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“Being an English Language Teacher: Beyond Labels and Boundaries?”



Abstract: In a world increasingly characterized by labels and divides, it would be naïve to think that the field of English Language Teaching (ELT) will be immune to and unaffected by these patterns. For the past couple of decades, the field of ELT has been under the influence of such dichotomies of identity as “native speaker (NS)” versus “non-native speaker (NNS)” and thereby, “native English-speaking teacher (NEST)” and “non-native English-speaking teacher (NNEST)”. This presentation unpacks narrow conceptualizations about these labels, and calls for re-evaluation and re-negotiation of the fundamental assumptions about

language ownership, learning, use, and instruction in the light of the present-day sociolinguistic and educational landscape of the English as an international language.