (pmw 17.68).

As for the Irishisms that are favorites and much-loved at home, GloWbE can reinforce such local preferences by showing (as in **Figure 16**) that a word such as *langers*, which refers to the male penis and by extension to “a stupid or contemptible person” or to “someone who is drunk”, and which is regarded as a slang term of contempt and abuse, occurs almost exclusively in Ireland and is non-existent in many countries.

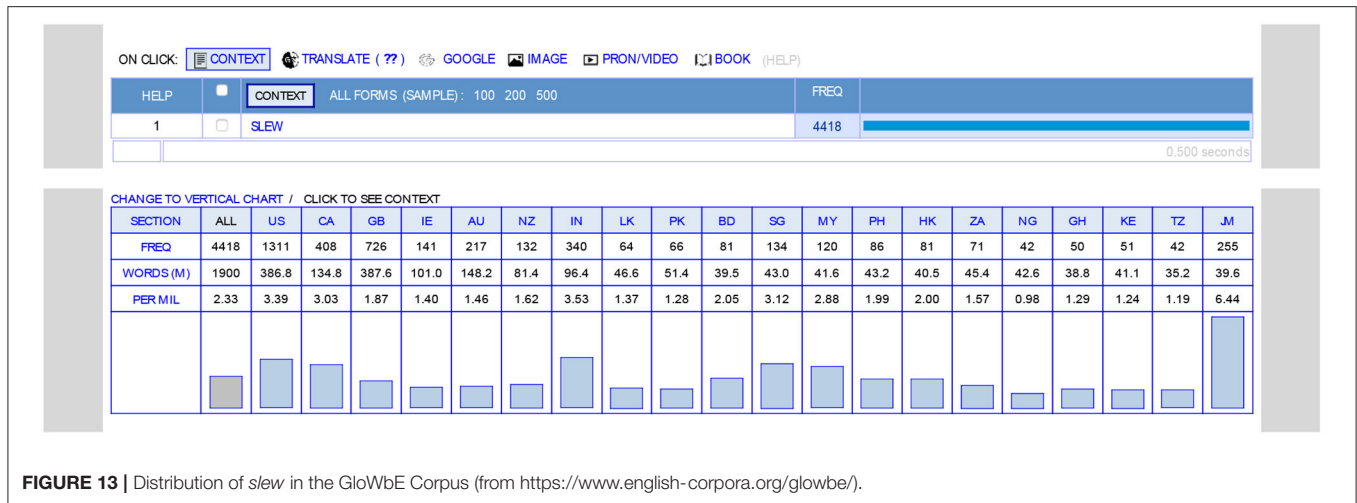


FIGURE 13 | Distribution of *slew* in the GloWbE Corpus (from <https://www.english-corpora.org/glowbe/>).

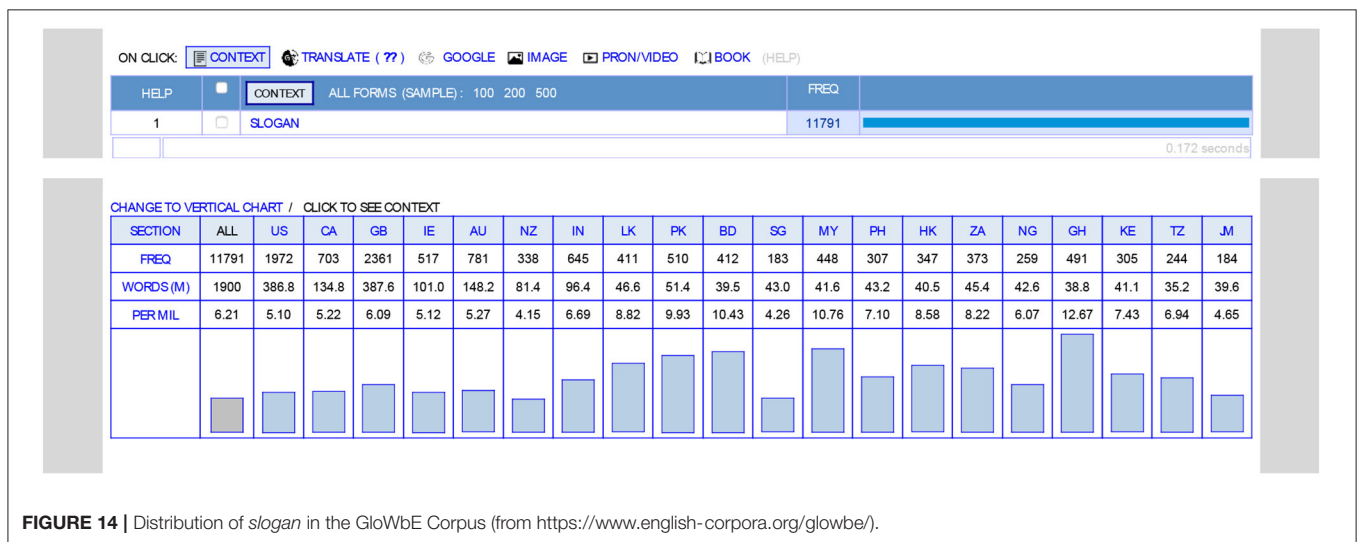


FIGURE 14 | Distribution of *slogan* in the GloWbE Corpus (from <https://www.english-corpora.org/glowbe/>).

