



English: A Tool for Global Communication

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DOI : <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20079670>

ARTICLE DETAILS

Research Paper

Accepted: 03-04-2026

Published: 25-04-2026

Keywords:

English, global language, old, middle, modern.

ABSTRACT

This paper discusses English as a global language. English today is a global language. Global language acts as a “lingua franca”, a common language that enables people from diverse backgrounds and ethnicities to communicate on a more or less equitable basis. The English language is actually originated in England by the Germanic tribes who invaded England, and it is now widely spoken in six continents. In the 5th century A.D tribes from the West Germany crossed over England. These tribes were called Saxon, Jutes and Angeles. They spoke a dialect of the Germanic Language and this slowly evolved in to the English language that we speak today. And it is now a world language of communication. The English language belongs to the Germanic language and it was preceded by Celtic. Then it was influenced by Latin, Germanic and finally by French dialect. English language continues to change and develop with the hundreds of new words arriving every year. The term “World English”, describes the spread of English in terms of three concentric circles: 1. The inner circle 2. The outer circle 3. The expanding circle. There are three main periods during which the English language developed-Old English, Middle English and Modern English. Centuries of British colonialism is the major reason for the global presence of English today which the concentric circles above shows. Due to the military, economic, scientific, political and cultural influence of the British Empire during the eighteenth, nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Today in the



fields of business, academics, science, computing, education, transportation, politics and entertainment, English is established as the de facto lingua franca. About eighty five percent of international organization have English as at least one of their official languages. English is the dominant language of Computer and Internet.

Introduction

English is not our mother tongue, We may still have mixed feelings about it. We may be strongly motivated to learn it, because we know it will put in touch with more people than any other language. English has become one of the most widely spoken languages in the world today. It plays a significant role in connecting people from different countries, cultures and backgrounds. It is widely used in education, business, science, and technology making it an essential language in the modern world.

Literary Review

The spread of English as a global language has been widely discussed by many scholars in the field of Sociolinguistics and communication studies. One of the most influential thinkers. David Crystal, in his book English as a Global language, explains that English has achieved global status due to historical, political and economic factors, especially the expansion of the British Empire and later the global influence of the United States.

Similarly, Braj Kachru introduced the model of Three Circles of English (Inner, Outer, Expanding) which explains how English functions differently across countries. His work highlights that English is no longer limited to native speakers but is used globally as a second or foreign language.

Ngugi Wa Thiong'o offers a contrasting view in Decolonizing the Mind, arguing that the dominance of English can marginalize native languages and cultures. This perspective adds a critical dimension to the discussion, questioning the cultural impact of English.

In the context of globalization, scholars emphasize that English serves as a lingua franca, enabling communication in fields like business, education, science and technology. Researchers in communication studies argue that English enhances cross-cultural interaction and access to global knowledge.

Overall, the literature shows that while English is a powerful tool for global communication, it also raised important issues related to cultural identity, linguistic diversity and power dynamics.



What is a global language?

A language achieves a genuinely global status when it develops a special role that is recognized in every country. Such a role will be most evident in countries where large numbers of the people speak the language as mother tongue- in the case of English, this would mean the USA, Canada, Britain, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, several Caribbean countries and a sprinkling of other territories. However, no language has ever been spoken by a mother tongue majority in more than a few countries (Spanish leads, in this respect, in some twenty countries, chiefly in Latin America), so mother-tongue use by itself cannot give a language global status.

From Crystals [1] point of view, a language can achieve its role as a global language when it reaches a special role which is accepted in every country. Crystal [1] also claims that there are two main ways to make it possible to make a language global language. The first way is official way, that is, a language can be chosen to be used as first language or second language in a country. Therefore, the chosen language will be used in all kinds of communication, in academic fields as technology, science, media and in government.

A language can also have official role, semi-official status or stands as foreign language. As Crystal [1] puts it being used only in certain domains, or taking second place to other languages while still performing certain official roles. As a result, to survive in these societies the need to master the language is very important if not essential. The second way to achieve the status is by receiving education priority.

