



STUDY OF CURRENT ENGLISH STATUS AND IMPORTANCE OF ENGLISH AS A LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT

The language of the West Germanic people was English, which was originally spoken in early medieval England. Following the migration of a Germanic tribe to Britain, the English language began to expand there and eventually acquired the name England. It later became the standard language. The Anglo-Saxon colonists of the fifth century introduced the Anglo-Frisian languages, also known as the "old English," to Great Britain. Because to the Norman Conquest of England in the eleventh century, French had an impact on the English language. In today's global world, the importance of English cannot be denied and ignored since English is the greatest common language spoken universally. To learn English requires constant practice and patience. The kind of feeling that succeeds among students is that it is not possible to achieve fluency or mastery over the English language. This kind of tendency prevents students from learning English. Most of the students study English from the examination point of view, so they are not able to produce even a single sentence without the grammatical error. Furthermore, sufficient practice is not given to students to learn a language. Knowledge of English is necessary if one wants to come up in life. It is the major window of the modern world. This is all the more true where the advanced countries have opened their doors for recruiting technically qualified persons. Only those who have a command over the English language are given a job.

Key Words: Language, English, global world

INTRODUCTION

India first encountered the English language around the start of the seventeenth century. The language that is spoken most frequently worldwide these days is English. About 320 million people speak English as their first language, and 200 million speak it as a second. The Supreme Court upholds Chagla's 1966 declaration that "English was an Indian language" while he served as Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court. English is an Indian language, as even Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru intended to clarify in the Constitution's Eighth Schedule. In the educational system, English is used as both an official language and a medium of teaching. Since Macaulay, an educational reformer during William Bentinck's reign, created the English language, English instructors must fulfill this function in addition to their other duties. There was debate over the suitability of English as a medium when he introduced the language. English became a lingua franca in the first defense of the language as a teaching tool. Nehru acknowledges that English is the primary language of the modern world.

Under Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, India's second president, the University Education Commission acknowledged that English would enable Indians to stay informed about global events. He said learning English would encourage nationalism and unity. The Kothari Commission recommended that people prioritize their English language proficiency over their study of literature. It was also suggested that the language of the library should be English, and that a person should be able to speak the language well enough to be awarded a degree. The commission recommended that solely English be used to convey all scientific knowledge to India. Thus, the English language ought to be taught in Indian schools. Young people can take advantage of several opportunities by learning English, and the language is now seen as essential to education. Students have benefited greatly from the influence of the English language. English is currently regarded as a second language in the modern era and has lost its status as a foreign language.

Language is our significant source of communication. It's the way through which we share our ideas, feelings, views, and thoughts with others. Language separates us from animals and makes us human. There are thousands

of languages in this world. Each Country has their peculiar nationwide language in addition to a multiplicity of local languages spoken and understood by their people in different regions. Some languages are spoken by millions of people, others by only a few thousand.

In today's global world, the importance of English cannot be denied and ignored since English is the greatest common language spoken universally. With the help of emerging technology, English has been playing the main part in several sectors including medicine, engineering, and education, etc. English is a vital language for all kinds of professional and personal goals.

ENGLISH IN THE MULTILINGUAL CONTEXT OF INDIA

English first set foot in India in 1600 AD when the East India Company began trading there and English missionaries started their endeavors. Despite their initial arrival in India as traders and benefactors, they quickly gained influence of the country's economy and educational system. Eventually, their political dominance in India resulted in the widespread usage of their language, English, across the nation. Notwithstanding its foreign origin, it has steadily surpassed the significance of the nation's native regional languages in terms of prominence.

