

ENGLISH LANGUAGE - A TOOL FOR INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS & UNDERSTANDING

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Abstract

Language, is something specific to humans, that is to say it is the basic capacity that distinguishes humans from all other living beings. Language therefore remains potentially a communicative medium capable of expressing ideas and concepts as well as moods, feelings and attitudes. This is a system for communication. A language is the written and spoken methods of combining words to create meaning used by a particular group of people.

In today's global world, the importance of English cannot be denied and ignored since English is the most common language spoken everywhere. With the help of developing technology, English has been playing a major role in many sectors including medicine, engineering, and education. English is considered as a global language, language spoken by politicians from all over the world, English signs and advertisements are visible where one travel that makes the content easy to understand, entering a hotel or restaurant in a foreign city, English language makes communication easy as it is understood easily . It is spoken by more than 300 million native speakers, and between 400 and 800 million foreign users. It is the official language of air transport and shipping; the leading language of science, technology, computers, and commerce; and a major medium of education, publishing, and international negotiation.

English language comes in commercial transactions throughout the globe. It is the language of the latest business management in the world and a means not only for international commerce; but it has become increasingly essential for inter-state commerce and communication.

English language is one tool to establish individual's viewpoint and promote the spiritual heritage throughout the Globe.

This paper attempts to highlight on English Language being considered as a tool of international awareness and understanding.

In today's global world, the importance of English cannot be denied and ignored since English is the most common language spoken everywhere. Present-day English is an immensely varied

language, having absorbed material from many other tongues. It is spoken by more than 300 million native speakers, and between 400 and 800 million foreign users. English has official or special status in at least 70 countries. Just hearing the numbers signifies just how important English is. Moreover, English is no longer the language of the English people of England alone. It has been universally recognized as the international language. Hence, English is widely accepted at an international level without any prejudice. The present article aims to show the importance and the analysis, of the English language, as the key for international understanding and world recognition, under the phenomena called globalization. Beyond the pragmatic approach about the language and the globalization itself the aim of this article is to conceit that the English language and globalization walk side by side.

Language is the source of communication. It is the way through which ideas and thoughts are shared with each others. Language, is something specific to humans, that is to say it is the basic capacity that distinguishes humans from all other living beings. Language therefore remains potentially a communicative medium capable of expressing ideas and concepts as well as moods, feelings and attitudes. A set of linguists who based their assumptions of language on psychology made claims that language is nothing but ‘habit formation’. According to them, language is learnt through use, through practice. In their view, ‘the more one is exposed to the use of language, the better one learns’.

There are uncountable languages written and spoken in the world, because every country has their own national language, then they have different local languages spoken and understood by their people in different regions. The U.S. State Department's National Security Language Initiative encourages the study of seven languages that are rarely taught in the U.S.: Chinese, Hindi, Arabic, Russian, Korean, Farsi, and Turkish. India has undertaken the gigantic task of rapidly developing its economy, and becoming a powerful country. To fulfill this, people must have up-to-date knowledge of the different branches of science. Besides this, a growing nation has also to guard her against various internal dangers. Under such conditions, the selection of language to be studied by the youth of the country becomes very significant. English is the storehouse of scientific knowledge. Hence, its study is of great importance for a developing country like India

With the help of developing technology, English has been playing a major role in many sectors including medicine, engineering, and education, which, in my opinion, is the most important arena where English is required to develop the understanding at national and international level in order to prove its international power. Many of the books on higher study on science, technology, engineering, medicine, etc. are either written in or translated into English. English language has benefited the people in many ways in enhancing the knowledge on social, political, cultural issues and has broadened individual outlook towards life.

English is one of the most important Global language. Most of the international transactions of recent times were concluded in English. The language has contributed significantly in narrowing the gap between the geographical boundaries. The benefits of learning English can be seen in the economic, social and political life of the people of the country.

In reference to India the foreign policy is the focus of attention of all the countries of the world. The whole of the world expects to quench its thirst for peace with this policy. India wants to be friendly with all countries and has to explain and convince others that her point of views is correct. This cannot be done without an effective medium for the exchange of ideas. English provides such a medium. This is the language which enjoys the status of an International language. In fact, the majority of the countries of the world conduct their business in this tongue.