A further favorite is *leprechaun*. Few folk motifs are more indexical of the Irish than *leprechauns*. According to DHE, a leprechaun is “a dwarflike sprite; an industrious fairy seen at dusk or in the moonlight mending a shoe”.¹⁷ For *Slanguage*, *leprechauns* are “characteristic of perceived Oirish [sic] qualities” [i.e., “excessive or exaggerated display of perceived national characteristics”, and its use is generally derogatory]. In **Figure 17**, the GloWbE map shows that the country of most occurrence is indeed Ireland—not unexpectedly—at pmw 2.84, but that, with the exception of Tanzania, there are occurrences of *leprechaun(s)* in every other of the 20 countries surveyed. After Ireland, *leprechaun* occurs most frequently in, perhaps surprisingly, Singapore (pmw 0.63), followed by the USA (pmw 0.48) and then

GB (pmw 0.40). The word may be Irish in origin¹⁸ but the display shows that *leprechaun(s)* has come to be used throughout the world, albeit in small numbers.

A similar distribution occurs for another indexical word of the Irish: *eejit/eejits*, referring to “a silly person”, “a fool”, “an idiot”, an Irish (especially Dublin) spelling pronunciation of *idiot* but, according to DHE, “less pejorative than StE *idiot*”.

¹⁸According to DHE *leprechaun*, is from Irish *leipreachán*, and according to etymonline.com, *leprechaun*, is from Irish *lupracan*, a metathesis of Old Irish *luchorpan*, which traditionally is explained as literally “a very small body,” from *lu* “little, small” (from PIE root **legwh-* “not heavy, having little weight”) + *corpan*, diminutive of *corp* “body,” from Latin *corpus* “body” (from PIE root **kwrep-* “body, form, appearance”). The variant *leithbragan* is probably an Irish folk etymology, from *leith* “half” + *brog* “brogue” because the spirit was supposed to be always employed in making or mending a single shoe – whence the common image.

¹⁷But cf. Arbuthnott et al. (2019, p. 117–118) for an alternative view that leprechauns are not Irish at all.

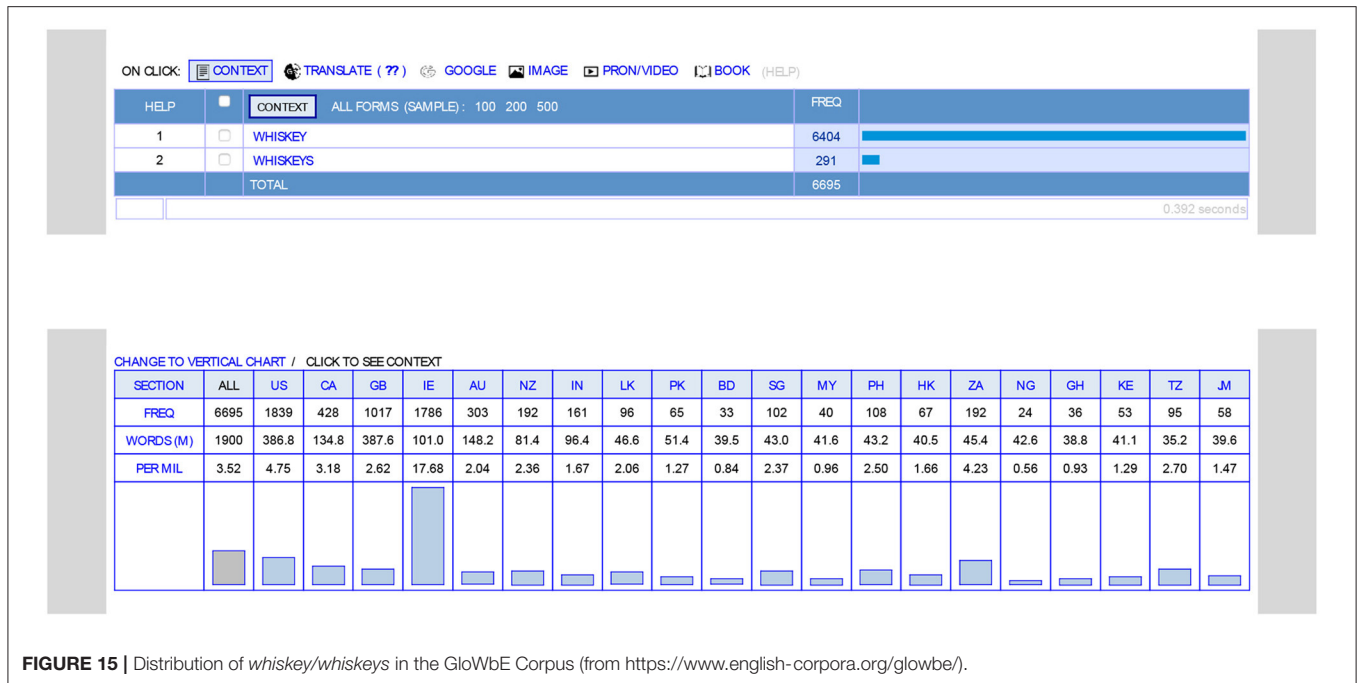


FIGURE 15 | Distribution of *whiskey/whiskeys* in the GloWbE Corpus (from <https://www.english-corpora.org/glowbe/>).