STATUS OF ENGLISH IN INDIA

India, a country with a multitude of cultures, faiths, and beliefs, is home to many different languages rather than just one or two. Hindi is designated as the official language of India by the Constitution, with English serving as an associate official language. In addition, 22 official languages are recognized by the Indian Constitution's VIIIth Schedule. There are up to 461 languages spoken in India, 14 of which have been declared extinct by Ethnologue. India has more than a thousand languages, if the dialects are counted. Despite India's rich linguistic legacy, no national language is included in the country's constitution. Indian languages by themselves were unable to fulfill the role of official language, and English had to be designated as such at the time the Constitution was drafted. English and Standard Hindi were designated as the union's official languages by the Indian Constitution (p. 212). It was mandated that English be abandoned for official purposes fifteen years following the 1950 adoption of the constitution. However, after 1965, Hindi and English could still be used for official reasons according to the Official Languages Act, 1963, which was passed by the Parliament. This is because, despite the fact that more than 40% of Indians speak Hindi as their mother tongue, non-Hindi speakers, particularly those in South India, did not recognize Hindi as the country's lingua franca. Given the variety of languages spoken in India, English serves as a linguistic instrument for both formal and informal, national and international, wide-ranging communication (Kachru, 1986) as well as for the harmonious administration of the nation and the unification of speakers of diverse languages. For the many linguistic areas of India, English functions as both an official language and a lingua franca, or common language of communication. Consequently, it is no longer necessary to designate any Indian language as the national language.

These days, English is especially valued in India. It has a unique status in the legislature, the courts, the media, the press, and the educational system in addition to being the official language and the lingua franca of the nation. Indeed, it's regarded as the entry point to tertiary study. Furthermore, it serves as a language link between India and the world's main nations. As a result, English is now sought in every nook and cranny of Indian society as a method of advancement and the key to a better life. It is also linked to social power and prestige.

The English language is classified as a second language in India. According to D.A. Wilkins, while English is still regarded as a second language in southern India, it is no longer so in other states. It's permissible to use English as the universal language. The secret to success in teaching foreign languages is not readily apparent. Basically, it is determined by the government's policy and the public's perception of it. Indians are always enthusiastic in picking up English. The Macaulay Minutes of 1835 promoted the introduction of English as a language of instruction. English was emphasized as a high school language before independence, and it is now used as a library language for post-independence research. English language instruction is thus included in curricula. Michel West and L. A. Hill were foreign specialists who worked in India. They made the case that proficiency in English is crucial in India. The English teachers' training program was funded by the British Council. "Madras English Language

Teaching" (MELT) was the program's name. It was the inaugural English Language Teaching (ELT) program launched in Madras. In honor of the University of Kerala's golden jubilee celebrations, the UGC approved the "English Language Teaching Center" (ELTC). This center's primary goals are to offer new, need-based courses and remedial instruction for students who do poorly. This center gives university students the tools they need to communicate and work professionally in the language.

Learning the English language is a goal shared by individuals all over the world. English is a required subject in many schools, but because of their fear and anxiety, the kids struggle greatly with reading and speaking the language. Conversely, knowing English has a greater impact on learning. The 21st century places a great value on learning English. English-speaking people are thought to be intelligent. A pupil needs instruction to succeed in the English language. Even parents who are illiterate desire for their kids to speak English well. To become fluent in English, students might benefit from language instruction as well as other programs. English is now recognized as a second language for speaking, writing, teaching, and understanding in many nations. Business English is essential in the domains of engineering, technology, and medicine. Because it is spoken, studied, and taught everywhere in the world, English is rated as the second language.

English is one of the languages that is most commonly spoken worldwide these days. The primary function of the English language is communication, not only learning. The value of English as a key communication tool in contemporary society has been recognized by society at large. There has a long history with the language. It has been combined with vernaculars and used all across the world. It also performs a rich function as a link language. Everyone lives in a world full with obstacles these days. The strongest will prevail. Eloquence enhances a person's superiority in personality. English also has a distinct advantage over mankind. However, it is a developed language, much like Spanish and French. The majority of scientific and technological accomplishments are documented in English.

