

English as a Language in Global Turbulence

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Abstract: *English is a global language. Thanks to the British Empire for spreading it, across the globe and now the Americans for using it in a new version. Therefore, English language is here to stay for long. Other languages may come and go depending upon the nature of how it has been dealt with. But English has been taught in all the countries big or small. Today in a world of Turbulence maybe because of natural disasters or man-made disasters, English has proven to get people connected from across the globe. Therefore, it has become very essential to learn and understand the language to be a part of the new world order. English has been the local language or a common language which connects people from different regions. It is therefore very important to learn and understand that all regional languages are very important for the development of any country. On the contrary it is equally important to understand that learning and understanding English and using it for communication among various countries help in the overall development of the world. It is a language that connects people from across the world.*

Introduction: In order to have one world governance it is of utmost importance that people meet and understand each other. If countries want to have a common way for governing the world one major factor to head in this direction is to have knowledge of English. But what is so special about this language. First of all, the world's 2/3 regions were ruled by the British people for a very long period of time. Secondly English language has an advantage, in a sense that it adapts to new people and picks up words from different languages like, Greek, Latin, French etc. People around the world can manage English better than any other language. A person from any other language at least will be able to either understand somethings in English or can try to speak in broken English. The best example of this can be understood from the tourist visiting various countries. They are able to find out places of visits, get some information about the street or monument or asking for some help in an unknown place.

This Research has tried to get a connection between language and social structure. The Objective of the study was how people/students have utilized English in the last one to two years of the pandemic. It was seen and noticed that all pandemic-related instructions were given out in English, and many people began to employ the vocabulary/words used in this pandemic. To demonstrate this, words like mask, social distancing, sanitizer, and isolation, were used. Although words in the individual regional languages were available, most people picked up English words while conversing. People who didn't comprehend much of the English language accepted these terminologies in their daily lives as well.

The basic discussion is that practically all of us went online in some way or the other. Shopping for groceries, vegetables, home supplies, clothing, and other items was done online, which was thought to be more convenient in a pandemic situation. This was true for those who had previously done online purchasing and had the ability to make payments online. Those who lacked these resources had to work really hard to complete the procedure and become an online person. But, little by little, everyone began to accept this new manner of doing business on a daily basis. This demonstrates that the need of the hour was to be able to follow instructions written in English as well as to be able to communicate effectively in English.

The information in the preceding paragraphs demonstrates that English is now a widely spoken language. As a result, it is critical that we comprehend and apply it in our daily lives. Because all higher education is conducted in English, the language has been chosen. A learner can certainly master the fundamentals in his or her native language, but in order to obtain a higher degree, he or she must study and learn concepts in English. Our new National Education Policy gives learners the option of learning the fundamentals of a subject in their native language. However, because the student would have learned the concepts in another language, he or she will find it difficult to grasp the topic in English at a later time. Studying in other nations for various courses would be difficult because the learner would have to put in more efforts to learn and grasp the subject in order to obtain a degree. This brings forth the point that English language has a significant role than the other languages. Our regional language, or mother tongue, is highly rich in that soil's culture, but it's crucial to remember that not everyone will comprehend it. As a result, even though we speak in our native tongues, we must be fluent in English in order to communicate with a bigger audience. This language will not only connect you to the people of this country, but it will also assist you in communicating with others.

There are manifold benefits of knowing English language. It is the only language of higher learning in India. Renowned educational institutes like IITs, IIMs, Architecture, Commerce & Industry has their sole instruction in English. Most of the high-paying white-collared jobs require a proficiency in the language and also a decent command of English along with the regional language is a requisite for many government positions. Indians who have knowledge of English

language are also better placed and have more opportunities to take advantage of global market. They can enjoy the knowledge they have in a field of their specialization as well as from language point of view they get an edge over others. The internet is a platform with loads of information and for which access is easily available, English has enabled Indians to know the information from across the world. This in turn has sparked innovation and bolstered India's human capital stock. They are even better than their competitors like China, Indonesia etc.

As we all are aware of the fact that English functions as a lingua franca thus, facilitating conversation between two different people with different culture and linguistic backgrounds, which is required with a population that speaks over many different languages.

It is very important and urgent need to understand the importance of English Language. The Pandemic had given an abundant opportunity to learn this language, that is not only used by many but is also used in social media platforms to get connected with the world.