In **Figure 18**, the GloWbE map confirms the word *eejit(s)* as an Irishism (pmw 2.69), with few occurrences elsewhere except for GB (pmw 0.30), where Irish influence is strongly felt.

A further favorite word is *donnybrook(s)*. According to DHE, *donnybrook* is “a riotous assembly, a free-for-all” deriving from the place-name *Donnybrook*, “a village near Dublin, now a respectable suburb, site of an uproarious week-long fair dating from at least the 13th century, discontinued in the middle of the 19th century”. In **Figure 19**, the GloWbE map shows that *donnybrook(s)* hardly occurs outside of Ireland at all—hardly surprising, perhaps, because of its cultural associations—and thus confirming it as another Irishism.

The word *Tory* (plural *Tories*), originally meaning “a bandit” or “outlaw”, “an Irish vagabond robber or rapparee” (according to *Slanguage*), came to acquire political connotations to refer to “an advocate for absolute monarchy and church power”. Despite its Irish origins, the concept of a *Tory* has nowadays narrowed and relates predominantly to members of the Conservative Party in Great Britain or in Canada. Little surprise that this word has become a culturalism which is shown, in **Figure 20**, on the GloWbE map to predominate in Canada (pmw 16.61) and especially in GB (pmw 77.94) but is relatively scarce elsewhere, including Ireland (pmw 7.67).

The final candidate for a favorite Irish word is *boycott(s)*, meaning “refusal to cooperate”, “to exclude from all social or commercial intercourse”.¹⁹

¹⁹As an eponym, *boycott* was made famous after a certain Capt. Charles C. *Boycott* (1832–1897), a landowner in County Mayo, who refused to lower rents for his tenant farmers, so that his “oppressed tenants and workmen as well as local business people embarked on a celebrated policy of non-cooperation on his estate in the autumn of 1880” according to DHE.

In **Figure 21**, the GloWbE map shows that *boycott* occurs throughout the world, most frequently in Sri Lanka (pmw 13.70) and Pakistan (pmw 11.27). It has also been borrowed into German as *der Boykott*, for instance. Despite its source, the word can hardly be claimed to be an Irishism any more, something which could not have been predicted without such comparable corpus resources.

Thus the claims about language based on common knowledge and regularly made by journalists such as Mullally and Phelan may now be verified by using resources such as GloWbE. Using GloWbE’s extensive, suitably marked-up data as well as its instantaneous search and display capabilities, we have been able to show how some words are confirmed—visually confirmed on the display maps—as Irishisms whereas others which have originated in Ireland are nowadays to be found throughout the English-speaking world.

STATISTICAL ANALYSES OF IRISH ENGLISH AS A WORLD ENGLISH

As we have seen above with the *Mouton Atlas* and eWAVE, attempts using morpho-syntactic data or lexical data to relate world Englishes to each other have proceeded on an item by item basis, whether the *after*-perfect, verb complementation patterns or lexical phenomena. Whereas there has been a focus on national varieties, when ICE corpora have been used for comparison, attention is usually paid to mode differences of distribution or function as between speech and writing, and occasionally to the various spoken discourse situations or written registers in the mode components. Registers

