Significance of Globalisation and English Language

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English is a language of international commerce, it is the language of diplomacy and it contains many a rich literary treasure; it gives us an introduction to western thought and culture.

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Abstract: Language is our primary source of communication. It’s the method through which we share our ideas and thoughts with others. In order to communicate effectively, one needs a language that is widely understood and is common. Over the years, English has become that sort of language. It is the language most commonly used and understood almost by everyone. So it is easier to communicate in English as it is the best way to express ourselves. In the present age, it has become even more of a medium of almost communication because it is the language of the Internet and the computer. As of 2020 there are 1.27 billion English speakers around the world. This makes it the most spoken language, ahead of Mandarin Chinese (1.12 billion speakers) and Hindi (637 million speakers). More than 50 countries officially list English as an official language. Globalisation is the process by which the world is becoming increasingly interconnected as a result of massively increased trade and cultural exchange. Globalisation has increased the production of goods and services. For both native speakers and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) speakers, strong communication in English involves four modes: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Different people have naturally differing aptitudes for these skills. This paper has attempted to analyse the importance of communication in English language and the significance of globalisation and English language.

Keywords: Globalisation, Language, Communication, Lingua Franca, Culture

1. INTRODUCTION

Globalization is the process of interaction and integration among people, companies, and governments worldwide. Globalization has accelerated since the 18th century due to advances in transportation and communication technology. This increase in global interactions has caused a growth in international trade and the exchange of ideas, beliefs, and culture. Globalization is primarily an economic process of interaction and integration that is associated with social and cultural aspects. However, disputes and diplomacy are also large parts of the history of globalization, and of modern globalization.

It is pertinent to note that R. W. Emerson, the American author gave a significant view on English language. According to him “the English language is the sea which receives tributaries from every region under heaven.” Really, this language surrounds us like the sea, and like the waters it is deep and it is full of mysteries. This is used not only by the vendors but also by the professors. It creates its warmth and strength of the atmosphere. We live in and by language. The growth and development of the language is a remarkable matter. English is the most-spoken language in the world, and it can be found spread far and wide. While there’s no official lingua franca for the planet, English is often used to communicate across nations. This is because of a number of historical factors, most notably the patterns of colonialism by English speakers. Out of the world’s approximately 7.8 billion inhabitants, 1.35 billion speak English. The majority aren’t native English speakers, however. About 360 million people speak English as their first language. The most common first language is Chinese, followed distantly by Spanish and then, in third, comes English. In addition to being widely spoken, English is by far the most commonly studied foreign language in the world, followed by French at a distant second.
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English is the language of sports and of glamour world; the official language of the Olympics and the Miss Universe Competition. It is the official voice of the air, of the sea, and of the modern world. The most important broadcasting companies in the world are CBS, NBC, ABC, BBC, and CBC transmit in English to audiences that regularly follow. English is used as the first language in the countries like USA, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. It has become a second language in countries like India, Nigeria and Singapore. It is a vital alternative language. It is quite helpful for trade and research work. The emergence of English as a global phenomenon – as either a first, second, or foreign language – has recently inspired the idea that we should talk not of English, but of many Englishes, especially in Third World Countries where the use of English is no longer part of the colonial legacy, but the result of decisions made since independence. But what kind of English is it? That is a new and debated one which needs to be explored completely. “The future, of course, is unpredictable, but one thing is certain: the present flux of English – multinational standard or international Babel? – It is part of a process that goes back to Shakespeare and beyond” (MacLarm et al 21).

In today’s global world, the importance of English cannot be denied and ignored since English is the most common language that is spoken everywhere. With the help of developing technology, English has been playing a major role in many sectors including medicine, engineering, and education. It is the only language which is being taught as second language and as an official language in almost 102 countries. It is not only currently considered the most important language for those who speak it as their first language but also for them who speak it as a second language. English is essential when it comes to finding jobs or for building career. We know that Communication is very keen role in any field, whether it is business, medicine, transportation, technology, trade or marketing. English is globally accepted and known by all. Globalization covers all aspects of life. Deep understanding is very important in every field. Without proper communication it is not possible to be in connection.

- It is essential to work
- It is the universal language
- It will open the door of new cultures
- It will help to travel comfortably
- It is the most learned language
- It is required to surpass yourself
- It is an Art and Anglophone literature
- It eliminates weaknesses
- It helps us to higher studies

English has quite a big role in day to day life. It is used in banks, railway stations, bus stops, airways, educational sector, medical, private sector, etc. It is a trade language with other countries. Many students fly abroad for education and jobs. If their mode of communication is English they can manage their communication with the local people. And students are prime learners of English because if they want to build up a good career, they have to have good English speaking skills and confidence to face many people in interviews. Without English it is very tough to manage in this ultra-modern world.

