

## **Importance of English Language in Today's World**

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### **Abstract**

Language is the source of communication. It's the way through which we share our ideas and thoughts with others. There are uncountable languages in this world. Because every country has their own national language, then they have different local languages spoken and understood by their people in different regions. In the last few decades, English has developed as the primary language for international communication. It is spoken by more people around the world than any other language, and is regularly described as a 'global' language. "Today there are about 6,000 languages in the world, and half of the world's population speaks only 10 of them. English is the single most dominant of these 10." (Christine Kenneally, *The First Word*. Viking, 2007)(1)

There are several factors that make us to learn English Language to go through in the current time. First of all it has Interna-

tional Standard, that's why everyone needs to learn English in order to get in touch on International Level. If we see Educational field, we will find much of the syllabus is written in English and most of the subjects in most universities and institutes teach in English language. We see the Internet and find more than 90% of websites written and created in English. And even when you see some sites in other languages, they also give you the option to translate in English. All the research and studies you find will be written and typed in English. All the information regarding each and everything contains English Language. There is another factor that make English very important in this world is it is the easiest language of the world to learn. Many people think that it is very difficult and confusing. But I suggest them to start and learn only for a week and they will feel easy with English. With good understanding and communication in English, we can travel around the world. We get assistance and help in English in every part of world. You can test it by on line travel. Better you visit some offices, companies, governmental organizations, and other departments, and you will see the importance of English as they hire the professional staff after getting know that whether the people they are hiring are good at English or not. This is the company's will that their staff is not even well educated but also good English speaker, writer and Reader. This essay is going to discuss about two fields where English is uses much than any other fields are education and communication.

**Key Words:** English Language, Importance, Technology World, Communication, Education

### **Introduction**

Language is a unique possession of human beings. It is a God's special gift to mankind. It comes next to the food and makes human beings superior from other species of the world. This is the language due to which all the businesses of the world are going on. There are thousands of languages spoken in the world but English is the most well-known language among those. Many scholars be-

lieve that English is the main language of books, newspapers, airports and air-traffic control, international business and academic conferences, science, technology, diplomacy, sport, international competitions, pop music and advertising.

According to the research, English has an official or special status in at least seventy-five countries with a total population of over two billion. English is spoken as a native language by around 375 million and as a second language by around 375 million speakers in the world. Speakers of English as a second language will soon outnumber those who speak it as a first language. Around 750 million people are believed to speak English as a foreign language and demand of this language is increasing every day. It is estimated that over two-thirds of the world's scientists read in English, three quarters of the world's mail is written in English, eighty per cent of the world's electronically stored information is in English and forty million users use it on the Internet. (2)

English is part of the Germanic branch of the Indo-European family of languages. By year 1000, the English language consisted of approximately 40,000 words. Nowadays, the number has grown to more than 500,000. If we calculate the average of words created per century, this comes to 46,000. A great number of words found in the English vocabulary were borrowed from Latin, French, Low German, and the Scandinavian languages. We also know that some periods were more fertile than others: invasions, contact with other cultures, inventions, technological progress, music, fashion are some of the factors which have helped to enrich the language.(3)

From around 1750 to 1950 the British Empire covered about a quarter of the globe. It was one of the most powerful empires, the world has ever known. The colonies gradually freed themselves but about fifty countries chose to keep a connection with Britain by belonging to the "The British Commonwealth". English is spoken all over the Commonwealth either as a native or an official language.

The USA has played a leading role in most domains for the last

hundred years. At the end of the 19th century and first quarter of the 20th, it welcomed millions of European immigrants who had fled their countries ravaged by war, poverty or famine. This labor force strengthened American industries and development. The Hollywood film industry also attracted many foreign artists in quest of fame and fortune and the number of American films produced every year soon flooded the market since then, English started being used in diplomacy and gradually in economic relations and the media. During the Second World War, American intervened both militarily and economically to save Europe from chaos. From then onwards, the United States have consolidated their cultural, economic and technological power: inventions, rock and roll, the first man on the moon, the revolution of the Internet, the country's growing prosperity and commercial aggressiveness have contributed to the further expansion and importance of English in the world today. (2,3)

No one denies the importance of English language in the present time as a global language. It is clear that the English language has become more central around the world. In some countries it is used as the mother tongue and some other countries learn it as second language. This makes English widespread. In addition, many other reasons, which contribute the rise of English like; use for communication between people around the world, a language of modern times and a language of science and information technology.

