

Face of English Language after Globalization

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ABSTRACT

The goal of this article is to prove that English language and globalization walk side by side, towards the goal of communication, business and politics, making simpler the ways around the world beyond the pragmatical approach about the language and the globalization itself.

The method used for the production of this study was through examination of articles, e-books and websites linked to the issue.

Everywhere, anywhere today and most certainly tomorrow, English is to be present in the life of every citizen around the globe. It is the main tool for operating in most fields: INTERNET, banking, travelling. Globalization can contribute to economic growth in different countries. The term can also refer to the transnational circulation of ideas, languages, and popular culture.

English, or better said, the concept of English language known as 'International English' is the global view of the language or the international standard for the language. It can also be referred to as: Global English, World English or even Globish. Despite the arguing if it is a desired standardization or killing of the language, the focus here is to show that it is globally acknowledged to be the most global language of all times.

Face of English Language after Globalization

With over 375 million people claiming English as their mother tongue and over 750 million more speaking English as a second language, English is the most widely spread language in the entire World.

Over 80 % of the information stored on Computers is in English, and more than half the World's technical and scientific papers are published in English as well.

To quote John Portelli, the Maltese Educationalist, "The World is a Village and English is the lingua Franca." The dominant economic powers of both Britain and America in the last few centuries have vastly influenced many other countries to adopt the language in order to

communicate effectively. Migration into English speaking countries also supports and encourages the development of different varieties of English.

English is also defined as a world language, because of its widespread use in fields of publishing, science and technology to music and politics.

As David Crystal describes in his paper, English as a Global Language, “from Bengal to Belize and Las Vegas to Lahore, the language of the sceptre isle is rapidly becoming the first global lingua franca.

In history, it is displayed that language and globalization can come hand in hand in the means of spreading throughout the world. The English language is mainly spoken in the U.S and Britain as a first-language. However, it is being increasingly spoken around the world everyday as a way of communication. As a result of the British colonialism, the U.S and British pop culture and media, as well as the economic aspect of the world, English has become the global language of communication today. By having so much value and importance, the English language is considered significant in terms of forming ways of globalization and communication. Thus, the result of the three factors influencing the spread of English around the world created a valuable position for the English language to becoming a Lingua Franca.

Presently, English is the most wide spread language in terms of the number of countries that speak the language as a mother tongue or foreign language. Regardless of languages such as Mandarin, Arabic and Spanish having a great number of speakers, English dominates as a foreign language for many. A Newsweek Magazine article, written by John McWhorter, ranks English as the world’s international language today and states it is likely to remain this way in the future (McWhorter). Writer Dorie Clark for Forbes Magazine also supports this claim from an economic perspective, whereas English is seen as the global language of business as well (Clark).

The importance of English is measurable by its increasing expansion in several nations around the world. The majority of Europe is beginning to speak English, leaving only five European nations that do not speak it as a popular foreign language, as stated in a Daily Mail online article by Steve Doughty (Doughty). The language is everywhere, from popular culture, western movies and music, literature, news, schools and more. The domination of English in media, its increasing global expansion, and significance in the economic industry make it the most important language today in terms of social mobility.

British Colonialism has influenced the spread of English in the world resulting the formation of a global language where people from different cultures are able to interact in a language that isn’t originally spoken in their respected countries’. In the memoir “By any other name”, Santha Rama Rau shows how the British forces colonized India in the mid-nineteenth century, and how the British’s presence greatly influenced the Indians way of behavior. In

terms of linguistic influence, the British enforced the teaching of English as a first language as part of the schools' curriculum (By Any Other Name). By committing this act, the Indian students were able to learn English and become fluent in speaking it, allowing them to apply what they have learned to communicate with the British and others.

As John Portelli suggests, "Globalisation has witnessed an increasing number of mergers between companies domicile in different countries that have adopted English as the language of communication and as a global marketing tool. Businesses have spread around the World in large emerging markets such as India, Brazil and China.

English language is the key for international understanding and world regulation under the phenomena called Globalisation. English language has become the tool for International organisation and communication.