Furthermore, the world is becoming increasingly smaller these days. Life's scope expands as well. But before everything else, the circumstance necessitates communication skills. Opportunities for employment overseas, education at foreign universities, and international trade all require strong communication abilities. Thus, there has been a boom in the usage of communicative Today, English is even more crucial. Effective and appropriate communication creates opportunities in life. It provides simple access to a wide range of opportunities in life. Everyone respects and loves a man who speaks the language well. A person with strong communication abilities rarely fails in their career, public life, or personal life.

English is hailed as the universal language of the modern world. Despite the fact that English is spoken all over the world, there are many dialects, including American, Australian, and British English. Owing to this variance, language users struggle with the language and frequently make mistakes, particularly when using idioms and other expressions. Additionally, the individual who speaks English as their first language is unable to pronounce some terms correctly. Generally speaking, a language's significance tends to increase on its own when it becomes a universal language. As a result, learning and using it is practically required of everyone.

The internet is becoming more and more important in a variety of fields, including research, education, marketing, trade, entertainment, and hobbies. This suggests that it becomes more and more crucial to understand how to use Internet services, and everyone tries to read and write in English as part of this. Without proficiency in the English language, one cannot function effectively in the online world. Additionally, it is now the recognized language on the internet.

English is now the primary language used in the majority of educational sectors. The majority of the instructional resources, including books and materials, are solely accessible in the English language. In today's society, not knowing English renders one incompetent in the field of education. Not only that, but in the current environment, English has become the de facto business language in this electronic age. It is the global language used for trade. English becomes a useful tool for business-to-business communication with businesspeople worldwide. A person can succeed in business all around the world if they have excellent English language skills. Knowing English is so

crucial since it leads to an increasing number of opportunities. Given that so many people utilize it as their primary language of communication, this language is vital to everyone's existence.

ENGLISH IN THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

In the modern world, English is the language that is more important, useful, and encouraging for every citizen. Everybody should work on four key language development skills: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. To become proficient in English, a person must be able to construct sentences and choose the right words when speaking with others. Every word has a specific meaning, and students should be able to use them in the appropriate context. It takes work to become proficient in the skill of placing the right words in the right sentences when speaking in English. Consequently, having this level of English proficiency makes it easier for people to communicate with others of all backgrounds. To begin with, the four skills aid in enhancing English language proficiency. Everyone should also make an effort to mimic the speech of a well-versed English speaker by listening to them. Understanding proper language usage is beneficial. Regularly speaking with others in English also aids in the improvement of one's capacity for precise articulation. One of the simplest languages to learn and speak is English. People can improve their ability to communicate effectively with others by practicing on a daily basis.

English is widely spoken around the world, whereas Chinese is primarily restricted to the Chinese subcontinent. Because English is the language used for 75% of global mail, 50% of global newspapers, over 50% of global radio stations, and scientific magazines, one in ten people on the planet is literate in the language. English's status as an international language has contributed to improved cross-national understanding and the exchange of cultural ideas. Additionally, it facilitates cross-border travel and has increased work opportunities globally.

English has emerged as one of the most important languages for communication in the modern world. This means that when people from different nations get together, they typically use English as a common language to discuss ideas and viewpoints because it is the most effective way to interpret signals between speakers. Additionally, it serves to unite people from all over the world's states and nations. For this reason, in order to communicate on a global scale, everyone needs to learn the language. As a result, language serves as a bridge that connects individuals and nations worldwide. It is the one language that is essential to the survival of the human species. It is referred to as a global language as a result.

In today's globe, the English language is becoming more and more popular every day. All throughout the world, millions of individuals are picking up this language at an astonishing rate.

Within ten years, two billion individuals will speak or study English. For economists, among other things, English is the language of globalization; it should be a part of every person's life, everywhere in the world, both now and hopefully in the future. It is the primary instrument for using the internet, banking, and traveling in the majority of fields.

