

ENGLISH AS A GLOBAL LANGUAGE

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Nowadays, English fulfills the role that Latin had in the Middle Ages – it is a world language, it is the main medium in intercultural communication. It is not likely that this position will be jeopardized in 40-50 years by other great languages in the world such as Spanish, Chinese or Arabic, which are becoming more and more important nowadays due to various reasons. However, the status of English is changing as the world is changing and becoming multicultural around us.

The use of the English language is something that is considered a requirement in many fields of business, especially in the higher echelons. Even in countries where English is not the country's primary language, a basic knowledge of English is generally required. This fact is definitely true in the fields of economic, finance and computing, where one is bound to have to communicate with someone that was not born in the same country that you were. And in these fields, having a lingua franca is something that definitely something that can come in handy.

Why a language becomes a global language has little to do with the number of people who speak it. It much more to do with who those speakers are. There is the closest of links between language dominance and economic, technological, cultural power. Over 85% of the scientific, technological or academic production in the world today is done in English [2]. Indeed, the very fact that English is so much associated with power – whether economic, political or other – explains the attraction it exerts on many in less favorable positions. For them, learning English is simply an exercise in upward mobility. English steadily remains the dominant language in international business. This is well illustrated by such examples: multinationals, whether France's Alcatel or AXA, or Germany's DaimlerChrysler, use English as their corporate language. Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian has recently suggested making English the country's second official language, and there have been similar exhortations in Japan. The European Union's monetary policy is decided at Frankfurt, Germany, but in English. In the corridors of power, whether in Brussels, Geneva or New York, official discourse is produced in English first, and then translated. English spoken today are three times more than those for whom it is nonnative. The largest English speaking countries - the United States is about 20% of English-speaking population. English today is the second language for citizens of the European Union with a population of almost 500

million. Experts say that the English-speaking world is about half a billion people, so it is no wonder why this language is the global language of communication [1].

English is now the language of global business, or the lingua franca. This means that in the international business community, English is used for communication by people who do not speak the same language. In some place English has invaded the workplace along with the global economy. Some Ukrainian companies, for example, use English within the workplace, even though they are in Ukraine, because so much of their business is done, through the Internet and other communications, with the outside world. In most countries and industries, a knowledge of English is an invaluable asset on the labor market, so learning English can broaden your employment opportunities. People who speak two or more languages are ideal candidates for jobs in travel, international business, or translation. Furthermore, it is a well-known fact that English is one of the working languages of the European Union. The objective of the language policy of the European Union is that every citizen should know three community languages, two of which would be the person's mother tongue and English (if the two are different)[3].

Therefore, it can be stated that despite the challenges it faces, the role of English as a world language will not be endangered in the near future. People should learn English for international communication as it is a dominating language in various fields like global politics, international business, diplomacy, entertainment, radio etc. Thus the importance of English as a global language can't be ignored.

1. Crystal D. English Worldwide // R. Hogg and D. Denison (eds). A History of the English Language. – Cambridge: CUP, 2006 – pp. 420 – 439

2. Eugene Garfield (1990) "The Languages of Science Revisited: English (Only) Spoken Here?", Current Comments, №31, pp. 280-294.

3. English as Lingua Franca. – May, 2011. – URL [<http://latintrade.com/2011/05/english-as-lingua-franca>].