



27th IATEFL Poland Conference  
Wrocław, 21-23 September 2018

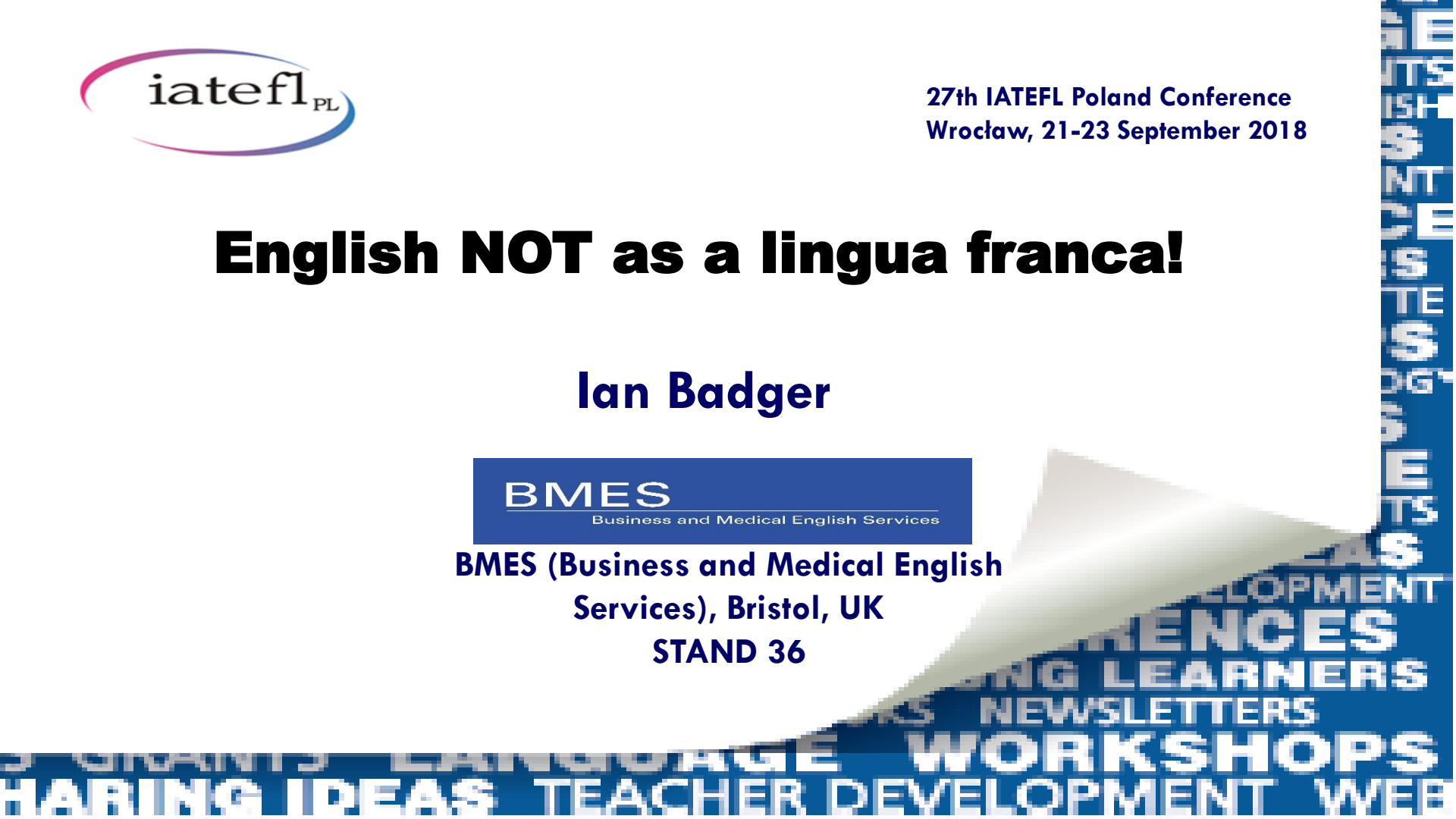
# English **NOT** as a lingua franca!

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# English NOT as a lingua franca – Easy innit?

Ian Badger, IATEFL Poland, Wroclaw, 22 September 2018

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**STAND 36**

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Business and Medical English Services

# Some questions..

1. Do you/your students visit the UK on holiday?
2. Are you/they planning to work in the UK?
3. What are the language and cultural challenges you/they face in the UK and how should their studies prepare them for these challenges?

# Spot the 'non-native' speaker!

## What they say

## Who says it?

She's playing unbelievable



Serena Williams (mother and tennis player)

I didn't play on grass since one year.



Rafael Nadal (Majorcan tennis player)

Hi Ian the doubles is organised by you and you're partner to be played whenever suitable for you.



My club tennis coach

When I come in this morning



Paul Merson (football commentator)

Please text 30003 to donate three pound



Narrator for a UK charity appeal on TV

# Do native speakers know 'EFL' grammar??

## Which is 'correct: 'a' or 'b' ?

a) There is four of them in circulation

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a) There were fewer people at the concert than expected.