Conversely, English is utilized in practically every industry worldwide, including commerce, education, medical, and so forth. Without words, there is nothing to stand on. English is widely used and understood by people all around the world in their daily lives. People are now compelled to study English in order to improve their livelihoods. This is a result of the widespread belief that proficiency in the English language is essential for advancement in the workplace and for gaining a significant intellectual edge. It not only raises people's level of education but also expands social status and facilitates greater communication globally.

The English language was very important in daily life. Using the internet is the first thing. The internet is becoming increasingly important in all spheres of human endeavor, including trade, marketing, education, research, leisure, and amusement. It is therefore more crucial to understand how to use online services. Nonetheless, English is used for processing and storing 80% of computer data. Everyone has to be able to speak in English in order to learn. In the online age, English is a must. Individuals who are not fluent in English may feel isolated in the online community.

English is also widely used in the media. It has been employed as a communications medium between states. As a result, the English language's influence is growing quickly. English is now required for all modern

correspondence, films, journals, and newspapers, among other things. There are no limitations when it comes to studying English. Learning the language is not impeded by barriers based on race, color, or faith because it is the language of the future. Everyone on the planet should make an effort to study it in this regard for their future.

Proficiency in the English language is essential for efficient interpersonal communication. Even native speakers occasionally make blunders when speaking. Since learning a language is a gradual and ongoing process, true learning cannot occur without error. To aid the children who are beginning to learn English, it is the responsibility of the students to establish an environment in which English is spoken. Consequently, after being exposed to the language for several months in a suitable amount of time, the kids begin speaking it on their own. Their inability to speak English correctly stems from their lack of suitable guidance during their English language learning process. Not only can English assist young brains pass tests, but it also helps them show off their intelligence to the rest of the world. The need to communicate in English to advance in one's career led to the establishment of numerous organizations dedicated to teaching the language. Effective communicators are in high demand in the majority of firms these days. Since the world has gotten more interconnected, it can be challenging to engage in it without knowing English. The majority of businesses have begun periodically providing English language training to their staff.

Ethnicity, political pressure (for national unity), economic pressure (for easy access to trade and commerce, advanced science and technology), and popular demand are just a few of the many sociolinguistic pressures that have a significant influence on language education in India. The Union Government created the three language formula taking into account the need for regional languages and ethnicity. It honored the issue of national integrity as well. India's school curriculum incorporates English in some capacity, following the three-language model. Because of this, English has a particularly special place in Indian school curriculum.

The following are the language-related recommendations found in the National Curriculum Framework for School Education:

- The mother tongue or the regional language must be learnt as the first language.
- The second language will be either English or another contemporary Indian language in states where Hindi is spoken, or Hindi or English in states where Hindi is not.
- The third language will be either English or a modern Indian language that is not studied as a second language in states that speak Hindi, or it will be English or a modern Indian language that is not studied as a second language in states that do not speak Hindi.
- The National Curriculum Framework of 2005 recommended supporting the Language Across the Curriculum approach to teaching English while simultaneously advocating for a renewed attempt to implement the three-language formula and emphasizing the idea that children's mother tongues make the best medium of instruction.

Nevertheless, the states and union territories are in charge of putting the linguistic formula into practice, and India as a whole does not adhere to it. For instance, Hindi is not taught in the curriculum in the anti-Hindi state of Chennai. With English, this is not the case. While English's place in the educational system differs from state to state, it is taught as the first, second, or third language in all of India. English is taught as the primary language in states and union territories such as Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Kerala, Mizoram, Sikkim, and Nagaland. English is taught as a first or second language in several states, including West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, and Meghalaya. English is also taught as a third language in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Karnataka, Dadra Nagar Haveli, Daman, and Diu. English is taught as a first language in 13.26% of secondary level schools and as a second language in 54.12% (1993) of secondary level schools, according to the All India School Education Survey, 2002 (report released in 2007, NCERT). According to the poll, English is the most commonly offered second language at the secondary level in 21 of 34 states (data not available for one state).