Although a language is not an official language, it is taught in school as a compulsory subject for children or even for adults who need it. Take Russian for example, that language received education priority not only in the countries of former Soviet Union but also the countries under its sponsors as Vietnam, Mongolia. However, education privilege for a language is not always fixed, one language can replace the other in the process. Vietnam is a clear illustration of the replacement process, since Vietnam War, Russian was used as the main language and it was taught as compulsory subject in schools and universities. Since 90s, English has replaced Russian as the main language almost every where: schools, universities, magazines, books etc. In short, a language is called a global language when it achieves the official status and education priority in almost every nation, as a result, that language will eventually come to be used by more people than any other language How a language becomes a global language There exit several explanations about how a language achieves a global status. Some believe that easy grammar structures, familiarity in vocabulary, and the rich in culture. etc. make a global language and



language can exit independently. However, the said reasons above only cannot make a language global, many languages are easy to study in terms of grammar and vocabulary but they are not global. Here, I agree with Crystal in respect of his point that a language cannot exist independently without a strong power-base (economic, military, politic). As he puts it language exists only in the brains and mouths and ears and hands and eyes of its users. When they succeed, on the international stage, their language succeeds. When they fail, their language fails. The essential reason to make a language global or international is the power of its people.

Crystal assumes the power here includes the power of military, politic and economic. Look back at the history of Greek and Latin language which were used as international language in Middle East and Europe, we can find out that they became so popular not because of their scholars or scientists but because of their military power [1].

To achieve the global role, military power is needed, however, to keep and develop the status, political and economical power are essential. In other words, to maintain the status, a language needs a strong base and force to popularize itself. Hardly anyone wants to learn a language of weak and poor nation with no international

Importance of Global Communication

Global communication is important in today's interconnected world as it helps people from different countries share ideas, knowledge and cultures. It plays a key role in international business, education, diplomacy and technology. Effective global communication promotes understanding, reduces cultural barriers and supports economic growth. It also enables collaboration in solving global issues such as climate change, health crises and innovation. Therefore global language is essential for building strong international relationships. Through global communication people can access information easily through the internet and digital platforms.

In addition to its role as global and link language, English also serves as a language of modern culture and global mobility. It is widely used in travel and tourism, making communication easier for people across different countries. English dominates media, entertainment and digital platform, including movies, music and social media, which increases its global influence. It is also the primary language of the internet, allowing people to access information, share ideas and stay connected worldwide. Moreover English is often considered a neutral language as it does not belong to any one region, making it widely



accepted across cultures. Thus English continues to strengthen its position as a powerful tool of global communication.

The Rise of English as a Global Language.

Evolution of English Language

Language is a natural human growth, partly mental and partly physical. It follows, therefore, that it never ceases to change, but is a continuing development in a constant state of flux. To divide the history of any language into “periods” historically must, then, be only a somewhat artificial rough-and-ready expedient. Yet, provided it is remembered that such divisions are only approximate, the method has its advantages and is generally followed.

The Making of English

In the history of the making of English, some movements and events stand out: fifth and sixth century migration of the three Germanic tribes: Jutes, Saxons and Angles to what is now known as England. The primary sources for what developed as the English language were the Germanic languages spoken by a group of tribes from northern Europe who moved into the British Isles in the fifth century. In one early account, these tribes of Angles, Saxons and Jutes were described as “God’s wrath toward Britain”. It is from the names of the first two that we have the term Anglo-Saxons to describe these people, and from the name of the first tribe we get the word of their language Englisc and their new home Engla-land. In the 1500 years of its existence, English has developed continuously. In this development, it is possible to see three periods or landmarks as C.L. Wren puts it. English has evolved through three major stages: Old English, Middle English and Modern English.

Old English 450-1100

Middle English 1100-1500

Modern English 1500 the present.

The Old English Period

The Old English period extends from the earliest written documents, about the close of the seventh century, to about 1100, by which time the effects of the Norman Conquest begin to be perceptible in the language. It is characterized by a homogeneous Anglo-Saxon language, with only a small amount of



Latin influence, followed by some from Norse, on the vocabulary of the written language. Later, English was strongly influenced by the North Germanic language Norse, spoken by the Vikings who invaded and settled mainly in the north-east of England. The new and the earlier settlers spoke languages from different branches of the Germanic family; many of their lexical roots were the same or similar, although their grammars were more distinct. English words of Old Norse origin include anger, bag, both, hit, law, leg, same, skill, sky, take and many others possibly even including the pronoun they.