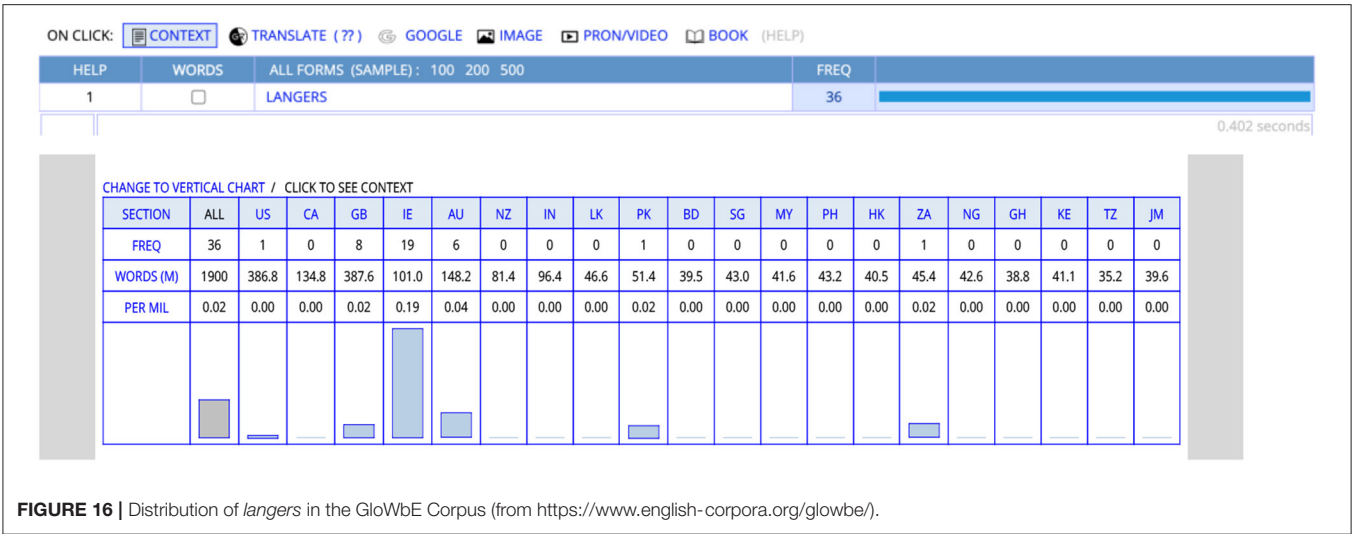


FIGURE 16 | Distribution of *langers* in the GloWbE Corpus (from <https://www.english-corpora.org/glowbe/>).

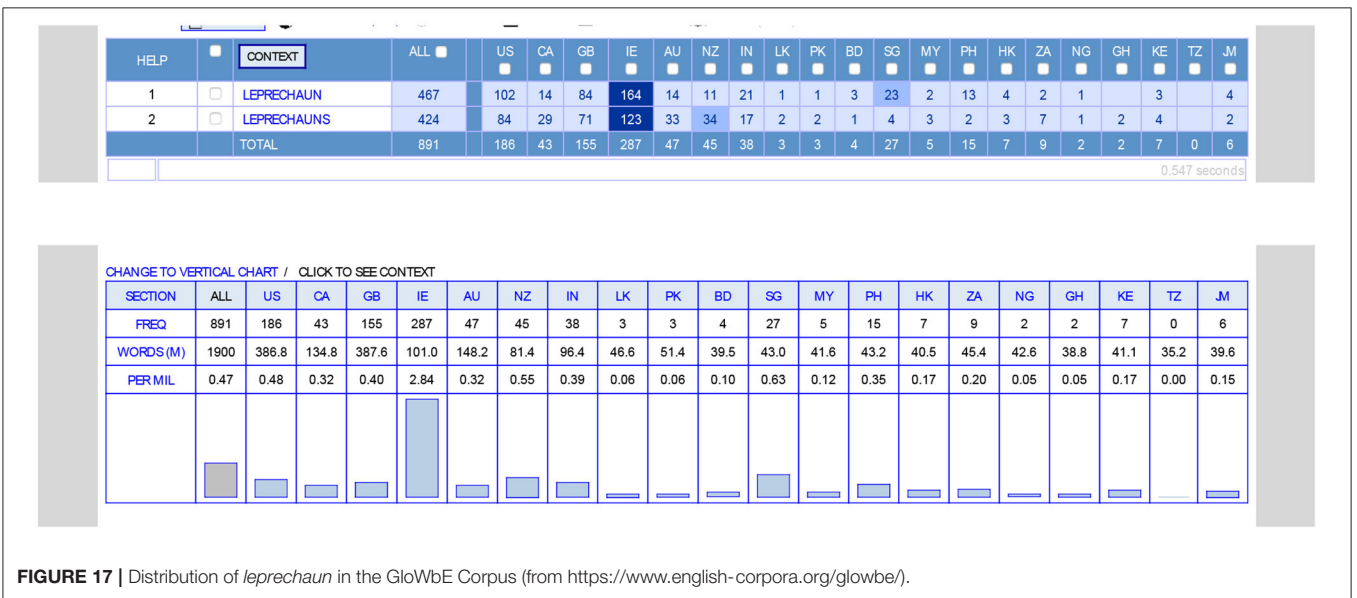


FIGURE 17 | Distribution of *leprechaun* in the GloWbE Corpus (from <https://www.english-corpora.org/glowbe/>).

