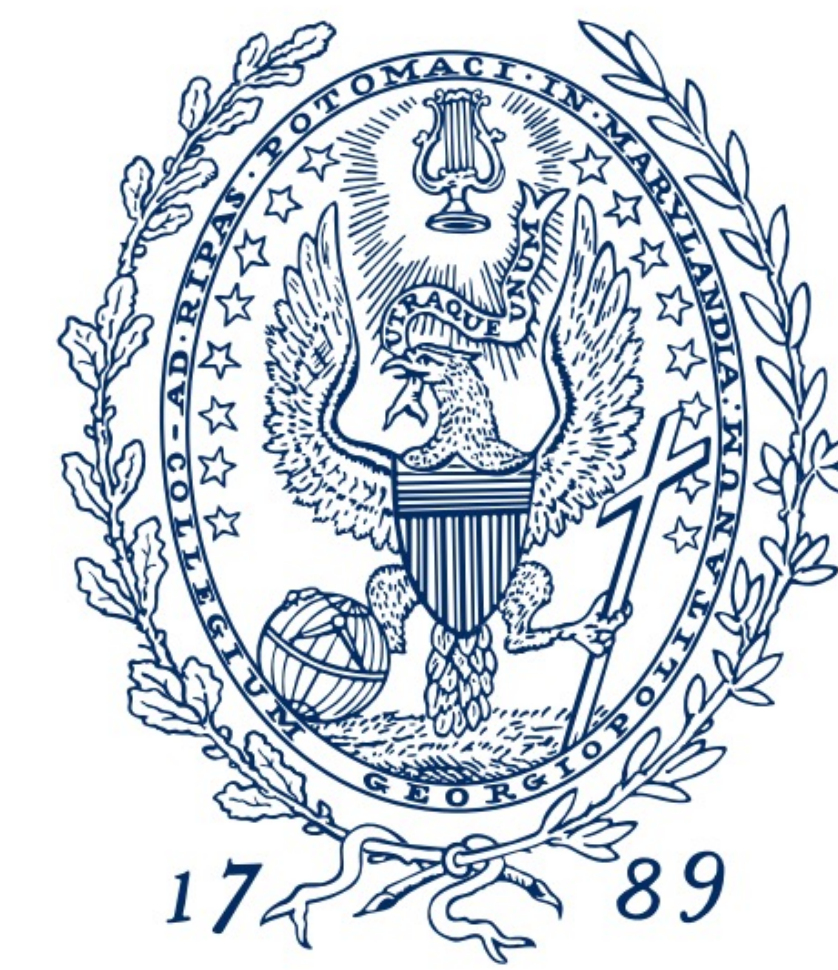


Project launch

Modeling sociophonetic variation in L2 varieties of English: considerations of proficiency and norm orientation

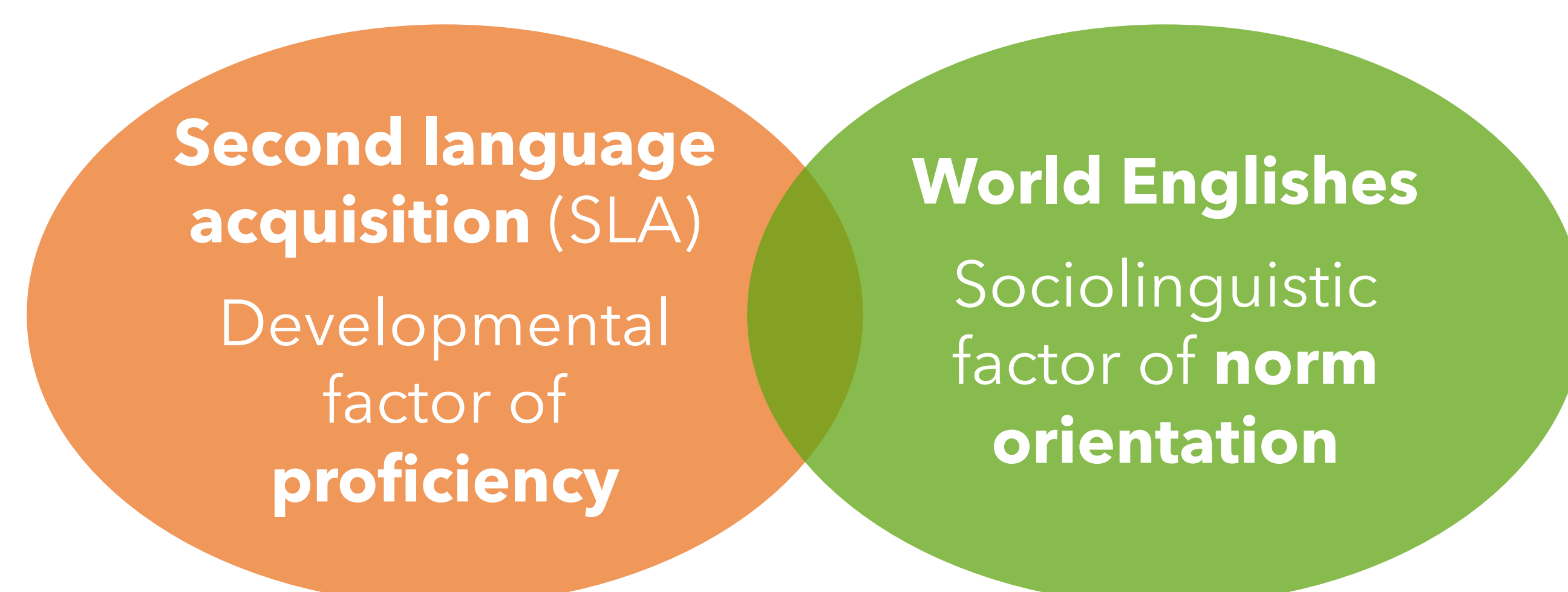
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Introduction

- Two current approaches in studying L2 English



- I propose a new model that incorporates both!