India is said to have the largest English-speaking population in the world, despite the fact that English is generally considered a second language (L2) in India. ..The US had the record ten years ago. An India Today survey

conducted in 1997 revealed that roughly one-third of the populace could converse in English... Furthermore, considering the consistent rise in English language proficiency since 1997, we must be speaking of at least 350 million people now. This exceeds the total English-speaking populations of the United States and Britain. (Subcontinent Raises Its Voice, David Crystal; Guardian Weekly: Friday, November 19, 2004.). It is easy to conceive where the 350 million Indians who speak English today have come from. Mahapatra (1990) asserts that while there are no non-native speakers of several Indian languages, it is not unexpected that 99% of English speakers in India speak the language as a second language. The significance of the English language in Indian society is demonstrated by this striking image of the country's English-speaking populace.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF ENGLISH

English was initially the language of England, but over the historical efforts of the British Empire, it has developed the primary or secondary language of numerous former British colonies such as the United States, Canada, Australia, Sri Lanka, and India etc. Currently, English is the primary language of not only countries actively touched by British imperialism, but also many business and cultural spheres dominated by those countries. In another word even outside of countries like the U.S. and the U.K., many people can speak and understand English. It is the language of Hollywood and the language of international banking and business. As such, it is a useful and even necessary language to know. An estimated 1 billion people worldwide speak English. On top of this, 67 countries have English as their official language and there are 27 countries that have English as their secondary official language. Why is this? It all has to do with history and the key is the British Empire.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

English is utilized as a communication tool in a variety of settings, including banks, train and bus terminals, airports, the medical and educational fields, and the commercial sector. In business and industry, English serves as a connecting language both domestically and internationally. English has spread throughout this ultramodern globe and is now widely used. It serves as a primary window into global scientific and technological expertise. With the advent of technology, there is an increasing necessity to study English in order to meet the expectations of the modern world. People's lifestyles have changed as well, and the English language acknowledges this. One such language that serves as a link language in trade and business in this sense is English. It now bears the designation of both global and library language. The University Commission (1948–49) emphasizes the value of English as a language used in libraries. Moreover, it can be divided into two categories: first, all instructors in higher education must be proficient in both their mother tongue and English; second, all students, particularly those pursuing postgraduate studies, must be able to follow lectures and access research materials in both regional and English. Given its significance, teaching English should begin in the early school years.

REASONS TO LEARNING ENGLISH

There are several factors that make the English language essential to communication in our current time.

1. English is the International Common Tongue: First of all, English is the most common foreign language. This means that two people who come from different countries (for example, a Mexican and a Sri Lankan) usually use English as a common language to communicate. That's why everyone needs to learn the language in order to get in touch on an international level. Speaking it will help you communicate with people from countries all over the world, not just English-speaking ones.

The British Council projects that by 2020 two billion people in the world will be studying English. Learning English is important as it enables you to communicate easily with your fellow global citizens.

2. Education: English is also necessary for the field of education. In many countries, children are taught and encouraged to learn English as a second language. Even in countries where it is not an official language. We will find many curriculums in science, engineering and higher education filed are written in English. Because it is the dominant language in the sciences, most of the research and studies you find in any given scientific field will be written in it as well.

At the university level, students in many countries study almost all their subjects in English in order to make the material more accessible to international students. English remains a major medium of instruction in schools, universities. There are large numbers of books that are written in the English language. English literature is vast and rich. Many of the latest scientific discoveries are documented in English.

3. The Internet and Press: On the Internet, the majority of websites are written and created in English. Even sites in other languages often give you the option to translate the site. It's the primary language of the press: more newspapers and books are written in English than in any other language, and no matter where in the world you are, you will find some of these books and newspapers available. In fact, because it is so dominant in international communication, you will find more information regarding nearly every subject if you can speak this language.