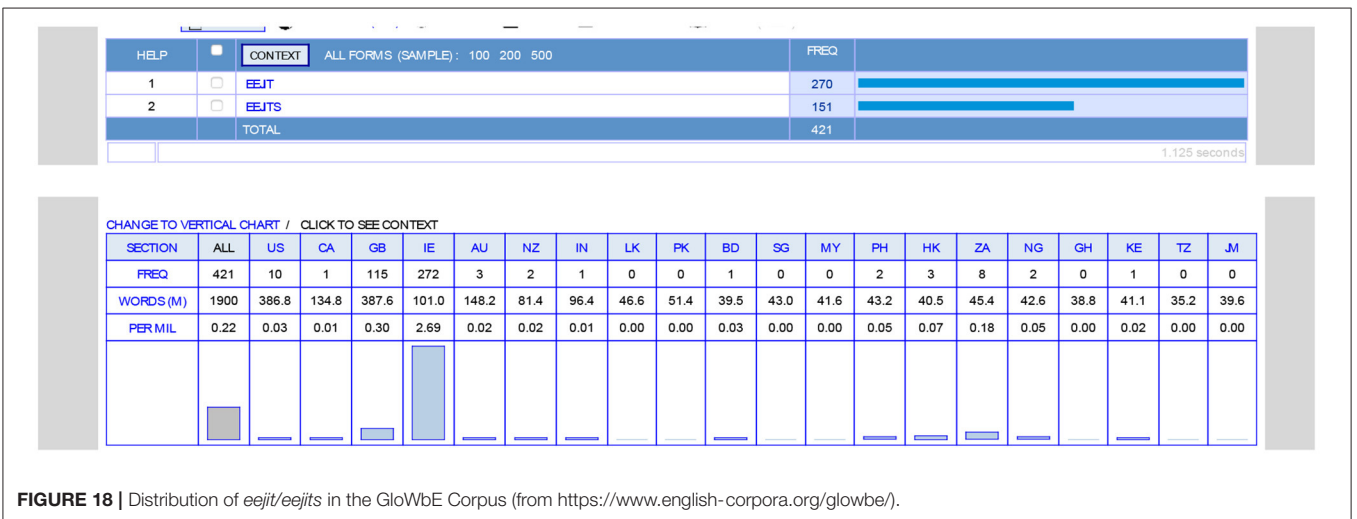


FIGURE 18 | Distribution of *eejit/eejits* in the GloWbE Corpus (from <https://www.english-corpora.org/glowbe/>).

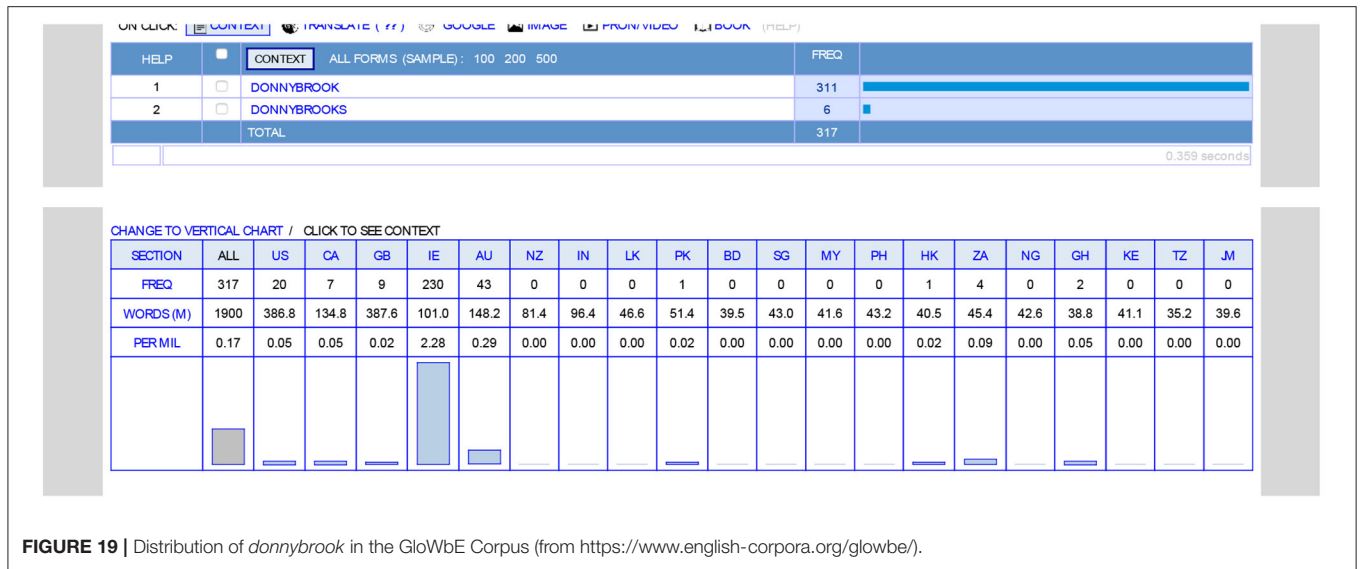


FIGURE 19 | Distribution of *donnybrook* in the GloWbE Corpus (from <https://www.english-corpora.org/glowbe/>).