According to the statistics found about English language through Research, it is shown that over 400 million people use the English vocabulary as a mother tongue, by the speakers of the many varieties of Chinese. Over 700 million speak English, as a foreign language. The Oxford English Dictionary lists about 500,000 words and there are still half million technical and scientific terms still uncatalogued.

As English was spreading, it was also adapting and absorbing, soaking up vocabulary from elsewhere. Arabic, Spanish, Hindi and Malay words all found their way into the English lexicon through trade and colonisation, joining the contributions from a thousand years earlier of Old Norse and Norman French and, with the coming of the Renaissance, Latin and Ancient Greek. In the mid-19th century, the Industrial Revolution generated a variety of new words – a new technical lexicon – such as 'factory', 'steam-press', 'stethoscope': some of them returning to classical roots, others taking on simpler terms, to describe processes, concepts and artefacts that were either new or newly discovered. The process continues and has intensified today – with many more scientific, technological and creative discoveries (and their patents and trademarks) now described and named in English when once they were introduced to the world in German and French.

Words expand their meanings to cover new situations ('a computer mouse'); the language incorporates or creates new words to express new concepts ('to email' or 'to google'). The only constant is change. This globalisation of the language has led to a diverse range of 'Englishes', subtly different not just from a 'standard' English, but from each another. The European Commission 2, for example, recognises that over the years, 'European institutions have developed a vocabulary that differs from that of any recognised form of English. It includes words that do not exist or are relatively unknown to native English speakers outside the EU institutions'. Along the way it provides a window into concepts that are common in one nation's bureaucratic tradition, but not others. In his book *The Tipping Point*³, Malcolm Gladwell writes of 'The paradox of the epidemic: that, in order to create one contagious movement, you often have to create many small movements first.' In the free development of

global English, the language has had many small movements: dialects that are the fittest for purpose and meet the needs of their users (such as EU officials) in context. Dialect is no longer restricted in its distinctiveness by region or place. It applies to social groupings; and we can see the development of distinct dialects in cyberspace and in mobile communications – just think of text language as one example – in parallel with the decline of regional dialects as our usage in the UK becomes more geographically homogenised.

Research shows that three-quarters of the world's mail, telexes and cables are in English.

English is also the language of navigation, aviation and of Christianity and Five of the largest broadcasting companies in the World (CBS,NBC,ABC,BBC and CBC) transmit in English, reaching millions and millions of people all over the world.

Each year over 600, 00025 international students from 200 countries come to study at universities, colleges and boarding schools in the UK and a further 600, 00026 come to do a short English language course. In 2011, they contributed the lion's share of the UK's £17.5 billion education-related export market²⁷, helping institutions, cities and communities throughout the UK to thrive. Analysis by London Economics²⁸ suggests that the value of that market might be approximately £21.5 billion in 2020 and £26.6 billion in 2025 (both in 2008–09 prices). This excludes the potential impact of tuition fee increases and student visa rules, both of which are likely to have a long-term impact on the value of education exports.

In India, English was first used as a tool of power to cultivate a group of people who identified with the cultural and other norms of the political elite. It provided a medium for understanding technology and scientific development, and by the 1920s had become the language of political discourse, intra-national administration, and law.²² Tellingly, it also became the language of nationalism and political awakening: Gandhi, a staunch opponent of the adoption of English, struggled to create a consensus for an acceptable alternative and expressed his message to the elite in English.

For a variety of reasons, India has nevertheless chosen to adopt and maintain English as the secondary official language of the country, after Standard Hindi. Successive governments have seen the advantages of this position, at the individual, community and international level and English is now spoken by approximately 100 million Indians. (According to the 2001 census, 258 million speak Hindi and a further 30 indigenous languages are spoken by more than a million native speakers). David Graddo²³ identifies three main drivers of this growth: education (increasing demand for English-medium schools, widening access to higher education, incorporation of English training in vocational education); employment (many jobs in the organised sector now require good English skills); and social mobility (English is seen as an access route to the middle classes and geographical mobility within India and beyond). For the investor, the academic, the civil servant, the teacher, the performer, the politician, the call centre worker, the diplomat, the activist, the schoolchild, English opens the door to opportunities inconceivable without it.

