

English Language and Its Importance as Global Communication

I Wy Ana Kurniawan¹

1 (Dinas Komunikasi, Informatika, dan Persandian, Indonesia,
iwyanakurniawan@gmail.com)

ABSTRACT

This study aimed at finding out the importance of English language as global communication. English has emerged as a dominant force in international discourse, playing a pivotal role in facilitating communication among people from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds in the global area or around the world. The study used literature study to gather the data from many sources especially in online form in research journal. This study found out that the importance of English language as global communication, basically has 4 major entities . Firstly, in education, English acts as the principal medium of instruction across various educational domains. In science and technology, it acts as a primary medium for communication, collaboration, and the dissemination of knowledge in these fields. In business, it acts as a global lingua franca, English effectively caters to the requirements of multinational corporations, serving as a communication conduit between various business entities. In travel and tourism, it acts as a crucial tool for communication, customer service, marketing, and information dissemination.

Keywords: English, Communication, Global, Lingua Franca

INTRODUCTION

In an increasingly interconnected world characterized by rapid technological advancements and unprecedented global interactions, the role of language in communication has gained unparalleled significance (Kramsch, 2014). Among the numerous languages spoken across the globe, English has emerged as a dominant force in international discourse, playing a pivotal role in facilitating communication among people from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds (Pennycook, 2017). The ascendancy of English as a lingua franca has reshaped the landscape of global communication, transcending traditional boundaries and influencing various spheres of human interaction, including business, diplomacy, education, science, and popular culture. O'Regan (2021) stated that the historical evolution of English into a global language can be traced back to the expansion of the British Empire during the 17th to 20th centuries. British colonialism, trade, and cultural exchanges led to the diffusion of English across continents, implanting it in different regions and communities. Over time, the language underwent adaptations, assimilating elements from various local languages and dialects, giving rise to distinct forms of English such as American English, Indian English, and Australian English. This linguistic diversity within the English language itself reflects its adaptability and assimilative nature, which have been key factors in its global proliferation.

The spread of English was further catalysed by the economic and technological advancements of the 20th century, particularly following World War II (Caine, 2008). The United States' emergence as a global superpower, coupled with the dominance of American media and technology, accelerated the reach of English beyond traditional

Anglophone boundaries. The rise of the internet and digital communication further expedited this process (Catala, et al. 2022), enabling instant cross-border interactions and giving rise to a digital lingua franca, wherein English played a central role. One of the most compelling drivers of English's global prominence is its utilization as a tool for international communication. As a lingua franca, English provides a common platform for individuals from diverse linguistic backgrounds to communicate effectively (Berdimurotovna, 2020). Its prevalence in academia has led to the majority of scholarly publications, research conferences, and academic discussions being conducted in English, fostering the dissemination of knowledge on a global scale. Similarly, in the business realm, English serves as the language of international trade and commerce, enabling multinational corporations and entrepreneurs to collaborate seamlessly across borders (Rao, 2019).

However, the dominance of English in global communication is not without challenges and controversies. The linguistic imperialism associated with the widespread adoption of English has sparked debates about linguistic equity and cultural homogenization. Critics argue that the overwhelming emphasis on English marginalizes other languages, leading to the erosion of linguistic diversity and the perpetuation of unequal power dynamics. This research article seeks to comprehensively explore the multifaceted role of the English language and its importance in global communication. By delving into historical, sociocultural, economic, and technological dimensions, this study aims to provide a nuanced understanding of the impact of English on various aspects of human interaction. Furthermore, it will critically examine the implications of linguistic hegemony and the potential pathways towards a more inclusive and equitable global communication landscape. Research conducted by Rao (2019) stated that the role of English language in this world has been pivotal. It acts from all the sectors of the world and one of the interesting point of this research is role of English is the only language that is internationally spoken and accepted to be one and only language to be used in global communication. Additionally, stated by Ilyosovna (2020) English language has an important role to be used in media industry, as internet language, make traveller become easier, language for business, and able to access to multiple cultures. That's why English has important role in global communication.

In conclusion, as English continues to evolve and adapt in an interconnected world, its role as a global language remains unparalleled. Understanding the dynamics and consequences of its dominance is crucial for academics, policymakers, and individuals alike, as we navigate the complex tapestry of international communication in the 21st century.

METHODS

This writing is composed using a library research method. This library research is conducted by gathering various relevant reading references related to the researched issue (Zed, 2004). Subsequently, a careful and thorough analysis is performed to obtain research findings. The author conducted an in-depth literature study to support this research. In the preparation of this paper, the method employed is the library research method, involving the collection of all relevant reading materials concerning the discussed issue. These materials are then meticulously and attentively understood, resulting in research findings. As a supportive aspect of this research, the author engaged in an in-depth literature review, utilizing a descriptive writing approach (Zed, 2014).