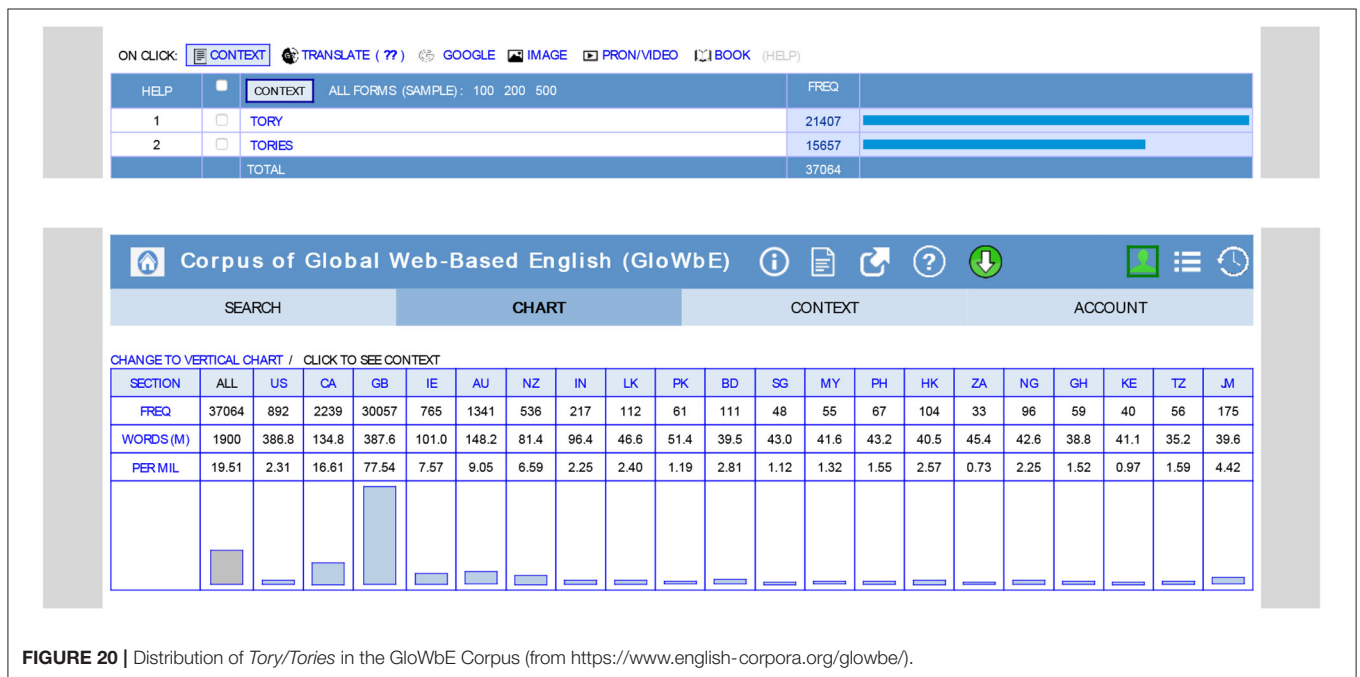


FIGURE 20 | Distribution of *Tory/Tories* in the GloWbE Corpus (from <https://www.english-corpora.org/glowbe/>).

have been variously identified on external social grounds such as the constellation of speakers or their function in communicating in the discourse situation, or whether the written texts served informational, instructional, persuasive or creative functions. Against this background, and with the availability of computational resources, there has emerged an approach of register comparison based on groupings of internal features and their implicit linguistic functions. The approach came to be known as “multi-dimensional factor analysis”, reflecting that groups of features can share the same linguistic function or “dimension”, that there are a number of key linguistic dimensions, and that consequently

each dimension becomes realized through the presence of a goodly number of occurrences of each feature or, in some cases, an absence of certain other features. The method came to prominence by Biber (1988) ground-breaking study of 1988; now, after revisions by Biber himself, there is the further ground-breaking study by Bohmann (2020). Bohmann’s approach has culminated in 10 dimensions (such as “involved vs. informational production” or “collaborative communicative orientation” or “conceptual vs. concrete informational focus” and so on) (p. 94–99) each indexical with a selection from some 236 linguistic forms including morpho-syntactic forms and affixes of word-formation (“the factors”) (p. 73–81). These

