




ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND ACCENT
FOR CINEMA AND TV

Ralph Holland

Unit	Title	Content	Outcomes	Type
1	A Short Introduction: The Basis of English	Linguistics: Indo-European	A grounding in where English comes from.	Theory – a very short introduction to language families.
2		<p>Early English Drama When Chaucer was writing, French was still the language of literature in England. English, a ragbag of French, Latin, and Anglo-Saxon, had a much lower status. Chaucer, following the example of Dante, was one of the first poets in his country to dignify the vernacular by using it for a long, ambitious poem.</p>	<p>The English Dante – Geoffrey Chaucer. Aspects of his risqué (rude) and funny dialogues from The Canterbury Tales.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light-hearted short recitals of Chaucer in Middle English • Short recitals in Modern English • All England The New Yorker • ‘Then, there is Chaucer’s ribaldry. I will not describe the most celebrated example, the Miller’s Tale (with the beautiful Alison), other than to say that it involves an act of involuntary cunnilingus—a rare event, surely—and that it can be found on pages 177-211 of Colin Wilcockson’s widely available Penguin Classics edition. This may be the dirtiest story ever told by a first-rank writer in English, Joyce not excepted.’ 	<p>Theory and Practice</p> <p>Reading, comprehending and reciting Chaucer.</p> <p>Reciting Chaucer can and will be an amusing experience; Ralph will read from the original Middle English text which is not exactly ‘mutually intelligible’ with modern English.</p>

3.



Early English Drama

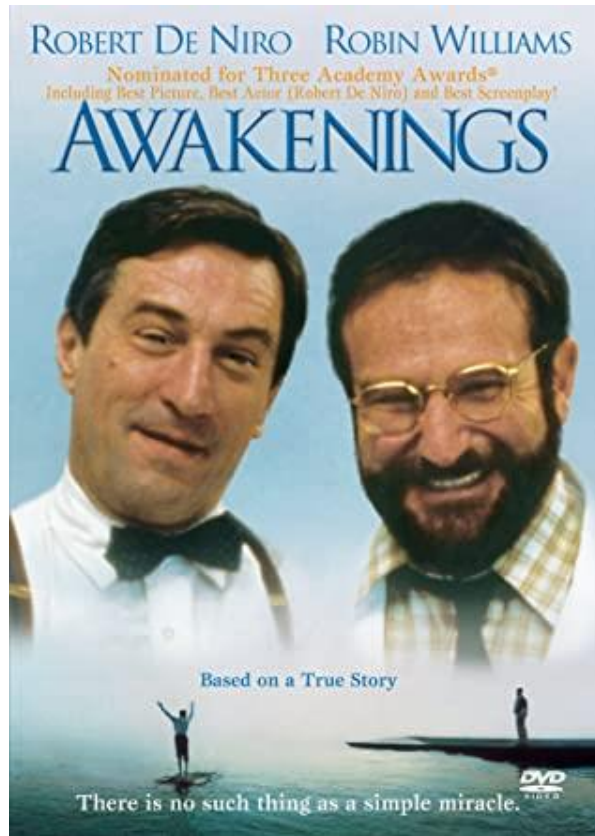
To be or not to be?

William Shakespeare

- A brief overview
- Short recitals drawn from Hamlet and others in Shakespearean language and with modern interpretation
- Can Hamlet be read as a 'psychological' drama – I.E., can Hamlet be interpreted in modern thought as a study of clinical depression or bi-polar syndrome.
- Introducing psychology to the study of English and Drama

**Theory
and Practice**

4. The Science of Language

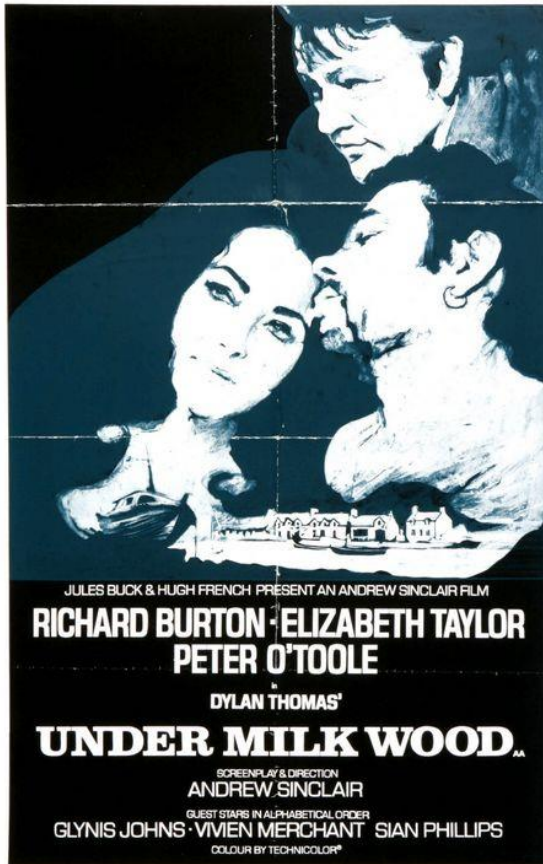


Linguistics and Language Acquisition

- The amazing brain – and the ‘why’ of language
- Language, evolution, and survival
- Selected reading from introductory neuroscience: famous curious cases
- Some very crazy sounding latest developments in neuroscience

Theory with Cinematic References

5. The 'English'



[Under Milk Wood Part 1 - YouTube](#)

British Multiculturalism

'To begin at the beginning.'

