

# Reflecting English as a Global Language and its growing Popularity

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## **Abstract**

English is the most widely spoken language in the different contexts of the world. It is not only national language, but also a global language spoken as the first language by the people. It is the language of International communication. It is official language of 53 countries and is spoken as first language about 400 million people around the world. Language started in 410 AD when Germanic Tribes including the Angles and Saxons migrated to Britain. Their vocabulary became more popular than the existing Latin from the Roman Empire and old English started. English is considered as a global language or lingua franca because more than 350 million people around the world speak English as a first language and more than 430 million speak English as a second language. It gradually gained its popularity throughout the world.

. In fact, English is recognised as an official language in 67 different countries as well as 27 non-sovereign entities. It became the language of America as the language of trade or business. Moreover, it is a major business language as well as the official language of a number of the world's most important institutions, including the United Nations, NATO, and the European Union. It is growing widely throughout the world.

**Key Words:** English, Global Language, Expansion of the British Empire, Industrial Revolution, non-sovereign entities, and European Union European Union.

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## **I. Introduction:**

English is called a global language because it is used as an official language almost all around the world. People of different nations, states and countries having different mother tongues communicate English. English is popularly known as the lingua Franca all over the world. It promotes friendship among different people of different nationalities because they can understand what each other say. India's first Prime Minister Pundit Jawahar Lal Nehru has said, "English is the language through which India can enrich relation with the people of other countries in the field of business, trade, economics, commerce, law, science, technology, medicine, culture, education, industry, media & multi-media, innovation, creativity and spirituality".

English is universal language. It is the world's second native language, the formal language in 70 countries and English speaking countries are accountable for about 40% of world's total GNP. English is used as a second language at any given time as it is taught in schools or college throughout the world. English can be used everywhere with educated people around the world. It can be used in media, cinema, and pop music. It has official status in over 60 countries. 150 million people use English fluently as a foreign. It is used in Singapore, Malaysia, Portugal, Poland, Germany, Finland, Luxembourg, Austria, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden as a second language.

The English language has approximately 400 million native speakers worldwide, trailing only Mandarin and Spanish. However, it is also the single most popular second language. When native and non-native English speakers are combined, it is recognised as the single most widely –spoken global language

The English language spread with the growth and expansion of the British Empire. Starting in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century Britain established its first colony in the America. Following a colonial expansion and a series of victories over France and the Netherlands in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, England became the dominant colonial power in North America and India. Despite losing its thirteen North American colonies in 1783, the British Empire continued to expand elsewhere turning to colonizing Asia, Africa and the Pacific. The spread of British Empire between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century, the geographical expanse of the colonies and the international trade driven by the British led to the spread of the English language across continents, from south Asia, Asia Pacific to Africa, the middle East and Australia. Following are reasons it became Global Language:

(i) **Used in the business or trade all over the world :** English is the language most frequently used in the business all over the world.

- (ii) **First used by Britons:** The Britons were the only ones who used it first before colonizing. The Britons started doing trades around the world. It is the language used in poetry, prose, playwriting and story writing and accepted throughout the world.
- (iii) **Technical Language:** English is technical language. It has brought digitalization throughout the world.
- (iv) **Language as Post War USA:** After two world wars, America started developing business all around the world like great Britain. Doing so, emerged English as the language of trade. American culture also exported heavily through music and films.
- (v) **Having Snowball Effects:** English language has snowball effect that has made it world acceptable language. It is used in internet, on Radio, schools, and business. It is also used in global market. It is growing language of global market.

Global language arises mainly due to the political and economic power of its native speakers. It was British imperial and industrial power that sent English around the globe between 17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century. For most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Britain emerged as the world's leading imperial power. By 1922 the empire controlled one-fifth of the world's population and one-fourth of the Earth's land. It dominated world trade. After world War Two, the British Empire declined greatly, losing most of its overseas possessions during the post war decolonization period. Despite losing its empire, the British spread the English language around the globe with its world spanning colonies and economic influence that one can still feel today. The legacy of British imperialism has left many countries with the language thoroughly institutionalized in their courts, parliament, civil service, schools and higher education. English is considered as a global language because it ranks high both in terms of the number of countries where it is spoken as well as the sheer number of people who speak that language either as native speakers or as second language speakers.