According to a report by Education First, English is the language of the internet. An estimated 565 million people use the internet every day, and an estimated 52 percent of the world's most visited websites are displayed in the English language. Learning English is important as it gives access to over half the content on the internet. Knowing how to read English will allow access to billions of pages of information which may not be otherwise available.

4. Resources Make Learning English Easy: Although many people think that it is very difficult and confusing, English is actually the easiest language of the world to learn because there are so many resources available. As soon as you decide you want to learn, there are thousands of resources on the Internet and in bookstores.

5. Travel and Business: With good understanding and communication in English, we can travel around the globe. Because it is the international language for foreigners, it's easy to get assistance and help in every part of the world. We can test it by online travel. Any travel booking site we can find will have English as a booking option. English skills will also help us in any business venture you choose to follow. If we visit some offices, companies, governmental organizations, or even math or engineering companies, we will see the importance of English. Any big company will hire their professional staff after getting to know whether the people they are hiring are good at English or not. Companies who want to function at an international level only consider their staff well educated if they are good English speakers, writers, and readers.

English is the dominant business language and it has become almost a necessity for people to speak English if they are to enter a global workforce. Research from all over the world shows that cross-border business communication is most often conducted in English and many international companies expect employees to be fluent in English.

Global companies such as Airbus, Daimler-Chrysler Fast Retailing, Nokia, Renault, Samsung, SAP, Technicolor, and Microsoft in Beijing, have mandated English as their official corporate language. In addition, in 2010 the company Rakuten, a Japanese cross between Amazon and Ebay, made it mandatory for their 7,100 Japanese employees to be able to speak English.

6. The Language of Hollywood/ Most movies are in English : Everyone knows that Hollywood is in the United States and that the biggest television and music industries in the world are based there. As I mentioned above, TV and movies are a great way to practice your English once you start learning. What's more, knowing English opens up thousands of movies, television shows, and games for your enjoyment. If you want to one day work in the entertainment industry, English is even more essential.

Those who are still unaware of the importance of English should start learning it, as a time will come when everything will be understood, spoken and written in English. In a lot of ways, that time is already here. Go ahead, watch some media, and get an idea of the language. You won't be disappointed.

7. Speaking English gives to Access to a World of Entertainment: Many of the world's top films, books and music are published and produced in English. Therefore, by learning English we will have access to a great wealth of entertainment and will be able to have a greater cultural understanding. If we speak English, we won't need to rely on translations and subtitles anymore to enjoy your favourite books, songs, films, and TV shows.

8. It helps to understand other languages : English has a long and fascinating history that spans wars, invasions, and influences from around the globe. Cultures that have helped shape modern English include Romans, Vikings and the French. For this reason, it's a hybrid language comprised of Latin, Germanic and Romance elements.

9. We can say things in a hundred different ways: One of English's best assets is its flexibility. We can often find many different ways to explain the same thing thanks to its wide range of vocabulary. It's said to have well over 750,000 words (depending a bit on how we count – some generous estimates put that number at 1 million) and is adding new ones every year as mentioned in the article about the history of English language.

10. It's really flexible : Non-native English speakers who learn it as a second language often comment on how many ways there are to say things. That's because English doesn't discriminate – you can use it however you like. Countries like Singapore have taken this concept to heart, inventing an entirely new type of English called 'Singlish' that has absorbed facets of other languages like Chinese and Malay.

11. It's easy to learn : This is generally accepted that English isn't the most taxing language to get to grips with. The vocabulary is simple to grasp and it has developed throughout different languages regarding its evolution that is explained in the article about the history of the English language. Therefore, many speakers of those languages can see where concepts in English originated from and fast adapt to understand the basics of English.

CONCLUSION

English is one of the most used and dominating languages in the world. This is having its impact on every field of work. Undoubtedly, English play a much greater role in the world that it is inevitable for people to ignore it fully. It has a bright future, it helps connect us in a global world, and it can also help us in our personal and professional life. Although learning English can be challenging and time-consuming, we can see that it is also very valuable to learn and can create many opportunities.

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