- International influences in British Radio, TV and Cinema
- Radio Drama – Under Milk Wood by Dylan Thomas, recited by Richard Burton
- Listening and discussion of Under Milk Wood
- Reading of parts of Under Milk Wood
- Interpretation of the play – imagery including very well-hidden sexual innuendos / slang

Theory and Practice

6. Accent 1



[Audrey - YouTube](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rWWULKZB-Y8>

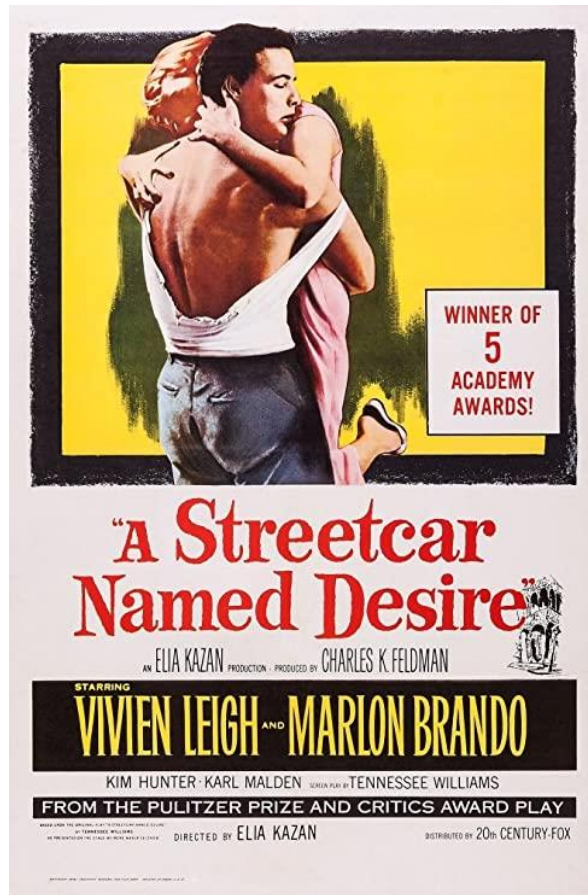
British or English?

'Come on Dover, move your blooming arse!'

- The BBC conquers the world – the British BBC Accent the Queen's English
- Even the BBC is not always perfect – the case of Charlotte Green's famous laughter when announcing a death on live BBC news
- British Accent
- British Class and Money
- Pygmalion / My Fair Lady
- Regionalism and Dialects
- Creoles
- Film Creoles (made up languages for film)
- Posh Films and TV – The Crown, etc

**Theory
and Practice**

7. Accent 2



[Ape - YouTube](#)

[Marlon Brando ~ 'Hey Stella!' ~ A Streetcar Named Desire - YouTube](#)

The United States 1

'...wasn't it all ok 'til she showed here?
Hoity toity, describing me like a ape...'

- A Streetcar Named Desire
- Tennessee Williams
- Early Marlon Brando
- Very serious taboo subjects covered in this famous and very successful stage and film play
- Racism, mental health (anxiety and depression), sexual abuse, rape, misogyny...
- Reading, recital and act the 'colored lights scene'
- Act the 'Hey Stella!' scene

**Theory
and Practice**

8. Genre – Romantic Comedy



The Origins and Successes of British and American Romantic Comedies

- Background structures and storylines
- Leading producers and writers
- Leading Actors and Actresses
- Leading Films

Theory and Practice

9. Genre – The Martial Arts



[Hundred Eyes Asks: What is Kung Fu? - YouTube](#)

'In Kung Fu we say one hand lies, the other one tells the truth...'

'That is the way, the only way one acquires Kung Fu.'

Unfortunately, boy, you have not'.

- [Marco Polo: Hundred Eyes Featurette - Netflix \[HD\] - YouTube](#)
- Supreme skill from hard work
- The Dao or Way
- Ying Yang – Chaos and Order
- Modern martial arts TV / Film: Marco Polo, Iron Fist, Wu Assassin
- Classic martial arts films
- A demonstration by a Tai Chi / Kung Fu master (subject to fee) can be arranged if anyone is interested

**Theory
and Practice**

10. Genre – Science Fiction



The Origins and Successes

- Background structures and storylines
- Leading producers and writers
- Leading Actors and Actresses
- Leading Films
- Latest TV streaming series

Theory and Practice

11. Genre – Cross Formats 1



English Native
Speakers in Foreign /
Global Roles and
Direction

- Marlon Brando
- Robert di Niro
- Francis Ford Coppola and Family
- The making of Heart of Darkness
- More

**Theory
and Practice**

12. Genre – Cross Formats 2



Non-Native Speakers in English Speaking Roles and Direction

- Alessandro Borghi
- Italian Actors in Hollywood
- Italian Producers and Directors, including La Dolce Vita years
- Italian Production Drive to return to the 'Sweet Spot'
- International Production at **Cinecittà**
- French Actors in Hollywood
- More...