English is the dominant language spoken in the world's most powerful nation—the United States of America. The emergence of USA as a global leader in almost every field ranging from business, science and technology, entertainments and sports is one of the main reasons why English commands such global influence even today. English is the language that is almost used between an agent and international companies in the world. English is the preferred language at International organisations such as the United Nations during diplomatic exchanges among political leaders of countries. It is the first world language first called lingua franca and is the most widely used language. It is an official language of the European Union. It has been dominated by largely American economic and cultural supremacy—in music, film, television, business, finance, computing, information technology, internet, and drug, pornography—that has consolidated the position of English language and continues to maintain it today. American dominance and influence worldwide makes English crucially important for developing international markets, especially in the areas of tourism and advertising and mastery of English also provides access to scientific, technological and academic resources.

#### **Influence of English**

English is the world's common and a global language. It provides a strong competitive advantage in culture, diplomacy, commerce, media, academia and IT and in the use and practice of software. English drives growth, international development and emerging economies. There is enormous demand and need for English in public education system to boost stability, employability and prosperity. It changes lives. The impact of globalisation and economic development has made English the language of opportunity and a vital means of improving an individual's prospects for well-paid employment. The growth of English and the emergence of science and technology, media and multi-media technology, social media, digital technology and internet have removed the boundaries and made the entire world as global family. English causes the rapid cross-pollination of ideas and innovation around the world.

**Growing Popularity:** Popularity of English is growing day by day. It is becoming world's second spoken language used for various purposes. It is gender free language. There is no masculine and feminine discrimination. It is recognised as the dominant language.

Research shows how a good command of English can not only enhance an individual's economic prospects but also contribute to national growth and competitiveness. According to survey by the economist Intelligence Unit in 2012, 70 percent of executives need to master English to realise corporate expansion plans. That is why they need English ability. English is becoming a core criterion in determining employability. Those who cannot speak English are left behind. English makes a significant contribution to sustainable global development. It eases trade. It is used as a language of convenience, facilitating dialogue and building trust. It is useful in peacekeeping and conflict resolution. English is the lingua franca that holds together the international conversation and debate in areas such as climate change, terrorism and human rights. English includes first and second language speakers. It is popular by admitting new words and senses from English varieties from all over the world.

The new growth markets for English are largely outside the traditional countries of the developed world. China and India show an enormous scale of demand. British Council forecasts at least double digit

growth for English in Indonesia, Pakistan, Brazil and Mexico as well as the large African countries, particularly Nigeria, Ethiopia and Sudan. The growing urbanisation is also cause for the great demand of English.

Media technology is the most innovative endeavour for the teachers of English in ELT classroom in order to improve learners' motivation, language skills and self-learning environment. It globalizes education system. It provides opportunities to learners to converse not only with local community but with global community as well. It has created revolution in the field of learning and teaching methodologies and made them more enjoyable and productive. Digital learning proves great miracles in the field of learning because it is "just in time" and on-demand delivering knowledge when and where the learners need it. This concept of "anywhere-anytime" is serving learners on the larger scale available on line. Internet also proves great blessings of media technology. It also helps the students to get higher scores and grades. According to Research activities, the internet changes the interaction between the learners and teachers. Pronunciation available on internet helps learners identify their own mistakes at the time of pronouncing the English words. The rapid development of science and technology such as media technology has offered a better tool to explore the new teaching methods. In fact media technology has played an important role in English language teaching. It also aims to make teachers aware of strategies to use it in an effective manner. That is why media technology proves boon to globalize English language

## **II. Conclusion:**

English has huge economic value. It supports trade, exports, ELT sector and prosperity around the world. It provides a significant competitive advantage in everything from soft power to commerce, International relations, the media, international travel, and tourism, international safety, education and communication, universities and academia and delivers a ready and growing global market for the UK's impressive cultural industries. There is enormous demand and need for English in the state and public education systems, especially in developing economies. 85% of international organisations have English as one of their official languages. English has been lauded as the most successful language ever with 1500 million speakers worldwide.

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