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a) They sent it to you and I

b) There are four of them in circulation

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b) There were less people at the conference than expected.

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b) They sent it to you and me

Who speaks with 'EFL' pronunciation?

How would you pronounce:

Google for UK regional differences:

1. *'going, singing, eating'?*
  2. *'company'*
  3. *'Where's my hat?'*
  4. *'Pass the butter'*
- ◆ Beth Rigby (Senior political correspondent for Sky News)
  - ◆ Steph McGovern (BBC presenter)
  - ◆ Alexander Zverev's interview with UK reporter (from Yorkshire) in press conference

## The British love phrasal verbs (phrase or verbs!)

to get across	= to explain
to get at	= to reach
to get back	= to have something returned
to get by	= to manage; to survive
to get off early	= to leave work early
to get on with	= to make progress with
to get over	= to recover

## ... and idioms

**Our marketing department has been spending money like w.....<sup>1</sup> and as a result the company is now in the r.....<sup>2</sup>.**

They seem to think they have **a l..... to print money<sup>3</sup>**, but now we're all learning a hard lesson.

**Money doesn't grow on t.....<sup>4</sup>**, you know.

*1 spending too much money*

*2 losing money*

*3 the right to spend as much as they like*

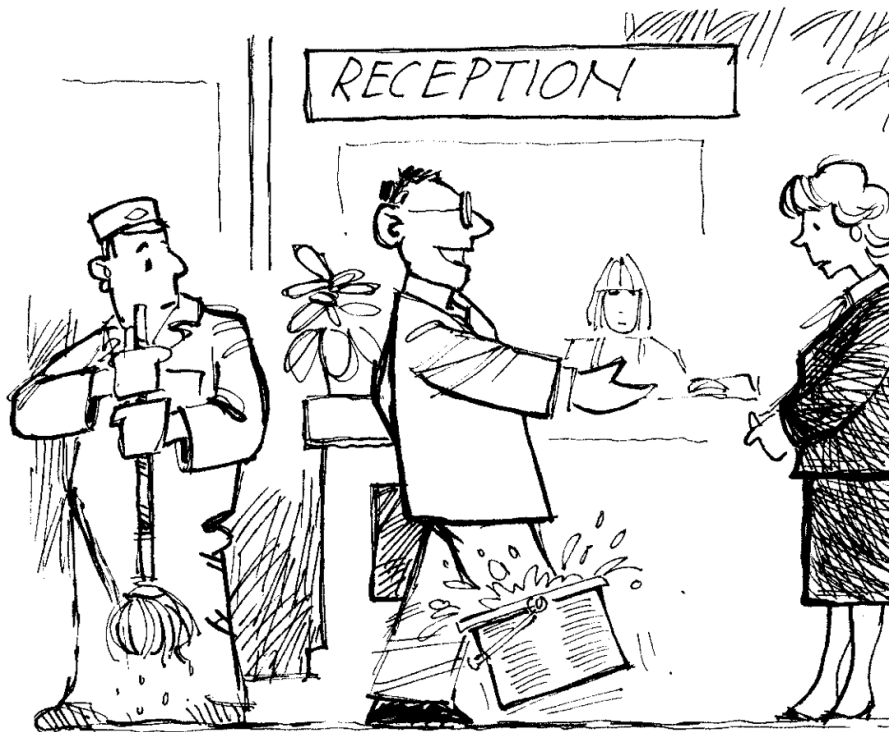
*4 money has to be earned*



## 4. Wybrane idiomy

Plain language?

Idiom?



From 'Business English  
Phrases with Polish  
Translations'

## Complaining about complex language, but...

*Sir, I am preparing next month's lecture to my second-year medical students on the subject of stress. Possibly the leaders of our profession could come up with a suitable new name for "middle-of-the-gland-that-sits-on-top-of-the-kidney" that they can use when they communicate with their patients. Until then I shall continue with 'adrenal medulla'.*

*Dr Andrew Severn Lancaster Medical School (letter to the Times, 7.9.18)*

# So what is 'British' English - recorded in the UK...

Naseem from Huddersfield –  
a train announcer on  
the London Underground



Lisa from Newcastle – a recent university graduate



Gosia from Wroclaw – a manager working in London



Eva – an Austrian working in publishing in London



Learners need to develop skills and strategies to understand English however it is spoken and written, even when this language is considered to be 'incorrect' or 'non-standard'.

## English NOT as a lingua franca?

Easy innit?

I'm not so sure!

So – are you 'sorted'?

If you say so!

And finally!

German tennis star meets reporter from  
Yorkshire

# References/Further reading

Badger, I 'Flash on English for Business Conversations' Ernst Klett Sprachen 2016

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Kiczkowiak, M 'Foreign accent? Don't stress' in EL Gazette, 12/2016

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