Language has a great impact on the division of the different traditions and cultures of different people. You learn more about the traditions, cultures and customs of different peoples around the world through travel and learning. For this effective communication is a necessity. English Language empowers people from around the world. The Internet also plays an important role in promoting English as the standard language. Through the pages of various social networks people connect with each other from anywhere in the world, mostly through English. This is because this language is accepted worldwide. English is also essential for air traffic control and flight crews. There are several factors that make English language essential for communication at the present time. First, it is a common language in foreign. This means that two people from two different countries usually use English as a common language to communicate. This is also called lingua franca. This is why everyone needs to learn the language in order to interact at international level. The Prominent Arenas of English are as follows:
In many countries, children are taught and encouraged to learn English as a second language. Almost 90% educational subjects are written in English. Number of scientific innovations and books are written in English Language. On the Internet, most websites have written content in English. Even sites in other languages offer them the option to translate the site. It is the primary language of the press, more newspapers and books are written in English than any other language and no matter where you are in the world, and you will find learning material of English language easily. With good sense and communicate in English, you can travel around the globe. It will also help you in any business venture you decide to do. If you visit any office, company, government organization or even company, you will see the importance of English. Every large company will employ their professional staff after confirming whether employing people with good knowledge of English or not. Companies that they want to work at the international level will consider their staff well educated only if they are speakers, writers and good readers of English. The remarkable features of the English language are discussed below:

1. English is the most common spoken language in the world.
2. It is the language of science, of aviation, computers, diplomacy, and tourism.
3. It is the official language of 102 countries.
4. It is the language of media industry both for electronics and print media.
5. It is the language of the websites.
6. Since English is spoken in so many different countries there are thousands of schools around the world that offer programmes in English. If you speak English, there’re lots of opportunities for you to find an appropriate school and course to suit your academic needs.
7. By learning English, you will learn about other cultures. Few experiences will make you grow as a person more than learning the values, habits, and way of life in a culture that is different from yours.
8. As the third most widely spoken language in the world, English is widely spoken and taught in over 118 countries and is commonly used around the world as a trade language or diplomatic language. It is the language of science, aviation, computers, diplomacy and tourism.
9. It’s easy to see just how important English is around the world. Many international businesses conduct meetings in English, universities teach courses in English and, around the world, tourists and travellers use English as a common language.
10. Good knowledge of English will allow you to access films, music and literature from hundreds of countries around the globe. Not to mention the fact that numerous books from across the world are translated into English. Few experiences will make you grow as a person more than learning the values, habits and way of life in a culture that is different from yours.
In today’s technology–driven world, it is impossible to achieve in one’s academic or professional career without acquiring proficiency in English. It is now the most widely used language in a large number of work places in India. It is also the most common language used by speakers of different languages around the world. In India, great importance is given to English language learning in educational institutions at various levels. The increasing importance of English has led several employees to recruit people with a good command over English for operations that involve with both national and international clients. Realising the demand for English at work places, several Indian universities, technical universities, IITs, NIITs have included course such as English communication skills, communicative English, Business communication English, technical communication, professional communication in their curriculum. The technical universities also conduct the language lab classes.

There are several forms of communication that are common to most workplaces-oral forms such as meetings, face-to-face, telephonic conversations, negotiations and written forms such as letters, memos, e-mails, and circulars. All these forms require the use of appropriate expressions in English so that the message is direct, precise and clear. For today’s professionals, the internet has become the most important source of information and instruction, as well as medium of communication. Again, English is the most widely used language over the internet.

This being the account of the unrivalled position of English language, the illustrious men of English literature, the Indian artists, poets and writers have literally held the world at sway and more than half of the people of the world have derived solace and solution, aesthetics felicity and critical acumen, pleasures and profit as well as all the facilities and devices necessary for a quick, prompt and useful means of communication starting from a common vender on the street to the Nobel Awardees in literature. English has been the only source of expression that has enabled modern man to manifest his ideas and vision. Needless to say, for the last one and half century English has played a very significant, meaningful, and healthy role in shaping the ideas, ideals, and visions of the inhabitants of the world. This has been possible chiefly because the principal spokesmen, the poets, writers’ novelists, critics, and artists, while being extraordinarily honest to the principles of art and aesthetics, have been careful enough to keep them within the fringe of literary boundaries. Indeed, the people have had reposed great confidence, hope and trust in the artists.

