

Significance of English Language in Contemporary Global Scenario

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Abstract

English is the most significant and wide-ranging language in the world. People belonging to different parts of the world widely use English. It is the lingua franca of the world. The world is developing in field of science and technology. Scientific inventions in Germany, France, and Russia cannot reach to nook and corner above vernaculars on without its access to educated Indians all over the country. English has been able to attain this status. English has multiple roles because universities worldwide often use English as acknowledged medium of learning and communication.

Keywords: *global language; communication; artificial language; internationalism.*

Introduction

As Crystal points out, a language can achieve a status which transcends boundaries of nations and countries and becomes a global language in two main ways. The first one is by becoming the official language of a particular country. There are two main ways in which this can be done. Firstly, a language can be made the official language of a country to be used as a medium of communication in such domains as government, the law courts, the media, and the educational system. To get on in these societies, it is essential to master the official language as early in life as possible. The role of an official language is best illustrated by English, which now has some kind of special status in over seventy countries of the world. Another way for the language to attain a status which will be regarded as global is when a language is made a priority as a foreign language in the educational system of a country, even though this

language has no official status. It becomes the language in which children are most likely taught when they arrive in school, and the most available to adults who- for whatever reason never learnt it, or learned it badly, in their early educational years. However Indian education system adopts English as mouth piece of communication whereas Hindi has been given official language nevertheless Hindi though official language is acknowledged as popular only in North India, whereas the South India promote regional language and English as lingua-franca across India. Hence in view of this glaring contrast English has acquired as paramount place as main language across the country.

Significance of the study

The significance of studying English language in the contemporary global scenario lies in its unparalleled role as a medium of communication, education, and economic advancement. English has emerged as a global lingua franca, connecting people across cultures, nations, and disciplines, making it an essential tool for fostering international cooperation and understanding. This study is crucial in examining how English facilitates access to global opportunities, enabling individuals to participate in the global economy, pursue higher education, and engage with scientific and technological advancements.

Understanding the significance of English sheds light on its impact on linguistic diversity and cultural identities. While English empowers communication, it also raises critical questions about linguistic hegemony and the marginalization of indigenous languages. Analyzing its widespread use helps in addressing challenges related to preserving linguistic diversity and promoting equitable language policies.

The study also highlights the educational implications of English as a global language, examining its role in shaping curricula and pedagogical approaches. As English continues to dominate in digital spaces, global business, and international diplomacy, exploring its impact provides insights into the future of multilingualism and intercultural communication.

This study contributes to a broader understanding of how English shapes contemporary global dynamics, offering a foundation for developing strategies that balance its benefits with the need to maintain cultural and linguistic diversity in an interconnected world.

Literature review

Phillipson, R. (2017). This study critically examines the myths and realities surrounding the concept of 'global' English, addressing its role as a lingua franca and its implications for linguistic diversity and cultural identity. While English is often seen as a unifying global language facilitating communication across borders, this perception overshadows the complexities and inequalities it perpetuates. The study challenges the myth of English as a neutral or universally accessible medium, highlighting how its global dominance reinforces linguistic imperialism and marginalizes non-English-speaking cultures. It explores the realities of English's varied forms, such as World Englishes and localized adaptations, which reflect its dynamic and pluralistic nature. By analyzing the socio-political and economic forces driving English's global spread, this research aims to uncover the tensions between its homogenizing influence and the diverse linguistic identities it encounters, fostering a nuanced understanding of 'global' English.

Anjaneyulu, T. (2019). This study examines the social impact of English language learning and teaching at the school level in India, focusing on the current scenario shaped by globalization, socio-economic factors, and cultural dynamics. English, perceived as a language of opportunity and empowerment, plays a pivotal role in education, career prospects, and social mobility. However, the growing emphasis on English has created disparities between urban and rural schools, as well as among socio-economic groups, due to unequal access to quality education and resources. The study explores the pressures on students, parents, and teachers to prioritize English proficiency, often at the cost of indigenous languages and cultural heritage. It also highlights the pedagogical challenges faced in implementing effective English language teaching practices. By analyzing these social dynamics, the research provides insights into the broader implications of English education in shaping identity, equity, and societal aspirations in India.

Li, M., & Yang, R. (2020). This study explores the enduring hardships caused by global knowledge asymmetries, where disparities in the production, access, and dissemination of knowledge perpetuate inequities across nations and communities. Dominated by the Global North, the current knowledge ecosystem privileges perspectives, methodologies, and languages that marginalize contributions from the Global South. These asymmetries impact education, research, and policy-making, reinforcing systemic inequalities and limiting diverse

voices in global discourses. The study examines the challenges faced by underrepresented regions, such as lack of resources, limited access to research networks, and dependency on knowledge frameworks rooted in Western paradigms. It also highlights the impact of linguistic dominance, particularly English, on knowledge dissemination and intellectual inclusion. By analyzing these enduring disparities, the research advocates for equitable knowledge systems that prioritize inclusivity, diverse epistemologies, and collaborative practices to address global challenges more effectively.

