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interpreting the contemporary contexts of its acquisition and use. The chapters contained in this book weave together four inter-related themes that define the role of English in the global context: the 'centrality of structure', 'relationships of interdependence', 'social constructions of difference' and 'reproduction of inequality'. These themes enable the authors to draw attention to the dynamics of the contemporary realities of the 'English-speaking' and 'English-using' nations, especially as they compete for cultural, social, economic and symbolic capital in global networks. In engaging World Englishes with the sociolinguistics of globalization, the authors raise some fundamental questions about the status, structure, and functions of World Englishes.