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The role of the English language in global communication is multifaceted and far-reaching, impacting various aspects of human interaction, culture, business, diplomacy, education, and technology. English has evolved from being a language of colonial powers to becoming a lingua franca – a bridge language that enables communication among speakers of different native languages (Rao, 2019a, 2019b; Kadwa & Alshengeeti, 2020; Zhang, 2022; Jenkins, 2019; Thayabalan, et al. 2020) . Here are some key aspects of its role:

1. Science and Technology field

The English language plays a pivotal role in science and technology, serving as a primary medium for communication, collaboration, and the dissemination of knowledge in these fields. Its significance extends beyond borders, enabling researchers, engineers, and innovators from diverse linguistic backgrounds to connect, share findings, and advance global progress. English serves as the predominant language in the domains of science and technology. It has established itself as the de facto global language, significantly impacting the realm of scientific communication. This influence allows scientists worldwide to access scientific literature and engage in exchanges with colleagues from diverse regions. Nowadays, possessing a working proficiency in English has become an essential prerequisite across various professions, including research, medicine, and computer science, among others.

From the mid-20th century onward, there has been a profound transformation within the global scientific community. Non-English-speaking nations like France, Spain, and Germany have witnessed the ascendancy of English as the prevalent language. As articulated by Adam Huttner-Koros, the dominance of English is evident through an astonishing ratio of scientific papers published in English compared to those in their respective native languages, reaching an astounding 40:1. This underscores the necessity for scientists aiming to contribute impactful, internationally recognized work to publish in English. This imperative arises from the need to share and enhance knowledge with global peers, either through participation in international conferences, seminars, and workshops or by engaging with English-written research papers and discussions. In the realm of scientific publications, English retains a paramount role. Over 80% of scientific journal articles in 1998, cataloged by Chemical Abstracts, were exclusively in English. Similarly, a substantial proportion of articles in the natural sciences and humanities were published in English during the 1990s. Remarkably, despite being a native language for merely 5% of its speakers, English holds sway over 15% of the world's population as a communication tool. This linguistic unity empowers scientists to effectively collaborate and advance their pursuits on a global scale. Furthermore, the proficiency of our scientists in English has enabled them to excel in scientific research, fostering progress in their endeavors. Given that a significant portion of scientific and technological literature, the cornerstone of contemporary research, is in English, the importance of English language acquisition among students and researchers worldwide cannot be overstated. Here some key aspects of the role of English language in science and technology:

- Innovation and Patents: English is often used in patent applications and related legal documents. Innovators seeking to protect their technological advancements on an international scale typically use English to describe their inventions and ensure clear communication with patent offices worldwide.
- Access to Information: Much of the world's scientific literature, academic journals, and research databases are available in English. Proficiency in English is essential for scientists and researchers seeking to stay up-to-date with the latest developments in their fields and access a wealth of information and resources.
- Emerging Technologies and Research Trends: English is the language of choice for discussing and disseminating information about emerging technologies, trends, and breakthroughs. This ensures that the latest innovations are communicated and understood by a global audience.

2. Education Field

The English language plays a crucial and multifaceted role in education on a global scale. Its influence extends from primary education to higher learning and encompasses both formal and informal education settings. It's widely acknowledged that English holds a predominant role in the realm of education worldwide. Learning English has become a necessity due to the prevalence of English-authored higher education materials. Across the globe, both students and educators extensively employ English, as it serves as the principal medium of instruction across various educational domains. It stands as the exclusive language for storing information within printed and digital books and journals. With the dynamic evolution of education, rapid access to global resources is facilitated by the internet, enabling students to acquire knowledge from anywhere. Furthermore, learners have the autonomy to independently grasp subjects, fostering self-directed learning. Contemporary trends reveal an inclination among students to pursue education abroad for enhanced global career prospects, where English proficiency becomes a valuable asset. Thus, the encouragement for non-native English speakers to master the language is evident, given its pivotal role in science, technology, IT, engineering, medicine, law, business, and tourism.

While English might not hold official status in certain countries like Sweden and the Netherlands, English remains the language of choice in science and engineering syllabi due to its dominance in global academic literature. The driving force behind rendering higher education materials in English is accessibility, enabling learners and educators worldwide to enhance their qualifications and knowledge base. Consequently, English proficiency improves in tandem with subject-specific expertise.

Moreover, English proficiency bears fruit in the employment landscape. Given the international scope of many companies, English communication skills have become a sought-after attribute. Interviews not only scrutinize academic achievements but also candidates' ability to effectively express thoughts to diverse audiences. The contemporary job market, abundant with international opportunities, drives individuals to acquire English language skills. With both oral and written communication competence, individuals can excel in employment roles anywhere globally.

Even cultures like the Chinese and Japanese are proactively learning English to optimize their prospects in this era of worldwide opportunities.

- International Conferences and Events: English is the dominant language used in international conferences, workshops, seminars, and symposia across various scientific and technological domains. Presenting research findings and discussing ideas in English allows experts to connect, exchange insights, and collaborate on a global scale.
- Research and Innovation: English is the primary language for academic research and scholarly publications. Access to English-language research materials allows students to stay up-to-date with the latest advancements in their fields and contribute to the global body of knowledge.
- Higher Education Opportunities: English proficiency is often a requirement for admission to prestigious universities and academic programs, especially those with a global reputation. International students seeking to study abroad often need to demonstrate their language proficiency through standardized tests like TOEFL or IELTS.
- Global Language of Education: English is widely regarded as the global language of education. Many universities and educational institutions around the world offer courses and programs in English, attracting international students and fostering a diverse learning environment.
- Academic Networking: English proficiency facilitates communication and networking with peers, professors, and researchers from different countries at academic conferences, seminars, workshops, and research collaborations.