The introduction of Christianity added another wave of Latin and some Greek words. The old English period formally ended sometime after the Norman Conquest, when the language was influenced to an even greater extent by the Norman-French-speaking Normans. The use of Anglo-Saxon to describe a merging of Anglian and Saxon language and cultures is a relatively modern development. Old English was fully inflected with five grammatical cases (nominative, accusative, genitive, dative, and instrumental). Its word order was relatively free since its inflections prevented ambiguity. In pronunciation it had no silent syllables and its spelling was a rough attempt at being phonetic, that is to say its letters represented its sounds fairly closely. The Old English had three different major dialects. Kentish, West Saxon, and Anglian.

Some of the most important surviving works of Old English literature are Beowulf, an epic poem; the Anglo Saxon Chronicle, a record of early English history; and Caedmon's Hyme, a Christian religious poem.

The Middle English Period

For about 300 years following the Norman Conquest in 1066, the Norman kings and their high nobility spoke only one of the language called Anglo-Norman, which was a variety of Old Norman used in England and to some extent elsewhere in the British Isles during the Anglo-Norman period and originated from a northern dialect of Old French, English continued to be the language of the common people. Middle English was heavily influenced by both Anglo-Norman and later, Anglo-French. Following the 1066 Norman Conquest, English entered a period of decline (1066–1204), becoming a language of the lower classes, while French dominated the aristocracy, government, and law. English lost its prestige, and the Old English literary standard faded, leading to profound grammatical simplification and significant lexical influence from Anglo-Norman.

About ten thousand French words had been taken over by English during the Middle English period. Consider these pairs of Modern English words. The first of each pair is derived from Old English and the



second is of Anglo-Norman origin: pig/ pork, chicken/poultry, calf/ veal, cow/ beef, wood/forest, sheep/ mutton, house/ mansion, worthy/ honorable, bold/ courageous, freedom/ liberty.

The role of Anglo-Norman as the language of government and law can be seen in the abundance of Modern English words for the mechanisms of government which derive from Anglo-Norman: court, judge, jury, appeal, and parliament.

Writers wanted to connect with common people, so they chose English. This encourages writers to use English in literature as well. This made storytelling, poetry, and religious teachings easier for ordinary people to understand.

Geoffrey Chaucer's famous work: The Canterbury Tales he used vernacular English instead of Latin/ French. William Langland wrote Piers Plowman. John Gower wrote Confession Amantis. Thomas Malory wrote Le Morte d'Arthur. John Wycliffe translated the Bible into English.

Early Modern English

Modern English is often dated from the Great Vowel Shift, which took place mainly during the 15th century. English was further transformed by the spread of a standardized London based dialect in government and administration and by the standardizing effect of printing. By the time of William Shakespeare, the language had become clearly recognizable as Modern English. In 1604 the first English dictionary was published.

English has continuously adopted foreign words, especially from Latin and Greek, since the Renaissance. (In the 17th century, Latin words were often used with the original inflections, but these eventually disappeared). As there are many words from different languages and English spelling is variable, the risk of mispronunciation is high, but remnants of the older forms remain in a few regional dialects, most notably in the West Country.

Distinctions are commonly drawn between the Early Modern period (1500-1800) and late.

Modern English (1800 to the present).

British exploration, colonization, and overseas trade hastened the acquisition of loanwords from countless other languages and fostered the development of new varieties of English, each with its own nuances of vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation.