Also one of reasons that contributed to the spread of English is the language of the modern time. The people use it in different fields of life such as; economy, e-commerce, medicine, air travel and so on. In addition, it is the language which is used in the tourism also. These reasons motivate people to learn English. This essay is going to discuss the importance of English language in two fields of education and communication.

### **English Language in the Field of Education**

One of the main reasons, why the English is dominant in the present time is its use in the field of education by universities and institutes for scientific research. It has become an supplement to the mastery of scientific individual standard. On the other hand, the English has become an essential requirement in most government and private jobs.

Some people describe language as a "complex, multifaceted, multifunctional entity" with various factors governing its development. Hence, they see the teachers teaching English communicatively. According to them, grammatical competence is very important and consider it a part of the overall communicative competence demonstrated by the language users. However, they do not see the functional use of the language that expresses attitudes, feelings, persuasion, imaginations, social and other information.

Most of the people around the world try to learn English language in case of studying in foreign countries. The importance of English Language in the countries where English is not the first language, is alternatively known as English as a Second Language or Foreign Language (ESL/EFL) refers to an intensive English language learning program or course taken by speakers of other languages.

In current modern time, on which technologies play a very important role in the science and knowledge development, people are also obligated to master English for it is also used in the technologies as the instruction medium. In this time which technologies has been very important; internet is usually used for sharing purposes. It means that the spread of science through internet mostly uses English as the medium language. A research proved that in internet, more than 80% of the sites use English as the medium language while 20% of the rest use the other languages such as Indonesian, Chinese, and the others (4). It shows that if people do not learn English as their second language they will only acquire less than

20% of the new knowledge, for nowadays new knowledge is mostly shared through the internet.(4)

In this global era on which technologies also have been an important part of human life, people have been living with technologies even since the childhood. Even recently there have been so many children use internet to learn new things. Accordingly, if their parents do not guide them to learn English since the early age, they won't be able to gather new information. In addition, English also has an important role in children's self-development. As what is stated by Edward Sapir and Benyamin Lee Whorf (in Whorf, 1956) that language affects human's perspective towards world; by learning English, children will also learn about its culture and of course it affects their point of view towards the world. Therefore, by learning English, children will improve their point of view towards the worlds and of course their knowledge. English Language as a means of civilization development.(6)

It's a well-known fact that science has been mostly developed by the scientist from English speaking country even a number of sciences are originated from the English speaking countries. Accordingly, most of the disciplines of science use English as its medium. In addition, there are a number of untranslatable English scientific terms which then need people to learn English to understand the real meaning of such untranslatable terms. English even also used in so many branches of disciplines such as philosophy, sociology, literature, linguistics, law, and others. Therefore, by learning English, it will be easier to acquire new knowledge. Also, it has also been officially announced by as an international language which means that in the international school level, English language is always used as the medium language.

As the world moves forward the civilization in all around the world changes. The change of the civilization itself follows the cultural dynamic changes which always change overtime. The cultural dynamic changes have globally become the main stream in all

around the world.

Another aspect of this language that makes it more important that, currently this language is mostly taught as a second language around the world. Some linguists believe that it is no longer the exclusive cultural sign of "native English speakers", but is rather a language that is absorbing aspects of cultures worldwide as it continues to grow.

After a comprehensive discussion on the topic, I explored the different aspects, effects, use of this language in the world, use in different field of studies, professions, institutions, used as first language in some countries, mostly taught as 2nd language, future of this language and more; shows the importance of this language in educational field. And if we take a look on the educational system of Afghanistan, it would be obvious to find out the importance of English language here. In most of public schools, institutes and universities English take and important rule and they have outmost attention to it.

#### **English Language in the Field of Communication**

English is an international language so it acts as a tool of communication for people of different nations. It is a common mode or tongue in which one can communicate his thoughts. It is also said that English is easy as compared to French, Japanese or Hindi. Nowadays, it makes a standard for a person in the society. A person with poor English is often characterized as an illiterate man. This shows the importance of English in the modern world.