The literary world has been upheld by great academic of the world, particularly an academy like the Swedish Academy which has been the source of great inspiration and patronage to the writers and artists of the globe chiefly for its high academic standard and principle. But of the doubts and suspicious have underscored the academy for its selection of writers and spokesmen who have been not only controversial but suspicious of their aims and achievements. A few deserving men of high calibre refused to accept the award chiefly because motives and designs which were below their self dignity and respect were attributed to them. This naturally has caused much concern and anguish to those devoted to English language and literature.

Another cause of disturbance in the quiet and calm realm of art is due to the unexpected shift of the artist and writers from their long association with the cause of literature to grounds like politics or interest leading to the dismantling of their literary tools and tenets. It is matter of fact that the great critic, writer and linguist like Noam Chomsky leaving his long associated art of literary criticism to join socio-political activities making him appear in an opposite self. English being a world language reflecting a universal panorama of international culture and multiculturalism and humane view, appears to lose its clear and unprejudiced effect when great leaders, statesman and highly responsible persons make pronouncement, or statements that tend to create tensions or stress in the minds of the civilised public leading to great conflicts and schisms in the human relationship. The term clash of civilisation leads to a chaos of the conflict between East-West encounter. This further brings forth racial, cultural, religious, and ideological differences. The great leaders of the world have sought to identify their selves with this idea to justify their activities of aggression and suppression for the purpose of their political achievement.
The modern civilisation requires the unity of the world in respect of language and culture.

Familiarity with German, English, Spanish, French and Italian is no longer sufficient for anyone wanting to keep abreast of modern civilisation… The tendency is for the world to have a single civilisation; but there is a multitude of languages of civilisation (Antoine Meillet, 1918).

In an era of increased communication through the telephone, fax machine, television, and modem, the world is becoming more and more globally oriented. Businesses, families, friends, and many other groups with common interests are able to form small “tele-” or “cyber-” communities that transcend geographic boundaries. Yet, despite our ability to transmit information across oceans, communication still relies on language to mediate interchange between individuals within these communities. Information is useless if it cannot be processed and understood. Therefore, in order to achieve true and complete globalization, we would have to eliminate language barriers and develop a universal standard according to which everyone could interact at the same level of understanding.

People who expect English to triumph over all other languages are sometimes surprised to learn that the world today holds three times as many native speakers of Chinese as native speakers of English. “Chinese,” as language scholars use the word, refers to a family of languages and dialects the most widely spoken of which is Mandarin, and which share a written language although they are not all mutually intelligible when spoken. “English” refers to a family of languages and dialects the most widely spoken of which is standard American English, and which have a common origin in England - though not all varieties of English, either, are mutually intelligible. The versions of English used by educated speakers practically anywhere can be understood by most Americans, but pidgins, creoles, and diverse dialects belong to the same family, and these are not always so generally intelligible. The notion of “English as the Global Language” reflects a completely new phenomenon, even though many researchers of the use of the English language for international communication had undertaken a series of research studies of English as a Lingua Franca (ELF) as distinct from research of the English language usage by native speakers themselves yet long before it acquired the global status at the turn of the twenty first century.

Language is a system of communication that relies on verbal or non-verbal codes to transfer information. Communication is a way of interchanging messages or information between two or more people, focusing on the message. Language is a tool of communication. Communication is a process of transferring messages. Language allows people to communicate with great precision. The Language and Communication group studies how people use language in specific discourse contexts, to share information with others, and to persuade or otherwise affect them. The contemporary American philosopher David Abram wrote, “Only if words are felt, bodily presences, like echoes or waterfalls, can we understand the power of spoken language to influence, alter, and transform the perceptual world” (Abram, 1997). This statement encapsulates many of the powerful features of language. Language express our ideas, affects our credibility, means of control, per formative, dynamic and relational. Let’s discuss briefly:

- Language helps us express observations (reports on sensory information), thoughts (conclusions and judgments based on observations or ideas), feelings, and needs.
- Language is powerful in that it expresses our identities through labels used by and on us, affects our credibility based on how we support our ideas, serves as a means of control, and performs actions when spoken by certain people in certain contexts.
- The productivity and limitlessness of language creates the possibility for countless word games and humorous uses of language.
- Language is dynamic, meaning it is always changing through the addition of neologisms, new words or old words with new meaning, and the creation of slang.
- Language is relational and can be used to bring people together through a shared reality but can separate people through unsupportive and divisive messages.