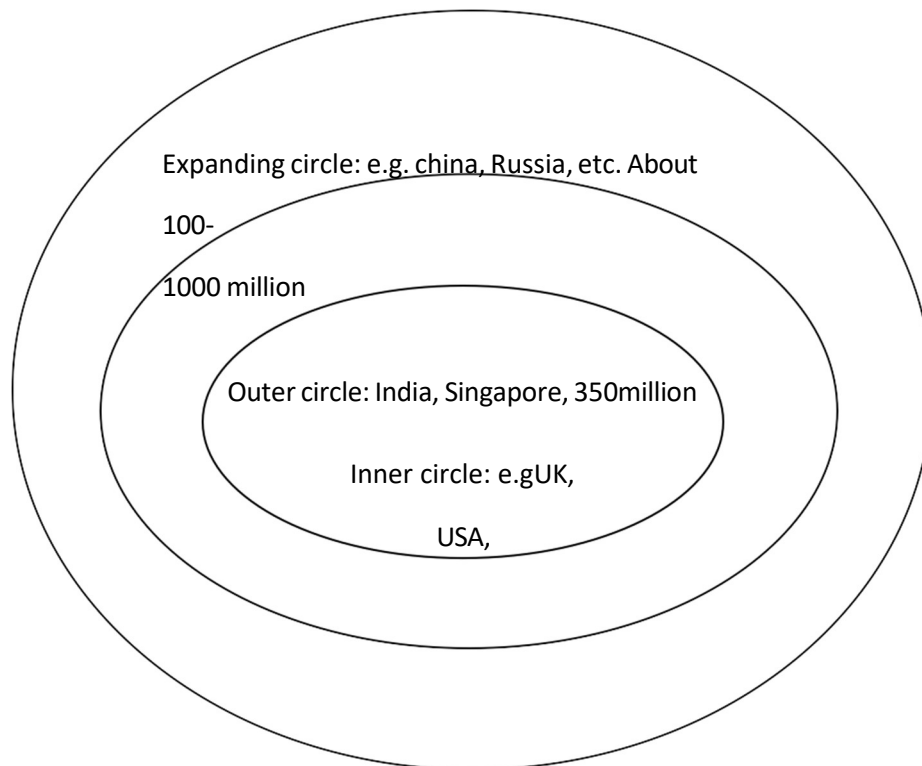


William Tyndale’s English translation of the Bible was published. Many Greek and Latin borrowings entered English. By the 18th century, England was becoming the center of a huge empire and London English was a global language. So academics became more and more interested in looking at language from an intellectual viewpoint.

The year also marks the rise of the English grammarians (Joseph Priestly, Robert Lowth, James Buchanan, John Ash, Thomas Sheridan, George Campbell, William Ward and Lindley Murray), whose rule books, primarily based on prescriptive notions of grammar, become increasingly popular historical periods. Modern English period that the language expanded rapidly across the world through colonization, trade, science and technology. Thus, these three stages played a crucial role in transforming English from a regional language into a global communication.

The journey of English as a global language can be understood through its three major

English today is a global language. Its worldwide reach is much greater than anything achieved historically by Latin or French. Braj Kachru, the Indian linguist who coined the term “World English”, describes the spread of English in terms of three concentric circles.



The inner circle is the traditional base of English and includes countries such as the United Kingdom, Ireland and the United States and loosely the (historically mainly white) former colonies: Australia, New



Zealand, some islands of the Caribbean and the Anglophone population of Canada. English is the native language or mother tongue of most people in these countries.

In the outer circle are those countries where English has official or historical importance. Countries such as India, Pakistan and Nigeria and others under the American sphere of influence, such as the Philippines.

The expanding circle refers to those countries where English has no official role, but nonetheless is important for certain functions, notably international business. This use of English as a lingua franca by now includes most of the rest of the world not categorized above.

The dominance of English as a global language does not signify the lessening of importance of any other language spoken across the world. Yet it has been claimed that the global link language of the future is likely to be simplified, and to some extent this is true, in so far as it is seen that the future of global communication on the Internet is English. It is neither realistic, nor desirable, to use a single language for global business, discussion or international negotiations. But if the choice of the six official languages of the United Nations is any guide to current world trends, then the use of English in global communication is very much a reality. The opportunities to learn other languages will not be affected by the global dominance of English. But the key to global communication will increasingly be aEnglish, and the range of literature, information and expertise available in English will consolidate English's role as the global lingua franca for the 21st century.