Hannerz, U. (2015). This study explores current perspectives on teaching World Englishes (WE) and English as a Lingua Franca (ELF), focusing on their implications for language education in a globalized context. With English evolving into diverse localized forms and serving as a bridge language for international communication, traditional norms rooted in native-speaker models are increasingly questioned. The study examines how pedagogical approaches are adapting to reflect the pluralistic and fluid nature of English, emphasizing intelligibility, communicative competence, and cultural inclusivity over rigid adherence to native-speaker standards. It also investigates the challenges educators face in balancing global intelligibility with respect for local linguistic identities. By analyzing curriculum design, teacher training, and classroom practices, the research highlights the need for a paradigm shift in English language teaching, fostering a more equitable and realistic understanding of English as a dynamic, global resource.

Discussion

The publication of books, magazines, journals, newspapers, bulletins, reference books, encyclopedias, dictionaries are excessively done in English. The authentic and standard works on Science, Technology, Engineering, Medical Science, Humanities etc., are mostly available in English. The books on philosophy, psychology, religion, morals in English are flooding markets and academics are within our easy reach. A number of books on Games and Sports, Fashion Designing, Interior Decoration, Gardening, Cooking, Health - care, Feminism, Fine Arts, Useful Arts are easily available in book- shops and libraries. The books of intrinsic nature, written in prominent languages of the world such as Sanskrit, Greek, Latin, Persian, Arabic, Italian, Spanish, German, Russian have necessarily been brought forth in English version. Valmik's the *Ramayana*, Ved Vyasa's the *Mahabharata*, and the *Gita*, Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, Virgil's *Aeneid*, Firdous's *Shaha-Nama* and *The Holy Bible* are inevitably

available in English version. It is generally observed that the books, translated into English are not only valued highly but enjoy greater and larger circulation throughout the world. The publication of books in English has now turned out to be an immensely lucrative business.

The students/scholars, studying in the developed and advanced countries such as the UK, the USA, Australia, Canada pursue their course through English language and for the purpose they have to clear TOEFL & GRE tests. Millions of Indian scholars, engaged in higher studies in the foreign countries today, could not have realized their dreams had they remained ignorant of English language. In addition, even the scholars, engaged in the higher studies in the Indian Universities too, cannot do well if they are not good at English. The youngsters, aspiring for achieving success today in the competitive exams, of course, consult authentic books of intrinsic value, written in English, Since the prominent publishers are either British or American, the books published by them are mostly in English. It does not, however, mean that all the indigenous publishers are sub-standard. Some of the Indian publishers too have earned world-wide recognition. The sterling, Allied, Jaico, S. Chand, B.I., Surjeet, Atmaram & Sons., Motilal Banarsidas etc., have done commendable work in this direction. The crux of the matter is that our scholars should pursue the books published by the universally recognized publishers. And, no doubt, most of these books are in English.

This is the age of digital revolution and Artificial Intelligence. It has brought a revolution in the field of knowledge. The complex, critical, obscure things, pertaining to various aspects of knowledge, are now at beck-and-call on the internet. How can we shut eyes against these fast-emerging usages. Unless, we are well-versed in English language, we cannot reap the reach dividends in this regard. The facts and figures hitherto unknown to us are now within our easy reach. The Information and Technology has brought radical changes in the life-style of the youngsters today. Within a twinkling of an eye, we can interact with the people living even at the farthest corners of the globe. The TV programmes of Discovery, CNN channels etc. are of intrinsic value. We are now no more like the frogs, lying in a dark and deep well. Ours age is an age of technical Renaissance. No aspect of human life now remains untouched by the advent of global liberalization today.

The people of India, quite sensitive towards this development, are naturally lured by the English language. A young mother feels extremely delighted when her baby sings a rhyme: 'Baba, baba black sheep' or 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star' in the presence of a casual

visitors to her house. The tiny-tots are taught to make deft use of the words of courtesy like please, thank you, sorry sir, ta-ta, bye-bye. If the baby does well, the young parents feel amply rewarded. This sort of process has, in fact, ushered in a new wave of modernization in our otherwise moribund, orthodox society. There are, however, some pigmy-sized politicians in our country too, who are suffering from myopic vision, speak vociferously against the use of English language. It is ironical that most of these get their sons/daughters educated in prestigious English institutions barring those without families. Something globally established cannot be destabilized by these prejudiced, nefarious activities. English language, no doubt holds an increasingly influential position in the world.

The academic world has undergone major changes in the last several years. We are witnessing a general process of internationalization of higher education. In a context of competition, English represents a selling point (2, 11). Common diplomas have been introduced under this process. Users of English will probably be more highly prized than those using the national language as they will be considered better adapted to the globalization context. "Universities may consequently fear that by making an effort to make the usual teaching language accessible to foreign students they will appear outdated and backward-looking" (Truchot).

