There is a culture in Canada that gives authority to British accents (whether explicitly or implicitly) likely because of imperial history. I believe there are mythologies of authenticity relegated to accents based on listeners' assumptions about the world. Many people assume authority based on the relation between accent and content.

Survey Participant
WHY ARE SOME ACCENTS LESS RESPECTED?

UNDERSTANDABILITY

I believe they are less respected or viewed as less authoritative based on how easily they can be understood by the students. If the students can’t understand a person’s accent they may be less likely to respect them.

Survey Participant

UNCONSCIOUS BIASES

Some people have racialized opinions about people based on their accent...Canadians are taught to respect Anglo-American-European accents because of a history of colonialism and imperial order.

Survey Participant

UNDERSTANDABILITY OR BIAS?

LISTENING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Everyone’s accent is foreign to a certain percentage of the audience, as everyone has an accent.

Survey Participant

GLOBAL CITIZEN • GLOBAL ENGLISH • GLOBAL ACCENT

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