3. Business Field

The English language plays a central and influential role in the world of business. It has become the lingua franca of international commerce, trade, and communication. From multinational corporations to small businesses, English proficiency is increasingly recognized as a valuable skill for individuals seeking success in the global business landscape. In today's contemporary business environment, English is extensively employed for all matters of international business, trade, and commerce. Functioning as a global lingua franca, English effectively caters to the requirements of multinational corporations, serving as a communication conduit between various business entities. Employing the latest technological advancements in business operations, mediums of communication such as emails, correspondences, documentation, videos, faxes, and telephonic exchanges predominantly utilize English. Graddol (1997) asserts that approximately 80% of individuals utilize English in European contexts. This linguistic preference isn't confined to Europe; it extends to the realm of global business governed by the World Trade Organization (WTO).

4. Travel and Tourism

The English language plays a significant and multifaceted role in the travel and tourism industry, serving as a crucial tool for communication, customer

service, marketing, and information dissemination. As one of the most widely spoken languages globally, English has become the lingua franca for travelers, industry professionals, and destinations. Given that travel and tourism encompass both domestic and global spheres, English emerges as the universal language employed by international travel and tourism entities, organizations, and firms. When venturing to foreign lands, the ability to communicate with the local populace is imperative. Hence, a shared language is essential for tourists to engage effectively across different nations, and in this context, English as a global medium fulfills this role. International travel agencies also prioritize the recruitment of individuals proficient in English, enabling seamless communication with tourists from around the world.

CONCLUSION

English has emerged as a dominant force in international discourse, playing a pivotal role in facilitating communication among people from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds. The ascendancy of English as a lingua franca has reshaped the landscape of global communication, transcending traditional boundaries and influencing various spheres of human interaction, including business, diplomacy, education, science, and popular culture. After collecting the data it was found that English has evolved from being a language of colonial powers to becoming a lingua franca – a bridge language that enables communication among speakers of different native languages and there are some roles of English as global communication, namely in education, English acts as the principal medium of instruction across various educational domains. In science and technology, it acts as a primary medium for communication, collaboration, and the dissemination of knowledge in these fields. In business, it acts as a global lingua franca, English effectively caters to the requirements of multinational corporations, serving as a communication conduit between various business entities. In travel and tourism, it acts as a crucial tool for communication, customer service, marketing, and information dissemination.

REFERENCES

- Ataboyev, I., & Tursunovich, R. I. (2023). THE IMPORTANCE AND ROLE OF ENGLISH IN THE MODERN WORLD. *Журнал Иностранных Языков И Лингвистики*, 5(5).
- Berdimurotovna, N. D. (2020). The Role And Place Of English In International Communication. *Chief Editor*.
- Caine, T. M. (2008). Do You Speak Global?: The Spread Of English And The Implications For English Language Teaching. *Canadian Journal For New Scholars In Education/Revue Canadienne Des Jeunes Chercheurs Et Chercheurs En Éducation*, 1(1).
- Català Oltra, L., Martínez-Gras, R., & Penalva-Verdú, C. (2022). The Use Of Languages In Digital Communication At European Universities In Multilingual Settings.
- Jenkins, J. (2019). English Medium Instruction In Higher Education: The Role Of English As Lingua Franca. *Second Handbook Of English Language Teaching*, 91-108.

- Kadwa, M. S., & Alshenqeeti, H. (2020). The Impact Of Students' Proficiency In English On Science Courses In A Foundation Year Program. *International Journal Of Linguistics, Literature And Translation*.
- Kramersch, C. (2014). Language And Culture. *AILA Review*, 27(1), 30-55.
- Pennycook, A. (2017). *The Cultural Politics Of English As An International Language*. Taylor & Francis.
- O'Regan, J. P. (2021). *Global English And Political Economy*. Routledge.
- Rao, P. S. (2019). The Role Of English As A Global Language. *Research Journal Of English*, 4(1), 65-79.
- Rao, P. S. (2019). The Importance Of English In The Modern Era. *Asian Journal Of Multidimensional Research (AJMR)*, 8(1), 7-19.
- Thavabalan, P., Mohan, S., Hariharasudan, A., & Krzywda, J. (2020). English As Business Lingua Franca (Belf) To The Managers Of Indian Printing Industries. *Polish Journal Of Management Studies*, 22(2), 549.
- Zed, M. (2004). *Metode Penelitian Kepustakaan*. Jakarta: Yayasan Obor Indonesia.
- Zhang, W. (2022). The Role Of Technology-Based Education And Teacher Professional Development In English As A Foreign Language Classes. *Frontiers In Psychology*, 13, 910315.