

ENGLISH AS A GLOBAL LANGUAGE

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Abstract: *Multilingualism is becoming more and more important today. In addition to opening employment opportunities, learning a foreign language helps you make real connections with people and learn more about different cultures, places, and lifestyles. When it comes to languages, an argument can be made that there is a connection between dominance and cultural power. In addition, the main factor behind the popularity of languages is related to a sufficient power base, be it economic, political or military.*

Key words: *Multilingualism, foreign language, different cultures, lifestyles, cultural power, international organizations, characteristics.*


A global language is a language that many people around the world learn as a second language. It is used in UN, UNESCO, SAARC, Commonwealth and many other international organizations. So, which languages are among the international languages? English, French, Arabic, Portugal, Spanish, Russian, German, China. To be a global language or world language, a language must have its own characteristics. What are they?

1. Having a large number of speakers.
2. There is a significant proportion of those who adopt a global language as their mother tongue.
3. Possession of official status in several countries.
4. A language group not strictly defined by ethnic characteristics.
5. One or more standard registers widely taught as a foreign language.
6. Association with language influence.
7. Use in international trade relations.
8. Use in international organizations.
9. Use in scientific institutions and forums.
10. Possession of a complex of important literature.

We found out what an international language is like. But the following question arises: Why do we need a global language?

For translations; lingua franca (a language or mixture of languages used as a means of communication by people whose native languages are different. Also





known as the language of commerce, the language of communication, the international language, and the global language); for international trade and more.

Why is English called an international language?


Many people consider English a global language because it is a language that can be spoken and understood by the majority of people in almost all regions of the world. Moreover, this language is accepted and supported worldwide. Therefore, it is a very important global language.

Like French, German and other European languages, English is derived from Latin. This may be the reason why many Europeans do not consider English a difficult language to learn. In addition, linguists point out that the simplicity of English is the main reason why it has become a global language. The Latin script of English is not that complicated for people to recognize and learn. Also, the pronunciation of English is not as complicated as some other languages.

How did English become the world's global language?

By the end of the 18th century, the British Empire had acquired many colonies. In addition, they established their geopolitical dominance throughout the world. Also, the English language spread rapidly in the British colonies. Technology, science, diplomacy, commerce, the arts, and formal education have also contributed, making English the truly global language of the world. English language has already become as a global language and is used as an official language in many countries and it is taught as a second or foreign language as well. It proves that English language became the dominant language among other languages. As Jarvis (2007) claims globalization can be understood as the forces that exercise pressure on standards and create demands in all societies. Today globalization can be seen in economic, social, environmental and even political spheres. Global languages as French, Japanese, German and Chinese are the most preferable languages to learn throughout the globe whereas , English is widely used for publishing, reading, conferences or guest lectures, for informal written and oral correspond and face-to-face communication (Ammon, 2006, p.2). One of the positive aspects of the globalization of English language is that from micro and local level it enabled the hybridization of different languages as creating new varieties of languages and possibilities for language use. For example, hybrid languages such as Singlish and Manglish can be seen as a natural response to the spread of English language and the need for local identity. In the article “World Englishes and applied linguistics” Braj B. Kachru (1990) noted some issues related to the relationship between world Englishes (WE) and applied linguistics. The discussion mostly related to three concentric circles: the Inner Circle, the Outer





Circle and the Expanding Circle. The problem is the Outer Circle in which the institutionalized non-native varieties of English are used in multilingual and multicultural contexts. Theoretical, applied, social and ideological issues were considered as the major problems in English.

Advantages and disadvantages of a global language.

Advantage 1: Facilitates communication between different cultures. A global language allows communication between different cultures. Language has always been a key point of cultural identity. A global language breaks down communication barriers and offers people an opportunity to understand each other's cultures.

Advantage 2: Facilitates international trade.


Since the 1970s, with the rise of globalization and neoliberalism, an unprecedented amount of international trade and business has taken place between different countries. The truth is that in order to buy or sell from a business partner from another country, you need to communicate effectively and correctly. Fortunately, a global language breaks down communication barriers and increases opportunities for international trade and economic growth.

Disadvantage 1: In the scientific field (subjects), English presents difficulties for non-native speakers. Publishing a scientific article is a long (about a year) and difficult task that requires many steps. Having a global language has given scholars access to a wealth of literature from around the world, but it has also created significant challenges for non-English speakers. You may be thinking, "They are scientists. Why do scientists need to know enough English to publish their articles?" Well, scientists need to communicate their findings, conclusions, and methods clearly, and for non-native English speakers, this can be daunting. Scientists who want their work to be recognized at the world level should attend English conferences or discussions and read English scientific articles. According to an article published in "The Atlantic" magazine, 80% of scientific articles were in English. In addition, the article states that "a journal published in a language other than English must have at least abstracts in English."

Disadvantage 2: it poses a threat to minority languages (which are spoken by few people).

According to a BBC article, nearly 400 languages have become extinct in the past century – one every three months – and 50% of all remaining languages will disappear in the next century. Because simply speaking, the lost language means the loss of a specific culture. People who speak a global language have more opportunities for work, education, and overall success. For this reason, some minority language speakers believe that learning to speak a global language will





benefit them financially. In addition, with globalization, our cultures are becoming more and more interconnected, and this is increasing the global lingua franca of minority languages.

As there are two sides to a coin, a global language has advantages and disadvantages. Facilitating communication between different cultures and opening the way to expanding international trade between countries is among its strengths. Its disadvantages are the difficulties it creates for non-native speakers in the sciences (especially in publishing scientific literature) and its contribution to the extinction of minority languages. Of course, English is the most widely spoken language in the world. Globally, the largest number of English speakers speak English as a first or second language. Undoubtedly, no other language in the world can match English in terms of its huge popularity. Only one question remains: will English remain the global language of the world in the next century and beyond, or will it be replaced by another language?

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