The importance of regional language should not be undermined. It is a way to express our feelings. But when it is to reach a large number of people especially at professional levels, English speaking, writing, understanding becomes more relevant in today's time.

Students understand that English is the Language of the world. To have a command over it gives an edge over others even if they do not know other foreign languages. We can look at our other counter parts who are from other countries to name a few like Korea, Japan, China, Dubai, Afghanistan etc. These people are equally talented and work precisely of what is required from them. They are also a part of the American and European countries and companies. But Indians have an upper hand in their working because they know English Language well and can communicate in a better way than the other people. The reason is that India has made English its own language. They have mastered it so that they can now compete at the global level.

The problem one finds are that students are conscious when it comes to speaking this language in front of others. They shy away not even attempting to utter or speak few words in front of teachers or their friends. The other reason is that their surroundings does not encourage them to speak in this Language. Most of the time or rather to say the major part of the day of the students goes in communication using either their mother tongue with family and relatives or in Hindi with friends and classmates. Each student comes from a different language background and therefore as discussed earlier Hindi becomes a common language which binds them together. The person can be from any part of India. But when he/she comes in contact with his/her peers he/she can understand the conversation and communication that happens within their group or in their class. So, they participate either through their mother tongue, or in Hindi and maybe sometimes in English.

Many students still make fun of their classmates and friends if they try to talk to them in English. Students are more comfortable when they speak in Hindi and they find it easy to get along with other students in their class. They feel that they are also a part of the group and they can be identified on this basis that they belong to this group.

Students of the suburban area have realized that English is not to be treated as a foreign language. They need to assimilate this language as their own without having any hindrances of using it. It should be widely given more publicity in areas where it is considered a taboo or not treated/considered a language of our own. Even if English is given the 2nd language preference it should be used in most of the places as it gets people connected even with different backgrounds and culture. The language is able to survive even today as people with less knowledge can also speak and understand the language to a great extent.

In earlier times especially in India a person with a good knowledge of this Language was considered to be refined, sophisticated, having more knowledge of the subject. The reason was others who were unable to express themselves in English or could not speak properly, found themselves failed to impress others with their language skills. But over the years a lot of education was done in English through Convent schools, students have been exposed to the language at an early age.

Parents also saw that their child should at least get proper training in English language. They put all efforts to get through the admission process of such English medium schools so as to make their child competent enough to face the various challenges of the world. If the student works hard on his/her language skills along with the competent knowledge of the subject in which he/she specializes then for such students the career avenues are still open and at one point or the other the chances become high for him/her to get selected in the best of the jobs. Even if it is not the best job offered after sometime the person has a high chance of getting the promotion or moving high on the ladder of success.

Other regional languages are equally important but, to get connected with the world one has to adapt to the language which majority will speak and understand. With the flexibility of the new education policy students will definitely gain confidence in whatever they learn. But to enter the stream of other people and the world it is always important to understand the importance of English Language. It will make Higher Education and the degree more valuable if the learning happens in English language.

Many languages have ruled the world be it French, Latin, Hebrew, Arabic, Sanskrit, German. New languages like Mandarin, Spanish, Hindi and other languages may gain more importance in future, but having a knowledge of English will definitely keep a person abreast with the world. A person may not feel lost if he/she knows English Language.

Language learning is a continuous process. Language keeps changing with different periods. The English language during the time of the Queen was different to the English that is spoken today. In these recent times it is simple plain language that is required. We Indians have adapted English language as our own and today we call it “Hinglish.” In this period no one speaks the Queen’s English or the Shakespearean English. What is expected by the people is that they can converse properly in English as well as write correct English.