If India wants to play her role in international matters effectively, it is essential that English should be given the status of second official language.

This is the age of science. The world is changing at a terrific speed. Major technological and scientific advancements have been written in English language. This is all due to the scientific and technological progress which the other countries have made. To keep pace with these fast moving countries, scientific and technological research must be made in our country. Advancement and growth is only possible through knowledge of these subjects for which we have to depend upon English. English is the language of every latest business in the world. The basis of every relation is communication and English has become a window to global communication. The concept of English language known as 'International English' is the global view of the language or the an international standard for the language. The phenomena globalization and the need for an efficient way of communication around the world is a fact which does not depend on our wanting or not, believing or not – it is a fact. The domain of English is, today a basic need for any professional in any major area. The internationalization of manpower made nations adopt English as the official language of the world, as said before and the learning of the language opens doors for personal, professional and cultural development English has become an effective means of sharing experiences and strengthening our cultural identity all across the globe. Apart from general communication, knowledge of the English is an added advantage to help in communicating at the global level as this is only language that can be understood across the globe. Many global companies have outsources their operations in one country or other. It is the primary language used in international affairs. Being able to communicate in English helps interact with the global colleagues as well as advance their career prospects. . A good knowledge of English along with strong interpersonal skills can not only provide a platform on the global business world but also brings a lot of opportunities for self-employment as well. It is used in building international relations through the involvement of professional diplomats with respect to issues relate peacemaking, global trade, economy and culture.

Globalization and technological advancements are breaking down barriers and borders with vast implications for education in general and foreign language teaching in particular. With the vast implications of new phenomena in the world, such as globalization and technological advancements that break down barriers and borders, the aims of foreign language teaching and learning have now expanded to include promoting and fostering the understanding and acceptance of other cultures. There is a growing consensus that the task of language teaching must include culture learning as a part of language learning, thus expanding the ways that students can understand their world (Sellami, 2000)¹. The educational goals of teaching culture include the acquisition of a wider world view and learning to be open, accepting, and caring citizens of the world community. Interest in cultural competence arose naturally from the experiences of Westerners doing business overseas. That interest has grown with the growth of

¹ Sellami, A. (2000). Teaching Towards Cultural Awareness and Intercultural Competence: How/Why Culture Means? Proceedings of teachers of English to speakers of other languages. Vancouver, Canada

international business and has also been affected by the popularity of study abroad, and by the needs of expatriates living overseas (Sinicrope, Norris, and Watanabe, 2007)².

You could say, 'We are all internationalists now'. We are or will be dealing with foreigners in our community, going abroad more, dealing at a distance with foreigners through outsourcing or email, phone and video-conferencing.

Given the prominent role English has gained in the last century, especially in the worlds of science, advanced technology, and communication, it has become an international language and a lingua franca used by an increasing number of people in various fields of life all over the world.

To further discussion of the role of culture in learning a foreign language, it would be beneficial to understand current practice of teaching English as a foreign language. Four main uses are identified.

First, English is seen as the prime medium of international communication and is the tool that bridges the linguistic gap between the different parts of the world. English can facilitate international integration, understanding, and cooperation.

Second, English is vastly acknowledged as a bridge leading to good employment, a better future, and a better life.

Third, English is used for academic purposes. It is the main medium of instruction in most higher education institutions that often require students to have gained a certain level of proficiency in it as a condition for admission.

Fourth, English is also perceived valuable for enhancing cultural analysis and understanding.

Harvard Business School Professor Dorothy Leonard's call for people with "T-shaped skills" -- those who speak two or more languages and can "see the world from two or more different perspectives."³

In all, it can be said there is an 'Universe of the English Language'. This expression reaches the language, culture, teaching, products of all sorts ect. This universe covers all ways of life of contemporaneity. The use of English terms in other languages is extremely often. As punctuates Phillipson: 'conclusion is that you are in a very concrete sense, disadvantaged if you do not know English.

² Sinicrope, C., Norris, J. and Watanabe, Y. (2007). Understanding and assessing intercultural competence: A summary of theory, research, and practice. Technical Report for the Foreign Language Program Evaluation Project. University of Hawaii at Manoa

³ Dan Fost is a San Francisco-based freelance writer and the author of a book about baseball called *Giants Past and Present*, from MVP press.