The world has made rapid progress in the 20th century. The establishment of the UN and other international bodies such as WHO, UNESCO, UNICEF, IAEA and World Bank had to find a common language for communication and to hold peaceful discussions with different countries. This situation seemed to be slowly becoming a reality in meetings around the world as general competence in English grew. Later, they adopted English as a language of global communication because of the flexibility and universality of English language and also this language was used widely.

Although English is not the most widely spoken language in the world in terms of the native speakers when compared with Chinese, it is considered as a global language because English is more flexible and adaptable than Chinese in terms of pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary etc., and English is spoken and used by other countries apart from Britain, America and British colonies but Chinese is not.

English emerged as an international language by the early 20th century. During that period, Britain and the United States were known for their economic imperialism and became

the global economic trade capitals. The rest of the world wanted to join them and those countries had to learn the economic language, which at this point in history, was definitely English. In this context, David Crystal states that if the metaphor 'money talks' has any meaning... those were the days when it was shouting language in which it was shouting was chiefly English.

Today English is incredibly wide-spread and it is constantly expanding. The main reason is incredibly of media. The first medium through which English is spread is through newspapers and television. Everybody needs to know what is going on, in not only their country, but abroad as well. In fact, we have about five thousand newspapers are published in English. It is so important that the growth of the English language is conspicuous in modern world.

Television and cinema are other forms of media which greatly helped English get to this position it has reached today. American television ha impact over the world unimaginably. For example, two hundred and fifty million people are learning English on TV.

The spread of English as an international language and the emergence of the Internet as a fast communication channel that has no boundaries in globalization. The Internet has revolutionized the ways of human communication as well as English language learning in a global context. Teachers and learners have to understand how the Internet is bringing about changes in English language learning. The Internet has also an ever-growing impact on the syntactic standards of lexical, phonetic, language and the great importance that most teachers place on the use of correct language. The Internet seems to have important implications for linguistic or language learning. Today most of the countries are implementing English language as their second language other than English speaking countries in order to excel and compete with other countries.

English and computers have gone together for decades. Computers and the programmes which make them useful were largely the invention of English-speaking countries. The hardware and software reflected the needs of English language. The early systems for text-based communication were unfriendly to accented characters and almost impossible for languages using non-Roman writing systems, while computer operators interacted with programmes using instructions in English. English will continue to be spread via software products and digitized intellectual property.

According to David Crystal, 85 percentage of the world's international organizations use English as their official language in transitional communication. About 85 percentage of the world's important film productions and markets use English as well and 90 percentage of the published academic articles are written in English. In many cases, the increased growth in the use of English language can be attributed to educational, economical or cultural globalization.

In education system at international level, there was a drastic change in schools and universities in the last few decades i.e., all the educational institutions, private or public, have decided to adopt English as their medium of instruction keeping in view the importance of English language and they have benefited from the new trend in education. In some respects, English education has become a profitable commodity that can be sold to students who think that a prosperous future lies in their ability to speak English.

Most of the countries in Asia, Africa and Australia have their trade and business with other countries by using English language today. Hagen (1993) suggests that knowledge of one language is not sufficient for a company to run business successfully within Europe but the companies should be able to perform in three: English, German and French.² However, German and French companies use English for their businesses outside Europe. This is apparent from recommendations made by German Chambers of Commerce to members about languages with which they can have trade with other countries in the world. English is recommended as the sole language for 64 countries, German and French for 25 countries, and Spanish for 17 countries. Thus, English is preferred language though there is competition from other European languages. Japan and the US use English for international trade. The overall picture shows that English is being used extensively in international trade and business in modern world.

The wide spread reform of university curricula in English language is expected in many countries. The educated labour will be in greater demand everywhere but they need to update and strengthen their skills in English communication. Mc. Rae (1997) suggests that the key to the very long-term future lies in our education and new skills. Most of the scientific in space, atomic energy etc., are made through the use of applications of English for its accuracy and simplicity of diction.

It is estimated that about one billion students are learning English worldwide today. English is taught as a foreign or second language at schools and universities in almost every country. India bears special reference of imbibing and excelling English language through its syntax and style and making it their own for education and research activities. I.T. Revolution was bolstered by Indians knowing and superseding other countries in this regard. Hence, Indian learners of English have contributed most to survival, promotion and growth of English language as global medium of communication and scholarly researches all over the world.

Conclusion

With respect to the latest developments in information and communications technology that have taken place in the past few decades, English has become more dominant in all walks of life than ever before. English has become a necessity as it is the language of modernity. In the colleges of medicine and researches, English is the medium of instruction throughout the world. All computers' programming languages, catalogues, medications, technical terms, conferences, research and references require English today. It is indicated that mastery of English language is required for success in life. Students who know English have a better future than those who do not.

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