The SLA approach

- L1 influence, **transfer** of L1 phonological features into L2 (PAM-L2, Best & Tyler, 2007; SLM, Flege, 1995)
- Increasing proficiency → lesser L1 transfer → greater convergence to native-speaker norms

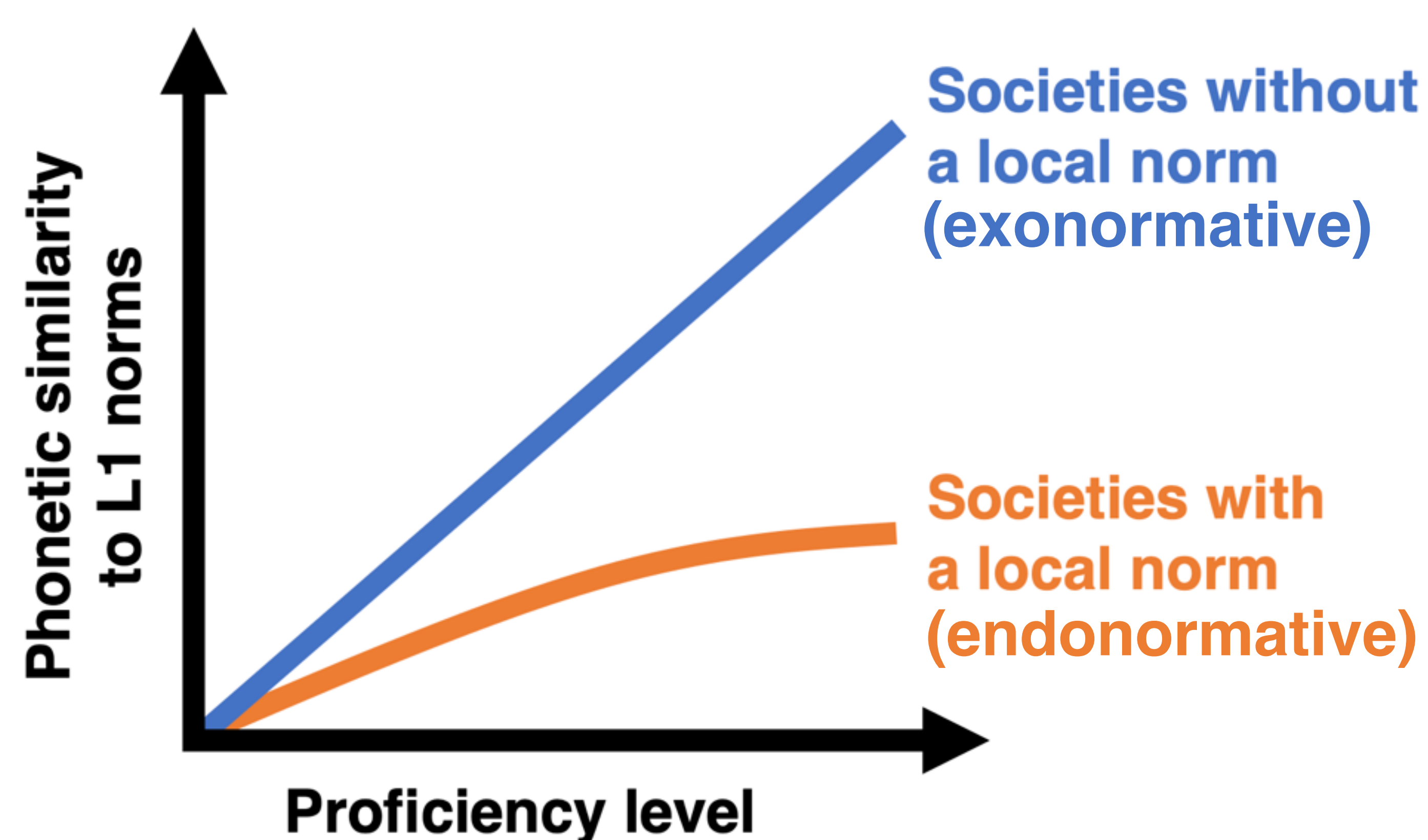
The World Englishes approach

- Norm orientation** matters!

Endonormative
Local standard of English instead of L1 varieties as the norm
E.g., former British and American colonies (Schneider, 2003, 2007)

Exonormative
No local standard of English, prestige L1 varieties as the norm
E.g., Countries without a colonial history with the U.K. or the U.S. (Edwards, 2014; Kachru, 1992)

Hypothesis



- Exonormative** societies → clearer trend of convergence to L1 varieties with increasing proficiency
- Endonormative** societies → L1 varieties is not the goal of acquisition, less convergence, deviance from L1 norms persists among speakers with higher proficiency

Methodology

- Compare L2 English vowel production in **endonormative** societies, e.g., the Philippines (Borlongan, 2016) vs. **exonormative** societies, e.g., the Netherlands (Edwards, 2014)
- Sociolinguistic interview + English proficiency test
- New **proficiency assessment** method to minimize bias against non-L1 varieties
- Formant measurements of all monophthongs and diphthongs from the interviews
- Analyze whether **proficiency** and **norm orientation** affect vowel similarity to prestige L1 varieties, e.g., Received Pronunciation

Limitations

- Difficult to compare speakers with different L1s, L1-specific effects on L2 phonology
- How to define proficiency? The notion of “proficiency” in SLA has been challenged in recent years (Harding & McNamara, 2017)
- Distinction between exo- vs. endonormativity may not be clear cut, speakers from the same community may have different norm orientations

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