BELIEF, REASON, AND EMOTION: Abstract categories across genres and world Englishes

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The present paper is part of a larger project devoted to examining the relationship among the abstract categories of BELIEF, REASON and EMOTION in the linguistic image of the world (Bartmiński 2003; Zinken 2004). It aims at determining (1) the lexico-grammatical structures in which *believe*, *think* and *feel* (three verbs lexically representing the concepts in question) appear in world Englishes and (2) the patterns that govern their use. The assumption which is central to the study is that the patterns will differ depending on the variety of English and/or genre. With that in mind, four components of the *International Corpus of English* have been analysed, namely the ICE Hong Kong corpus, the ICE Philippines, the ICE Singapore and the ICE India, each containing approximately one million words in five hundred texts. (The text categories in the ICE corpora include spoken dialogues and monologues (both private and public) as well as printed and non-printed writing (e.g. essays, letters, press reports, editorials, novels etc.), which considerably facilitates genre-oriented research.) All instances of *believe*, *feel* and *think* had been extracted from the corpora by means of Antconc, a free concordance program, and they were analysed with respect to the following ID tags, i.e. variable formal and semantic characteristics (Gries 2007: 73; Divjak 2007):

1) morphological features of the verb form: tense, aspect, and voice

2) the syntactic properties of the clause the verb form occurs in: transitive vs. intransitive vs. complex transitive, declarative vs. imperative vs. interrogative sentence form, main clause vs. subordinate clause

3) semantic characteristics of the referents of the elements co-occurring with the verb: its subjects/heads, objects, complements co-occurring with the verb (e.g. human, animate, concrete countable objects, concrete mass nouns, machines, abstract entities, organizations/institutions, locations, quantities, events, processes).

The contextual analysis of *believe*, *feel* and *think* has been coupled with a statistical test. The data have been processed by means of "R" (free software intended for the manipulation, calculation and graphical display of data), with a view to discovering prevalent tendencies and patterns of use typical of a given genre/variety. In that sense, the paper offers a quantitative and qualitative account of the semantico-syntactic behavior of *believe*, *think* and *feel* in the spoken and written English of Hong Kong, Singapore, the Philippines and India.

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