Recent literature on the presence of English in the United Arab Emirates has shown an increasing change in focus from the English Language Teaching (ELT) domain, to a more sociolinguistic and economic one (Boyle, 2012; Weber, 2011; Randall & Samimi, 2010; Karmani, 2005). While these studies have been significant to the field of World Englishes, this case-study charts new ground by observing the innocuous middle class migrant workforce hailing largely from Outer Circle countries, in an Expanding Circle context such as Dubai. It also provides a brief sociolinguistic backdrop of the emirate. The project employed mixed methods (observational accounts, field notes, a survey, and interviews) to garner data. It surveyed a convenient sample of 133 participants (of largely Indian, Filipino, and Pakistani origin) and interviewed a subset of 10 Indian participants to understand their use and attitudes towards English, as well as their impression of the Arabic language. Findings from this study reveal a sense of English occupying a ‘default’ space in these employees’ lives, rather than a nefarious, or an empowering role, while the Arabic language is seen as a plausible empowering asset. This study provides not only particular descriptions of English language use of these migrant workers, but also pushes for a new theory where the presence of English is no longer dominated by the vestiges of linguistic imperialism, but has become an important part of participants’ identity, existing in a parallel realm with their first languages, without necessarily encroaching it.