Compressing the world into global village; Move to open up the world economic; Technological advancement to encroach on cultural, political, economic in terms of globalization as a faith accompli; A general process of complex connectivity and a multi-diometrical process providing simultaneously in cultural and technical spheres; An ambitious projection of the cultural imperialism; The
homogeneous formation of the big powers for sweeping the world market under the global pressure; and a general spread of capitalism and modernity into entire world. But all these lead to actually uneven spread of globalization. It actually becomes the encroachments of Western capitalism and rapacious indigenous elites. This analysis brings us to the discussion mainly at the cultural level relating to globalization vis-à-vis India and brings to the foreground the relevance of Edward Said’s theory of the post – colonial study. According to him, “every work of art or literature text is worldly i.e. it takes all aspects of a work that involves the writer, the text, the reader, the time, the culture and the influence. The critic Gayatri Spivak has suggested that one has to envisage a universal civilization that excludes the one-way theory of the oriental culture and includes the culture that moves on two ways and thus throws open the importance of the Eastern culture in general and the Indian culture in particular in the course of dialogue on civilization right from the ancient time to the present day. A study from this angle, i.e. the study of the relevance of Eastern culture in the world civilization will ultimately reveal the place, role or insignificance of the much talked phenomenon known as globalization.

The next claim relates to globalization in the field of culture. As per the post-colonial theory of literary criticism, the west wants its culture to take over the entire world. For it believes in the superiority and greatness of western cultures as it is supposed to have acquired the standard of having the only multicultural elements to sweep the whole world. In other words, the globalization instead of being a two-way traffic becomes a one-way traffic. We, for example, in India because of our colonial heritage, accept what Gayatri Spivak calls a belief in the normality of the other. Hence globalization as a movement has created much of the dilemma, conflict and contradiction in the postcolonial period which need to be reflected in the works of artists who have been evidently disturbed and even hurt by these developments. All these elements as discussed above have appeared in the literary world revealing the various extra-literary or lop-sided priorities and principles or even misplaced values and human norms that have soiled the clear and crystal stream of art and literature. It is high time to rethink the whole problem and evolve a new outlook, and a fresh attitude for creating a correct place for English literature in the context of modern world. Under this circumstance, it is important to note that English is becoming the universal language of the world. It is important to note that there is no more question regarding the immense importance in these days of knowledge of the English language to all educational pursuits in all parts of the world.

Thus, we have to admit that English language competency is a strategy asset in the global market place. It is not only the medium of global communication, but also the language of academic thought, scientific research, technological development and the language of international trade and negotiations as well as recreation and entertainment. This advocacy of mastering a second language does not mean we are replacing or diminishing the importance of our national language. The national language will always have a place in our daily life, in our national culture and heritage. However, bilingualism if not multilingualism is a global competency that would be required of a global citizen who will have to work as members of a multi-disciplinary and multi-national team. It means mastering two or more languages, not replacing our national language; or to put it another way, as English becomes everyone’s second language, their first language, their mother tongue, becomes more important and more passionately held.

To conclude, the entire issue, avoiding all kinds of bias, prejudices, egoistic, and selfish notions, proud and dogmatic attitude attributed to English, we must make a fair and honest approach to this language in the spirit of aesthetic principles and create an atmosphere and environment wherein the creative artists and literary figures should dispel the note of discord and disharmony caused by the recent phenomena in order to give a new direction to English language and literature to create a fresh literary world of peace and harmony, love and understanding and universal friendship and brotherhood. Overall, in this paper I discussed globalization and its impact on the English language with special reference to communicative approach. In a nutshell, globalization is a recent phenomenon and has a wide connotation meaning various aspects of the development in the modern world.

2. CONCLUSION

English is a West Germanic language that was first spoken in early medieval England and is now a global lingua franca. It is an official language of almost 105 sovereign states and it is the third most common native language in the world, after Mandarin and Spanish. It is widely learned as a second
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language and is an official language of the United Nations, of the European Union, and of many other world and regional international organisations. Globalization has become a reality of modern life. It is one of the most important components of international communication. The worldwide spreading of information would be hardly possible without language, which is basic to international and intercultural social interactions. Thus, the significance of the world languages under conditions of globalization is difficult to overestimate. As the result of the expansion of British colonial power and the emergence of the United States as the leading economic and political power, English has become the medium of intercultural communication, taking the leading role in world business, science, popular culture, mass media etc. In fact, it proves that colonialism and post colonialism give us new hope and aspiration for our lives. This trend is further developed by English-mediated technologies and the internet. The concerns among the students and politicians have also hold responsible for the spread of English language. The role of English as a global language only prove that it may function under good governance for the sake of promoting global understanding and preserving local diversity.

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