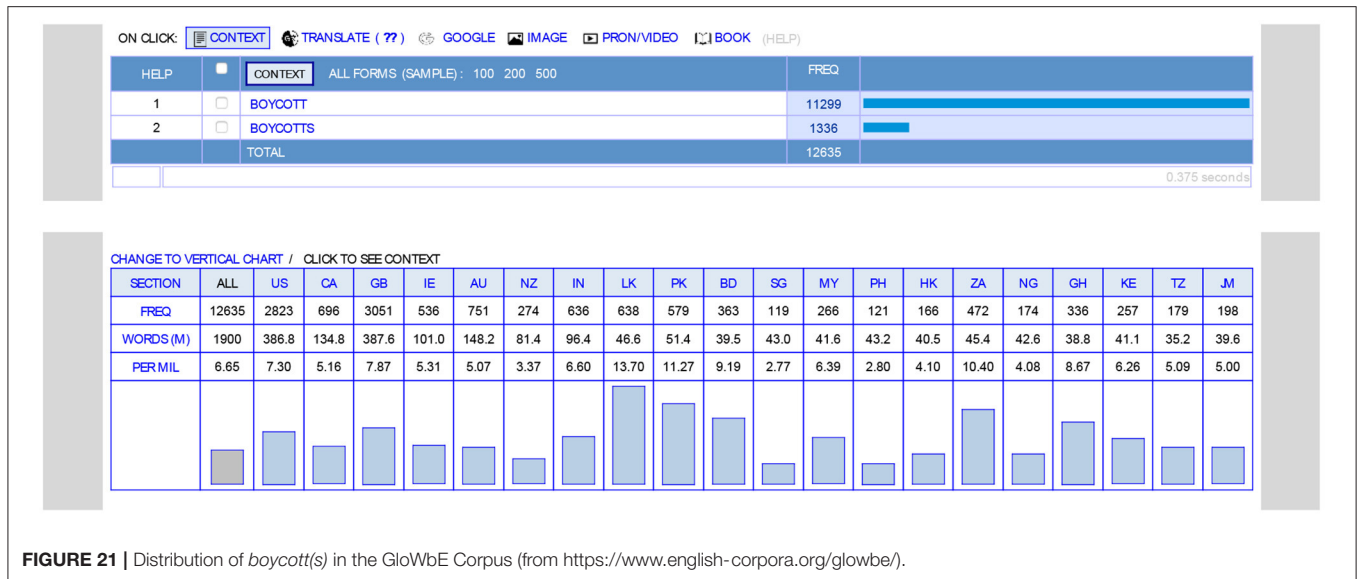


FIGURE 21 | Distribution of *boycott(s)* in the GloWbE Corpus (from <https://www.english-corpora.org/glowbe/>).

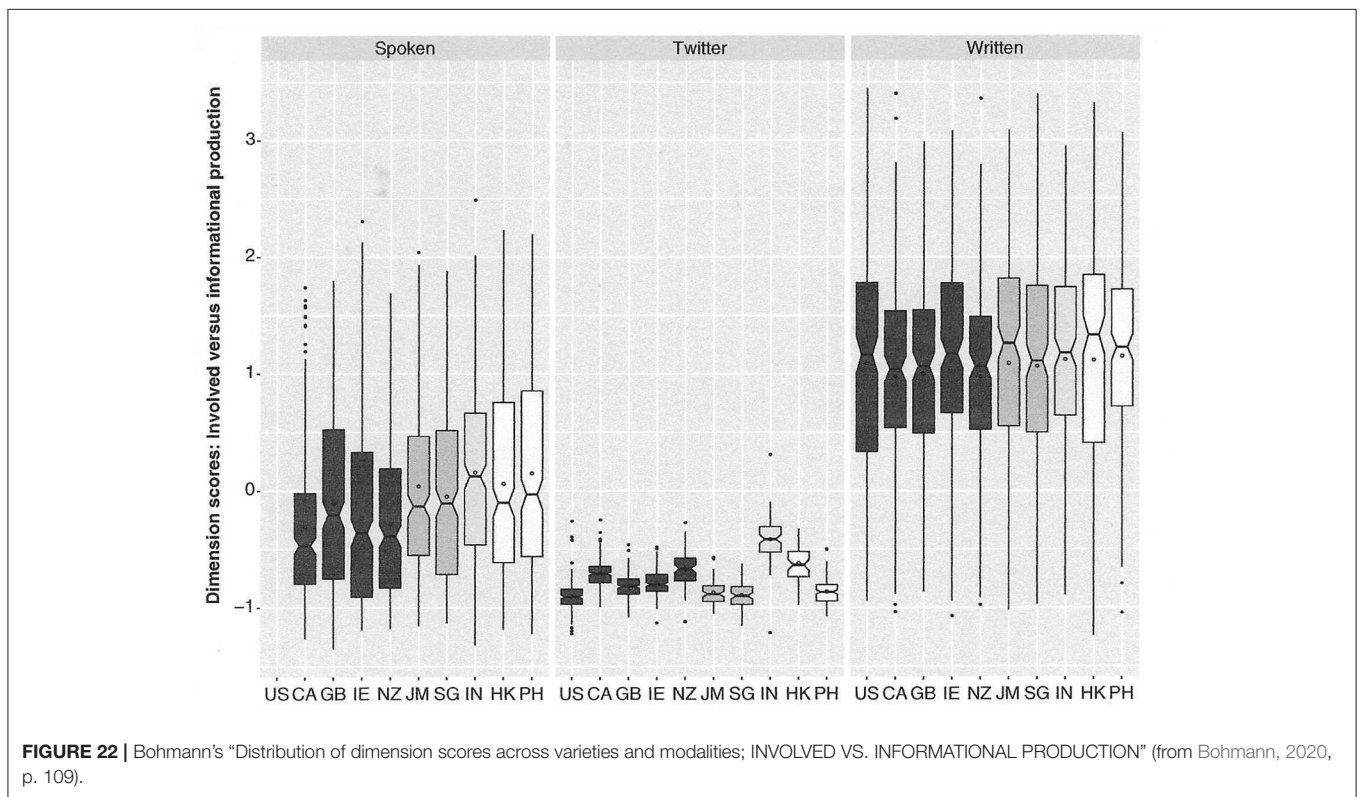


FIGURE 22 | Bohmann’s “Distribution of dimension scores across varieties and modalities; INVOLVED VS. INFORMATIONAL PRODUCTION” (from Bohmann, 2020, p. 109).

factors have been annotated by Bohmann in respect of their respective dimensions in some ten ICE-corpora, including ICE-Ireland. Using multi-dimensional factor analysis, with regard to the distribution of scores for the dimension of “involved vs. informational production”, Bohmann observes that the scores reveal differences of style and comments that “distinctly low average values mean[...] a very clear interpersonal and structurally simple style, [which] can be noted for Canadian

