

## **Speech - Prof. Li Wei**

What is English? What is English in today's world? Such seemingly simple questions are crucial for the teaching of English to an increasingly diverse student population across the globe. Yet they are hardly addressed systematically in English language teaching research. In this talk, I will be looking at the notion of World Englishes and its relevance for English language teaching in Asia, especially in the Chinese speaking countries and regions. Drawing from current research and critiques of the 'native speaker', 'native-speaker teacher', 'linguistic imperialism', 'L2 user', 'learner identity', and 'motivation for learning', I will argue that a recognition of linguistic and cultural superdiversity that characterizes the world today is essential to successful English language teaching, and the goal of English language teaching should not be producing 'near-native speakers' but multilingual language users with multicompetence.