Now the world doesn't have boundaries. You can go anywhere, accept job anywhere and settle down - for that English is very important. English has recognized as an international language and minimum 60% of the world population speaks this language. (5)

English is very important today, because if you want to go anywhere in the world, you will find people speaking in English, so you can communicate them well. With the world coming closer and closer, thanks to technology, English as a subject or rather a lan-

guage would not just enable as to get into the job market, but it also helps us to communicate. The essence of good relationships is effective communication. A fair knowledge of English along with a good flair of interpersonal skills can help us carve a niche for ourselves in today's global world. The world of commerce depends heavily on effective communication and so English does project Indians to the world. Conversely the knowledge of the language also enables us to engage in cultural exchange of ideas and economy. Thus English becomes a window of the world: a window from which we can talk to our neighbors and they can interact as well.(10)

One of the manor reasons for the 'global village' phenomena is the techno boom and the colossal mushrooming of soft wares and the plants of IT which has made the universe into a small village: where people meet others everyday (if they care to). Life has become much more easy, quick and cheap. It has become impossible to think a world without the two 'e's : one being English and the other 'e' communication. In this global world, it is but obvious that English plays the role of a global language: the language comprehensible by almost all the developed and developing countries today.(6)

As social beings, human beings need to communicate to each other. Communication is very important because everything is impossible to be done without communication. There are so many means of communication, one of which is language. Human beings use language as the means of communication. Since the early time until the current time, language always develops. Language development is needed to make human's communication more effective because as the world develops, human always need new things. Language itself, according to.(10)

Nowadays, in the global era, communication has become one of the most key elements. Without good communication, people from different nations won't be able to understand each other, when



people do not understand each other, there are possibilities that misunderstanding will happen. That's why; good communication among people from different countries is needed. This situation, where people need to understand each other with good communication, urges people to acquire global languages. Among some global language, the most important and influencing language is English language.

British Council in coordination with Education Department of Britannia has done estimation on the importance of English language around the globe which the results are explained below:

#### **How many people speak English?**

1. English has official or special status in at least seventy five countries with a total population of over two billion
2. English is spoken as a first language by around 375 million and as a second language by around 375 million speakers in the world\*
3. Speakers of English as a second language probably outnumber those who speak it as a first language
4. Around 750 million people are believed to speak English as a foreign language
5. One out of four of the world's populations speak English to some level of competence; demand from the other three-quarters is increasing.(8)

#### **What do people use English for?**

1. English is the main language of books, newspapers, airports and air-traffic control, international business and academic conferences, science, technology, diplomacy, sport, international competitions, pop music and advertising
2. Over two-thirds of the world's scientists read in English
3. Three quarters of the world's mail is written in English
4. Eighty per cent of the world's electronically stored information is in English

5. Of the estimated 200 million users of the Internet, some thirty-six per cent communicate in English. (9)

#### **How many people are learning English?**

1. by the year 2000 it was estimated that over one billion people will be learning English
2. at any one time there are 130,000 students learning English and other skills through the medium of English in British Council teaching centres worldwide(9)

#### **How many people come to the UK to learn English?**

1. Around 700,000 people come to learn English in the UK each year.(9)

#### **What economic benefits does English bring to the UK?**

1. British English language products are worth over 800 million pounds a year to the UK
2. The total expenditure of the 700,000 visitors to the UK annually to learn English is over 700 million pounds - possibly over one billion pounds\*
3. The English language makes it possible for British companies to develop markets, sell into them and form commercial alliances; it brings direct benefits through the supply of English teaching goods and services.(9)

The above information are summery of how English language important and it give data which shows how many people, why and where they study this international language of English and why.

#### **Conclusion**

English Language has been a global language since long ago. People agree to use English as a global language because of some considerations. First, English has been used since the colonial era in so many countries because at the time The British Empire had so many colonized countries. Second; English language has been the medium in the scientific world because most of the influencing scientists are from the English speaking countries. Third, English is considered as a quite simple language. Based on these reasons, in-

ternational world then announced English as the global language, even though there have been the other global languages such as Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, and so on. As a global language, it is obvious that English plays an important role in the international interaction. International interactions include economic relationship among countries, international business relationship, global trading, and others. In this kind of international interaction, English mainly acts as a global lingua franca. Lingua franca is a language that is used to communicate among different people from different countries. (7)

English language is very important in the current era, that's why most people in all around the world are urged to master English as the second language. English has even been a prerequisite in the job-fields. Moreover, people are considered qualified if they are able to speak in English. In addition, it has also been a medium in the educational field. Therefore, this paper discussed the importance of English language in the current era, especially its influence in education and communication in the current era of technology.

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