Major international and transnational organizations do have a policy of having the English language under their competencies, such as INTERPOL and UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION, to name only two of the biggest ones, and most known – the competencies of these organizations show that the English language is fundamental, to say the least. Also, in major sport events, such as the ones Brazil will be playing a major role in the next years, English will be the key for making the communication in the events successful or not. To assist a foreigner in Brazilian soil will mostly be done only if the English language is in use.

Among the six official languages of the United Nations Organization, English is the most relying one, and one of the working ones.

The 1945 constituent Charter of The United Nations Organization did not provide official languages for its offices; it was even enacted in five languages: English, Chinese, Spanish, Russian and French.

During the first session of the United Nations General Assembly, it was adopted rules of procedure setting out the five languages and two working languages: English and French. In the next year it was adopted permanent rules: Resolution 173 (II). In 1983 the Security Council also recognized English, among others, as the working languages.

INTERPOL, another well known International Organization uses English, among other three languages, as its official language to issue notices.

With the advent of the INTERNET, the knowledge of the English language is fundamental for the one in search of a more efficient research trough the WWW – World Wide Web. INTERNET also tends to be, in the future, one of the most powerful technological instrument, which will send information in a more efficient way, in a faster way.

English is the most well-known language around the world. Even in China people are talking more and more in English.

But English 'became' formally global in the end of the 90s with the implementation introduction of the Internet. The recognition of the global position of English came true.

One of the ideas of those who defend the anti-globalization is, for instance: the agriculture protectionism, arguing that there should be given priority to the feeding of one nation's population through its own soil or land, and not through exportations or importation. For those, food safety sustainability can only exist when a country is capable of satisfying a significant part of its own feeding needs. For the exempt observers there is no 'food insecurity' in the world. Since Malthus the agriculture production has grown fast, even faster than the growth of individuals. The same can be said about Language Imperialism with a comprehensive view that English was, and still is, a global phenomenon.

David Graddol on 'The future of English', exams English and emphasizes the unpredictability in the language. He says 'the current global wave of English may lose momentum' and new languages can emerge in the next century. So from different views it can be said that English is here for historical reasons and maybe not here tomorrow for the same reasons. No anti-globalization fundamentalisms can change this fact and the fact that if it was not English, it would be another language.

Due to globalization and a different form of Imperialism held on this 21th century, English can not be seen simply as an international language wrapped in imperialism and the standardization of the world. It is a border language which people appropriates to act in life socially making the language work locally and globally.

People have adopted the English Language to communicate among non-hegemonic groups and itself. It can be understood today that Global English is a decentralized language and its uses and creations are more global than native country speaking; which makes possible to contemplate other endings, even for the globalization or for another globalization.

Considering the different natures of the spoken English around the world, the contradictions, conflicts and struggles of this diverse language, it is possible to imagine that the Language has no owner any more. The “owners” of the language are those who make use of it, reinventing its identity and recreating the world.

The margins of the language exceed the nowadays English, enabling even more profoundly the plague of Caliban:

You gave me language, and my profit on't
 Is I know how to curse. The red plague rid you
 For learning me your language!

(The Tempest, William Shakespeare, I, ii, 363-368)

Says Francisco Rodriguez a set and costume Designer of Venezuela ‘If I have to summarise the meaning of the English language in one word then it has to be freedom. Freedom to relate to others, explore new cultures, freedom of information, to do what I want to do for a living and live in a place I love ... English has opened my horizons in every sense of the words and I owe who I am today to the ability to speak the language.’

English has developed as a global language for a range of reasons, many of them historical, rather than anything intrinsic in the language itself. The enormous irregularities in the English system of spelling, for example, may often be seen by a newcomer as a disincentive. Millions, however, are undeterred. One of the strongest incentives for learning the language is the use to which it can immediately be put, socially, economically and culturally and English through Globalization is here to stay.

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