Through international business and trade, language serves as a key to cross-cultural communication and business expansion and is thus seen as a means to develop relationships based on mutual understanding and respect. It is also argued that language is a critical component to the success of business in the increasingly integrated global marketplace. In the business world, the first step requires establishing a relationship with other business entities. This may involve correspondence with an objective to seek out a potential business partner such as a supplier or manufacturer. The presence of a global language greatly facilitates this. For example, a Japanese company may seek a French partner, while an Iranian company might look for a Dutch partner. In each case, more efficient and effective communication will take place using a second language rather than English with the aid of a translator. In most cases, it is impractical and costly to hire a multilingual. Interacting on a global scale also means dealing with information overflow. The internet offers a quick and convenient way to obtain information, and English is reputedly the best language for navigating through the vast depths of online information. With English skills,



business people can easily communicate with their counterparts in other countries without needing to engage expensive interpreters. A Japanese business person's ability to speak English can grow positive business relationships with the British and Americans and make dealing with those countries that much easier. Finally, English is a means to reach one of the most enticing business goals: to be able to enter the American marketplace. American dominance in so many areas of business makes access to the American consumer and business-to-business sector a significant accomplishment. With English's status as the global language for business and the trend in the United States adopting a somewhat isolationist stance regarding language, the best way to access the American marketplace is by using English.

English is the language most often studied as a foreign language in the European Union, by 89% of school children, ahead of French at 32%, while the perception of the usefulness of foreign languages among Europeans is 68% in favour of English ahead of 25% for French. Among some non-English-speaking EU countries, a large percentage of the adult population claims to be able to converse in English – in particular: 85% in Sweden, 83% in Denmark, 79% in the Netherlands, 66% in Luxembourg and over 50% in Finland, Slovenia, Austria, Belgium, and Germany. Books, magazines, and newspapers written in English are available in many countries around the world, and English is the most commonly used language in the sciences with Science Citation Index reporting as early as 1997 that 95% of its articles were written in English, even though only half of them came from authors in English speaking countries.

Place of English In Indian Society

English occupies a place of prestige in our country. People belonging not only to a different language groups but also to the same speech community make use of English in their inter-personal Communication. In big metropolis of India, it is really difficult to come across any educated person who can speak any Indian language well without avoiding the use of English words. Its importance is not just in how many people speak it but also in what it is used for. It is the major language of trade and commerce, news and information in this world of globalization. It is the language of higher education and research, maritime communication, international air traffic control and it is used even for internal air traffic control in countries where it is not a native language. Thus it has attained the status of a global language in the ever-changing economic context.

It has now become a ladder for upward social mobility and „a window to the world“. Such is the demand for learning this language that a variety of English coaching centers and private-tuition shops, English-medium schools which are mushrooming in a large numbers and are easy to spot almost everywhere in



our country, even after independence, clearly indicate the respectable position this language enjoys in the minds of the democratic Indians.

In fact English language enjoys a respectable position in the Indian context. In India English is seen not only to be the key to economic prosperity, but for the social value as well. Parents, especially, those belonging to the upper and middle classes, expect their children to get the best type of education and they think that it is possible only through English medium. On the other hand, people from the lower classes emulate the model-setting behavior of the upper and middle classes. This increasing demand for English has resulted in the mushrooming growth of English-medium schools all over India.

English is not only a language it is a key to a world of opportunities, knowledge and association. As our planet becomes increasingly interconnected, English proficiency is an important tool through which we can change our personal and professional life. So join the journey of learning

English and open the door to a world without boundaries. Your ability to speak, read and write in English can be a defining factor in your striving for success in a globalized world. English has been seen as a universal language on the internet and also the main way of economical, political and social relationships. Finally English and global language are inseparable living one on another in the present day world like body and soul of human being. It is important to be aware of what the competitive world tends to consider as an essential skill so that society can be better prepared for interactions in its everyday life. “English is a language before globalization and English is the language after globalization and ends with the same phrase.

Conclusion:

English is globally accepted and known by all. The number of people using English is growing day by day. English is the most common language that is spoken everywhere. So, its role in the global world can't be denied. We know that communication plays a vital role in every field whether it is business, medicine, transportation, technology trade or marketing. The world dominance of the English language has been supported by its established status as the main language of business, political science and education, as a lingua franca for communicating among world , nations and various cultures in various contexts. It can be concluded that globalization has become a reality of modern life.

To conclude the growth of English through its historical development and global spread has established it as a dominant language of communication. It not only facilitates international interaction but also



supports cultural exchange, economic development, and technological progress. Despite certain challenges, English remains a unifying force in an increasingly interconnected world. English continues to play a vital role in uniting the world and promoting global understanding.

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