

# The connections between authenticity and native-speakerism: Students' reactions to international English varieties

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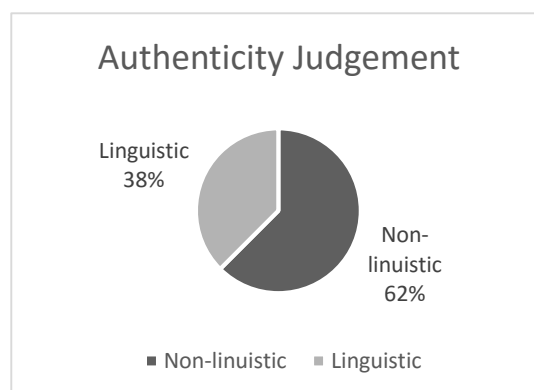
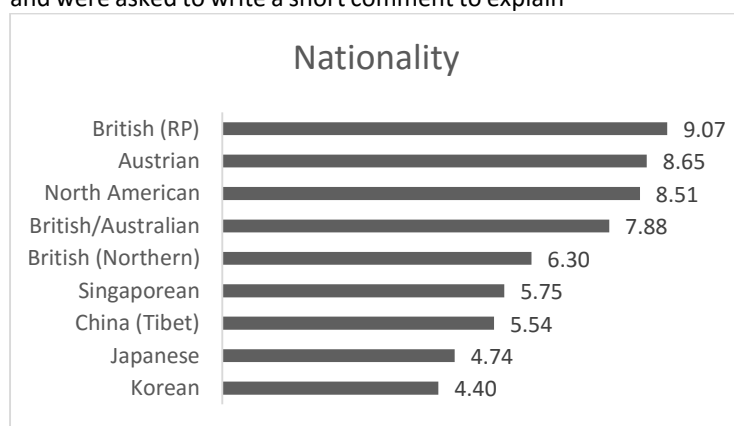
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## Abstract:

The data from this study comes from a larger data set which was collected during a year-long phase of Exploratory Practice research into Japanese University students' perceptions of English as an international language. The data presented here comes from a task in which non-English majors at a Japanese University (n=25) were asked to watch eight videos of different speakers of English, all of whom hailed from different cultural backgrounds and used different spoken varieties of English. The videos featured Singapore English, British and American varieties as well as varieties from so-called expanding circle contexts such as Austria, China, Japan and Korea. Participants rated each speaker for 'authenticity' on a scale from 1 to 10 and were asked to write a short comment to explain

their choice. This data is further triangulated by field-note observations and other samples of work. Despite instruction specifically aimed at empowering different varieties of English, and examining the position of English as an international language, students still showed preference for so-called 'native-speaker' models. The results reveal that students showed an ingrained native-speakerism to the way they felt about other speakers' varieties of English, which is why they reacted negatively to so-called 'non-standard' varieties, showing particular prejudice against other East Asian speakers. The reasons for and connotations of this finding will be discussed in this presentation.



## References

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