

Self-Perceptions of Teachers in Private English-Language Schools in Ireland

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“Those who know, do. Those who understand, teach.”

(Aristotle)



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**“Those who
can, do.**

**Those who
can’t,
teach”.**

(G. B. Shaw)

English is spoken by some 1.75 billion
people worldwide
(one in four)

(Robson 2013:2, Crystal 2003, McCrum 2010)

Most widely taught foreign language in over
100 countries
(i.e. in every continent)

By 2020 - 2 billion speakers

“there will be an increase in the number and
quality of teachers able to teach the
language”

(Crystal 2003:5)

“A language achieves a genuinely global status when it develops a special role that is recognised in every country.”

(Crystal 2003:5)

English has become “the most global of languages”

(Bryson 1990:2)

The lingua franca of:

business

science

education/academia

politics

technology

entertainment

transport/safety

the media

finance/economics

sport

(Bryson 1990; Crystal 2003; McArthur 2001; McCrum 2010)

The ELT industry -

The English-language teaching business has become one of the **major growth industries** around the world in the past half-century.

(Bryson 1990:3, Crystal 2003:112)

Worth £6 billion per annum globally
£2 billion per annum to the British economy

Ireland: pledge by Minister for Education to grow the industry by 33% to €2.1 billion by 2020

(Bryson 1990:177; Robson 2013:2; *Department of Education and Skills* 2016)

“...native-speaker teachers are in increasing demand around the world. Although there are some 12 million English teachers active in the world today, this masks a huge global shortage.”

Howson (2013:9) *“The English Effect”*

(The Economist) -

ELT is “estimated to be Britain’s sixth largest source of **invisible earnings**”

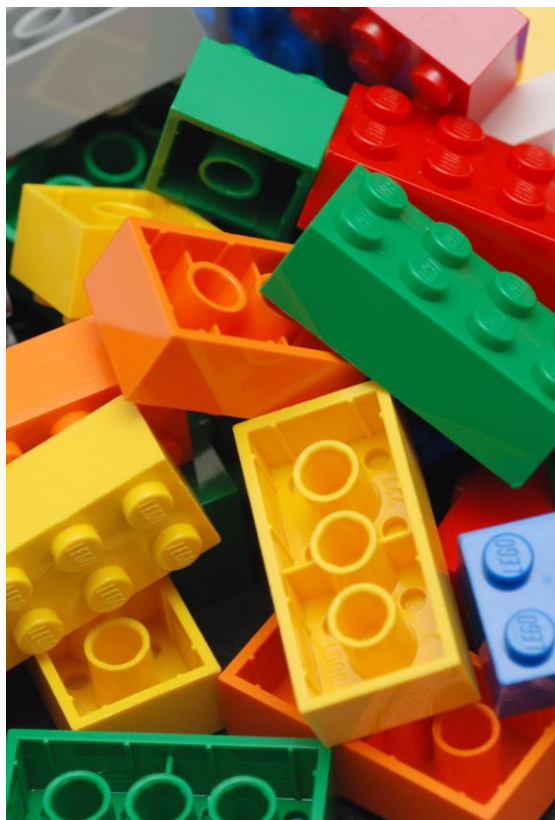
(Bryson 1990: 177)

ELT teachers have been a largely
voiceless, **invisible** cohort within the
teaching profession



What do you see?

But I'm a native English speaker..!



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Aim of study:

To investigate ELT teacher self-perceptions in the private ELT sector in the Republic of Ireland as a “community of practice”

(Vaughan 2007)

Objectives:

To conduct face-to-face interviews and online questionnaire survey with ELT teachers

To commence data collection in summer/autumn

If you are interested
in participating:

email: Deborah.Tobin@mic.ul.ie

Thank you!

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Images:

Teachers (Slide 2 and 3) -

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Kachru's Concentric Circles -

<http://www.tesoltraining.co.uk/blog/sgi-cpd-club/English-as-a-lingua-franca-whats-it-all-about-part-1-of-3-English-around-the-world>

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