To summarize it to learn English language and develop it one must stop thinking that it is a foreign language. Secondly it is better to develop a habit of trying to use it as often as possible. The process can be calculated in 4 steps:

1. **Cue:** It means to give a signal to the person to start the process. To understand it the person on his own should start to speak, listen, read or write in English which will enable him to get the confidence and motivation to further continue it. Regardless of what others say the person should start his practice on his own either by watching videos, talking to someone who knows and understands the language and so on.
2. **Simple Language:** English is a bit simple language to learn as compared to Latin, Greek, Spanish or French. There are irregular verbs which help the people to speak in broken English and convey their message.
3. **Internet:** The language that is more prevalent on the Internet is English. People who do not know the language also learn it in the process of using the internet. Facebook, Whatsapp, twitter, Instagram are some of the social media platforms which use English to stay connected to the world.
4. **Craving:** Only when a person has a mission of learning the language and that he has made up his mind that whatever comes in his way he will not stop learning the Language. He should understand that language learning is a continuous process. One has to take a stand of how he wants to change his personality by learning a language that the world speaks.
5. **Response:** It is the feedback given to a person on how he has changed himself as well as his learning of language has marked an impression on his personality. A person who can give honest feedback to this person who is learning English language will definitely help him to go in the right direction of learning. These comments will benefit and motivate the learner to move further in learning a language.
6. **Reward:** The end or desire of taking a path of learning is to move towards achieving the goal that one has desired. Rewards are always welcome. Everyone wants that in some way or the other reward should be given after accomplishing the task in a successful manner. This also becomes a motivation or an inspiration and helps a person to complete the task that was undertaken. Reward is the end product of what he has tried to accomplish. It gives a sense of satisfaction to the person that after so much of pains finally he was able to finish the task. This sense of satisfaction gives motivation to continue further.

These small changes but significant ones will have a transformative effect on the person’s career, relationships as well as in his personal life.

The ability to focus on a thing without getting distracted is important. This task of Language learning especially English language will help to achieve more, in the specific time and will also provide the sense of fulfilment that comes from the mastery of the Language skill.

The very dominance of an outside language or culture can lead to a backlash or reaction against it. People do not take kindly to having a language imposed on them, whatever advantage and value that language may bring to them. As long ago as 1908, Mahatma Gandhi said, in the context of colonial India: “To give millions a knowledge of English is to enslave them”. Although most former British colonies retained English as an official language after independence, some (e.g. Tanzania, Kenya, Malaysia) later deliberately rejected the old colonial language as a legacy of oppression and subjugation, disestablishing English as even a joint official language. Even today, there is a certain amount of resentment in some countries towards the cultural dominance of English, and particularly of the USA.

As has been discussed, there is a close link between language and power. The USA, with its huge dominance in economic, technical and cultural terms, is the driving force behind English in the world today. However, if the USA were to lose its position of economic and technical dominance, then the “language loyalties” of other countries may well shift to the new dominant power. Currently, perhaps the only possible candidate for such a replacement would be China, but it is not that difficult to imagine circumstances in which it could happen.

A change in population (and population growth) trends may prove to be an influential factor. The increasing Hispanic population of the USA has, in the opinion of some commentators, already begun a dilution of the “Englishness” of the country, which may in turn have repercussions for the status of the English language abroad. Hispanic and Latino Americans have accounted for almost half of America’s population growth in recent years, and their share of the population is expected to increase from about 16% today to around 30% by 2050. Some even see the future possibility of

a credible secessionist movement, similar to that for an independent Quebec in Canada, and there has been movements within the US Republican party (variously called "English First" or "Official English" or "US English") to make English the nation's official language in an attempt to reduce the significance of Spanish. Official policies of bilingualism or multilingualism in countries with large minority language groups, such as are in place in countries like Canada, Belgium and Switzerland, are an expensive option and fraught with political difficulties, which the USA would prefer to avoid.

A 2006 report by the British Council suggests that the number of people learning English is likely to continue to increase over the next 10-15 years, peaking at around 2 billion, after which a decline is predicted. Various attempts have been made to develop a simpler "controlled" English language suitable for international usage (e.g. Basic English, Plain English, Globish, International English, Special English, Essential World English, etc). Increasingly, the long-term future of English as a global language probably lies in the hands of Asia, and especially the huge populations of India and China. Having said that, though, there may now be a critical mass of English speakers throughout the world which may make its continued growth impossible to stop or even slow. There are no comparable historical precedents on which to base predictions, but it well may be that the emergence of English as a global language is a unique, even an irreversible, event.

To sum up English language has become extremely important in our daily life. It's a societal phenomenon, to be sure. One of the most important aims of language is to communicate with people as well as understand them. When someone speaks, he does it with a certain goal in mind. He wants to use that language to send a message. A person's language is used for a variety of goals, including expressing sentiments, requesting assistance, and apologizing.

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