

Contents

Acknowledgements — VII

List of Tables — XIII

List of Figures — XVII

List of Abbreviations — XIX

1 Introduction — 1

- 1.1 Null subjects — 1
- 1.2 Research context and method — 3
- 1.3 Database — 5
- 1.4 Scope and structure of the present study — 8

Part A: Null subjects in British English

2 Null subjects: Theoretical, methodological and descriptive foundations — 15

- 2.1 Pro-forms and pro-drop — 15
 - 2.1.1 Pro-forms — 16
 - 2.1.2 Pronouns and information structure — 18
 - 2.1.3 Pro-drop — 23
- 2.2 Quantitative approaches — 27
 - 2.2.1 The variationist paradigm and grammatical variation — 27
 - 2.2.2 Variationist studies on null subjects — 29
- 2.3 Null subjects in L1 English — 34
 - 2.3.1 English as a non-null subject language? — 34
 - 2.3.2 Quantitative research on null subjects in English — 37

3 Empirical baseline: Null subjects in Spoken British English — 44

- 3.1 The envelope of variation: Coding decisions and examples — 44
- 3.2 Analytic categories: Linguistic factors — 47
 - 3.2.1 Coreferential coordination — 47
 - 3.2.2 Clause type — 49
 - 3.2.3 Position — 50
 - 3.2.4 Person — 51

3.2.5	Specific reference —	52
3.2.6	Switch reference —	53
3.2.7	Persistence —	54
3.2.8	Verb phrase —	55
3.3	Overview ICE Great Britain: Descriptive statistics and methodology —	57
3.3.1	Distribution of null subjects in the data set —	57
3.3.2	Extra-linguistic factors —	59
3.3.3	Collocation —	61
3.3.4	Summary: Subject tokens and linguistic factors —	64
3.3.5	Statistical method —	66
3.4	Null subjects in ICE Great Britain: Logistic regression model —	67
3.4.1	Model selection —	67
3.4.2	Model evaluation —	69
3.4.3	Results by factor groups —	72
3.4.3.1	Coreferential coordination (“and”) —	72
3.4.3.2	Clause —	74
3.4.3.3	Position —	75
3.4.3.4	Person —	76
3.4.3.5	Specific reference —	77
3.4.3.6	Switch reference —	78
3.4.3.7	Persistence —	79
3.4.3.8	Verb phrase —	81
3.4.4	Overview results ICE Great Britain —	83
3.5	Null subjects in ICE Great Britain: First person contexts —	84
3.5.1	Overview: Subject tokens and linguistic factors first person —	84
3.5.2	Results first person —	85
3.6	Summary and discussion —	89
3.6.1	Discussion full data set —	89
3.6.2	Discussion first person —	92
3.6.3	Conclusion —	94

Part B: Null subjects in Asian Englishes

4	Asian languages and varieties of English: Theory, description and comparison —	99
4.1	Null subjects in Asian languages —	100
4.1.1	Radical pro-drop —	100
4.1.2	Topic prominence —	104

4.1.3	Quantitative research on Chinese null subjects —	110
4.2	Language contact and varieties of English —	111
4.2.1	Language contact and contact languages —	112
4.2.2	Null subjects revisited: Acquisition and contact —	116
4.2.3	English in contact: World Englishes —	119
4.2.4	Null subjects in (other) varieties of English —	122
4.3	Asian varieties of English: Background and structure —	124
4.3.1	English in India —	124
4.3.2	English in Hong Kong —	130
4.3.3	English in Singapore —	134
4.4	Comparing varieties —	141
4.4.1	Asian Englishes —	141
4.4.2	The comparative variationist method —	145
5	Empirical comparison: Null subjects in Asian Englishes —	148
5.1	Linguistic factors in the Asian Englishes —	148
5.1.1	The envelope of variation —	149
5.1.2	Coreferential coordination —	151
5.1.3	Clause type —	152
5.1.4	Position —	155
5.1.5	Person —	155
5.1.6	Specific reference —	156
5.1.7	Switch reference —	158
5.1.8	Persistence —	158
5.1.9	Verb phrase —	159
5.2	Overview Asian Englishes: Descriptive statistics —	160
5.2.1	Different distribution of null subjects in the data sets —	160
5.2.2	Collocation: Asian Englishes —	164
5.2.3	Summary subject tokens and linguistic factors: Asian Englishes —	171
5.3	ICE India —	173
5.3.1	Indian English: Extra-linguistic factors —	173
5.3.2	Indian English: Logistic regression model —	176
5.3.3	Indian English: First person contexts —	185
5.3.4	Short summary: Null subjects in Indian English —	186
5.4	ICE Hong Kong —	186
5.4.1	Hong Kong English: Extra-linguistic factors —	186
5.4.2	Hong Kong English: Logistic regression model —	187
5.4.3	Hong Kong English: First person contexts —	195
5.4.4	Short summary: Null subjects in Hong Kong English —	197

5.5	Grammar of Spoken Singapore English Corpus —	197
5.5.1	Singapore English: Extra-linguistic factors —	197
5.5.2	Singapore English: Logistic regression model —	199
5.5.3	Singapore English: First person contexts —	208
5.5.4	Topic prominence in Singlish: Within and beyond the clause —	209
5.5.4.1	Chinese-style topics —	210
5.5.4.2	Topic chains —	211
5.5.4.3	Discourse orientation and ambiguity —	213
5.5.4.4	Repair —	216
5.5.4.5	Code-switching? —	218
5.5.5	Short summary: Null subjects in Singapore English —	219
5.6	Summary and Discussion: Null subjects in Asian Englishes —	220
5.6.1	Summary: Asian English null subjects —	221
5.6.2	Variety specific contexts and puzzles —	227
5.6.3	Substrate comparison: How Asian are Asian Englishes? —	228
5.6.4	Conclusion —	233
6	Discussion and Conclusion —	234
6.1	Superstrate comparison: How English are Asian Englishes? —	234
6.1.1	Comparative variationist measures: Results —	234
6.1.2	Comparison: First person pronouns —	239
6.1.3	Summary —	241
6.2	Variable rules, variationist typology and language contact —	243
6.2.1	Null subjects in non-NSL: Theoretical and methodological implications —	243
6.2.2	Language contact and linguistic nativisation —	247
6.3	Conclusion —	251
	References —	255
	Appendix A: Data —	275
	Appendix B: Additional statistics —	277
	Index —	289