**Theory
and Practice**

13. Genre – The French Film Industry

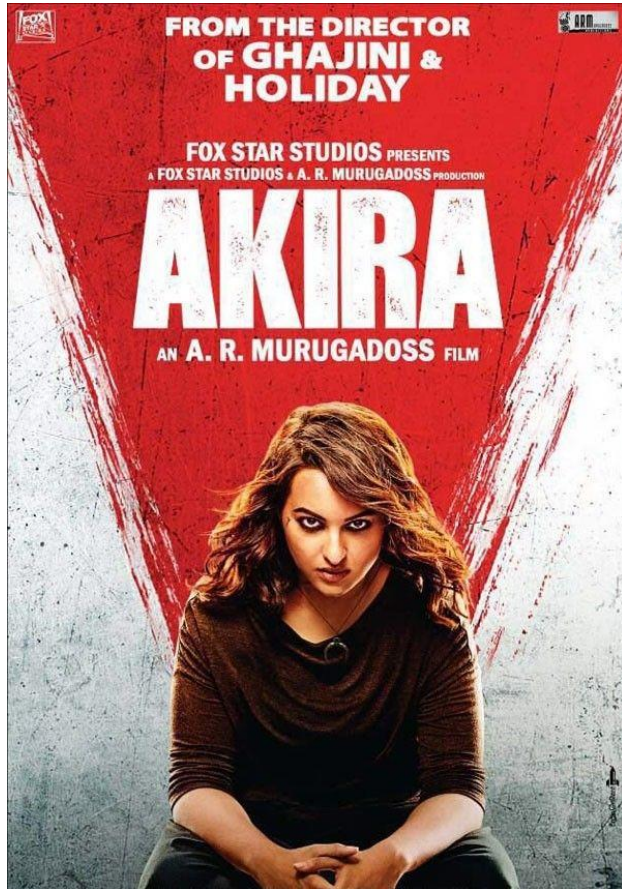


The Origins and Successes

- Background structures and storylines
- Leading producers and writers
- Leading Actors and Actresses
- Leading Films

**Theory
and Practice**

14. Genre – Bollywood

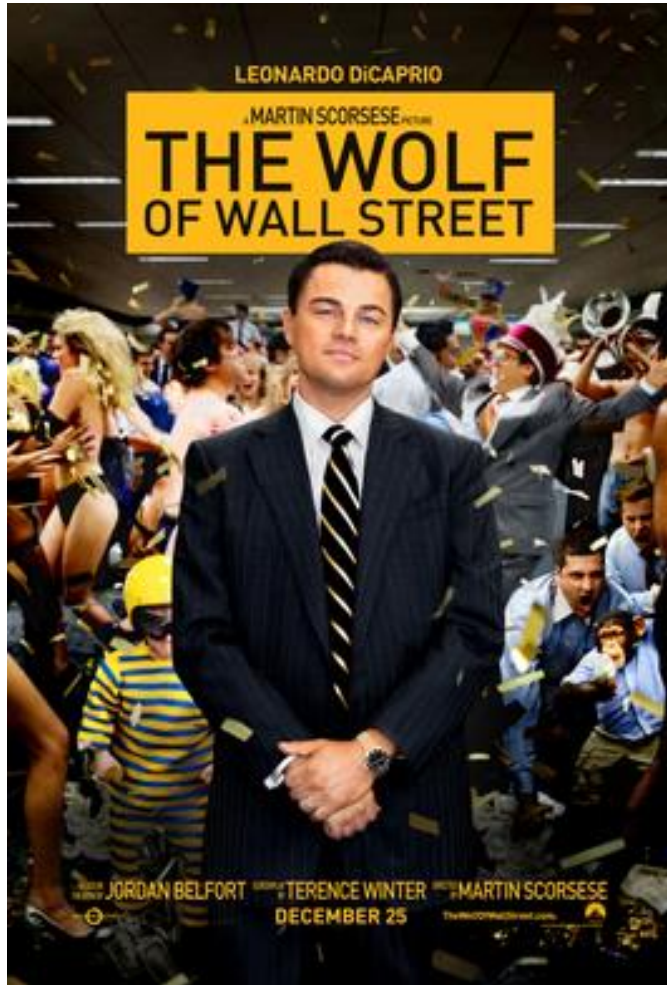


The Origins and Successes

- Background structures and storylines
- Leading producers and writers
- Leading Actors and Actresses
- Leading Films
- Context of gender in Indian culture and production

Theory and Practice

15. Production and Investment



‘Greed IS good’

- Why invest in movies
- Types of investments
- Cash, Bonds, Stock Markets (Equities), Private Equity
- Comparing investments – some basic tools (advanced available)
- The ‘return on equity’
- ‘Time’ as an investment ally
- Movies that made money – discussion on why?
- Movies that lost money – why?
- The ‘new normal’ of massive TV budgets – Netflix, HBO, Amazon

**Theory
and Practice**