English, Irish English and New Zealand English, whereas the highest values are found for Indian English, Philippine English, and to a lesser extent Jamaican English and Hong Kong English.” (p. 109) Bohmann continues: “This grouping [which Bohmann depicts in his Figure 5.3, p. 109, reproduced here as **Figure 22**] suggests a slight distinction between Inner and Outer Circle varieties in terms of the “involved vs. informational production” such that the former tends to be more

course, a general categorical labeling which doesn't exclude the possibility of koinés (Onysko, 2016) from a contact-typological point of view, as L1 Englishes undergo further dialect contact, as shown above. Nevertheless, on the basis of increasingly global statistical analyses of the totality of the standardized data available in the ICE-Ireland corpus, the recurrence of L1 confirmation may render redundant some of the above top-down classifications of Irish English such as "sub-regional semi-standard" (Görlach, 1990), "new" (Mesthrie and Bhatt, 2008), "central" (Mair, 2013), "high contact" (eWAVE), and "differentiated" (Schneider, 2007), and "postcolonial" (Schneider, 2007). Against the results generated by multi-dimensional factor analysis or multiple correspondence analysis, such externally-motivated claims about the categorical or paradigmatic status of a national variety are difficult to substantiate on the basis of a corpus-based study.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

This chapter, which explores the relationship between Irish English and world English(es), has raised many issues. It has raised the need to clarify the notion of "Irish English" recurrently, and to distinguish between the vernacular and the standardized variety, and also the need for a critical need for awareness between the two as well as for points along any postulated continuum between the two. The chapter contends that it is because of the presence of both Hiberno-English features as well as features from Scots that the wider reality of educated public discourse in Ireland is not fully standardized. It further contends that, when the status of the data is hypothesized, the substantiality of several possibilities regarding status not only within Ireland and between Ireland and Great Britain, but also between Irish and varieties of world Englishes anywhere becomes possible.

The chapter considers the status which has been accredited to Irish English in a number of top-down models of varieties of English around the world, by McArthur (1987), Görlach (1990), Mesthrie and Bhatt (2008), Mair (2013), Siemund (2013), and Onysko (2016), among a few others, on the one hand, and on the other by Schneider (2007) Dynamic Model. The general challenge for all models of world Englishes is their demonstration and vindication of hypotheses on the basis of empirical corpus data. Whereas there have been few attempts hitherto, the review of them by Hundt (2020) plausibly concludes that the gap would appear unbridgeable. As the present article goes on to show, there is, however, no shortage of data available—ranging from the ever-growing suite of ICE-corpora to the eWAVE database and the GloWbE corpus as resources of both non-standardized as well as standardized features, for comparison, and for statistical evaluation. A further section deals with the status of lexical items originating in Ireland and, by investigating the GloWbE corpus, is able to discriminate between those which have remained there as Irishisms and those which have spread their wings and are now to be found in almost every variety around the world. These global comparisons of individual items lead into the final part of the chapter, which is concerned with various statistical attempts to assess and relate Irish English data to a great range of varieties

worldwide, including pidgins and creoles. Whether ICE-corpora are used for data or the list of observational data behind eWAVE, or whether multi-dimensional factor analysis is used on the standardized data, or whether multiple correspondence analysis is used on the reported observations of Hiberno-English data, Irish English becomes repeatedly vindicated as an L1 or (in the Schneider, 2007 model) a stage-5 differentiated, variety, *tout court*.

What this study also shows, in the context of national varieties of Englishes, is the difficulty of reconciling top-down, theoretical, deductive approaches with bottom-up, empirical, inductive approaches, and the need for a critical awareness and for qualification in each approach if the two are ever to meet or be reconciled. Top-down can be neat and tidy, as models of trees and circles show, but real (and especially spoken) data are messy and often unamenable to tidy categorization. It is oversimplistic to think that one unique box or circle or hypothetical category in a schema can be superimposed on a national corpus or an exclusive national dataset. For all is confluence and flux. Irish English shares many lexical and morpho-syntactic features with other varieties of world Englishes, as shown, just as it also retains many other unique lexical and morpho-syntactic features, as also shown. Some of the latter may also be relatively rare. It is seldom a case of either/or, presence or absence, if ever. The reality of patterns of features and in varying frequencies is only shown by the approaches which have become developed within corpus statistics. From the plots and graphs which emerge as the output, as exemplified above, what comes to be shown are clusters of similarities whether of features which are indicative of varieties, as Bohmann shows (Figures 22, 23), or of varieties which are indicative of the features underlying the statistics, as Szmrecsanyi and Röthlisberger show (Figures 24–26).

Nevertheless, we should not overly rely on corpus statistics as they are greatly abstracted from the original data and contexts. The popular opinion displayed in journalism can be can be corroborated by corpora—GloWbE distinguishes in lexis the global from the local or, in the case of minimal territorial expansion, the glocal, as does eWAVE for morpho-syntax. How really Irish is an Irishism can now be given a distributional answer beyond any local lexicographical treatment. National nuggets in international ore can indeed be identified and their co-existence discriminated by the research resources and tools now available. Irish English is a world English (and, despite everything, an L1 at that), but it also remains itself. Erin go bragh!

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The author confirms being the sole contributor of this work and has approved it for publication.

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