

Unique Position of English in the Present Scenario

Dr. Sangeeta Arora

Associate professor and HOD English
SRDA Girls' PG College
Hathras

English, one of the richest language of the world, need of the time, is easy to learn, write and speak. English being an international language is spoken in many countries as a native, as a second or as a foreign language. It is spoken by millions of people either as native or additional language. English language is spoken widely in the present scenario. It has become common language in the modern era. It is most often taught as a second language throughout the world. Indians use English as a contact language with the outside world.

For interaction between states English is needed so English can be considered as a 'bridge' language. English is being used all over the world because of its advantages. English is the 'Lingua Franca' of the world. With the revolution in IT sector which has software and operating systems in English, the need for written and oral communication in English has emerged. English, the world's most important language with communicative and educative values is being used all over the world because of its advantages. Most of the world's knowledge is enshrined in English, so English has become a world language. English is a progressive, dynamic, flexible and universally acknowledged language because of its power of expression and rich literature.

In the early decades of the 19th Century a reform movement was led by Raja Ram Mohan Roy in Bengal. Macaulay also took an initiative for the intellectual improvement of the country resulting in the opening of schools and colleges and gradually English procedures were adopted in Indian law and administration. In present scenario English is the most preferred language as it symbolizes better education, better culture, and better intellect in Indian minds.

Globalization has made countries interdependent on each other. In present scenario no country can remain aloof. According to Dr. S Radhakrishnan Commission on education, "English is the only means of preventing our isolation from the world and we will act unwisely if we allow ourselves to be enveloped in the folds of a dark curtain of ignorance." Scientific discoveries and technological inventions in different countries necessitated a common language to reach new horizons, so English emerged as a global language and its base had been established in major parts of the world which were under colonial influence.

Indians with vast knowledge base of this international language, forged new alliances and relations with countries having common goals and aspirations. English has proved to be a powerful communication tool which is bringing prosperity and wealth in our country. English being a cohesive language connected world communities.

In the Colonial period Indians had bitter experience due to reservations and resistance to learning English as few people considered learning English as a threat to our ancient languages but it became a misconception later. India very soon emerged as a country with the large English literates shedding its inhibitions. Indians learnt English and peeped into the world of arts and sciences. East India Company set up a large number of Christian schools imparting English education for producing English knowing bilinguals in India forming a class of persons, Indian in blood and color, but English in taste, morals and intellect.

It may be regarded as the milestone for introduction of English in India. Indians learnt English and peeped into the world of sciences and arts. Great Indian writers like Tagore, RK Narayan, Raja Rao etc. are famous throughout the world because of their good command over English which helped them to express their ideas. Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, BR Ambedkar and others cultivated a world vision with their knowledge of English language. Tagore could become a literary giant, CV Raman a great scientist, Swami Vivekanand explained Indian religion to the world because of language which serves as a window to the world that is English.

In present scenario the entire world has become familiar and sharable because English is used as a common language with some variations in habits, cultures and traditions. English has been accepted as a Global Language because of its common qualities. With the progress of Science and Technology, tremendous changes are taking place in the lives of humans everywhere and the whole world has become a global village. Since business and trade have become International so the business organizations have to establish their offices in most of the countries. English serves as a global and common language to maintain international relations in business science education, travel etc.

English is used by scientist, business organizations, internet, education tourism sector so it plays a dominant role in most of the fields of the present world. In short most of the world's communication is done in English and it has become principal language of communication.

English was originally the language of the British then it became a second language of former British colonies like US, Canada, South Africa, India etc. Today English is being used as principal language of the countries which were influenced by British colonism. Now English has become the language of business, trade, commerce, science, technology and tourism. In the present day the students who wish to pursue their higher studies in a foreign country must know English since most of the books of science, engineering, medicine, information technology are written in English and most of the courses are taught in English. Moreover to work in a foreign country or in a multinational company one should have fluency in English.

Mandarin, Chinese language is spoken by a majority of people in the world but it is limited to a part of world whereas English is spread throughout the world and hence getting the status of global language. Even Chinese are now learning English to expand their business. English is used in the internet and e-business. It is the language of WHO, UNESCO, UNICEF, ASEAN WTO, INTERPOL etc. In different parts of the world, people speak different languages so a common language is needed in the time of globalization, which is spoken by most of the people around the world.

So English has become global language, spoken widely by the people in different countries of the world. Giddens (2000) asserts, "Globalization is a separation of space and time with instantaneous communications, knowledge and culture could be shared around the world simultaneously." Earlier globalizations was considered as an economic phenomenon involving integration of national economic system to promote international trade, now the term has expanded to technological, social and cultural exchanges between nations.

British colonialism and American imperialism are not only factors responsible for the spread of English worldwide but its flexible and adaptable nature has also been responsible. Kachroo (1983) says, "English became the most dominated and most powerful language in the world that motivated many linguists and language researchers to call it an international language." English being used as mother tongue as well as the second language by speakers of various regions all around the world gave it the status of international language. Language being a means of communication is used to share thoughts, feelings and expressions.

Although there are other communication systems but human communication system is well organized. Chinese is the most spoken language in the world with 1.3 billion native speakers but it is limited to China only but English is spoken in maximum countries in the world.

Language used in the field of science and technology is the English. Only English has a great impact on scientific communication. Scientists around the world can use available scientific literature and communicate with the scientists of different regions of the world with the knowledge of English. For occupations and professions such as the research, medicine, computer etc. working knowledge of English is must. English has become predominant language in non-English speaking countries like France and Germany. English plays a dominant role in the scientific publications. With this common language to communicate scientists are proving their talent and progressing in their attempts. Most of the scientific literature is available in English so it becomes necessary for the researchers around the world to learn English.

In the field of education also English plays a predominant role. English learning becomes a necessity as most of the books of Higher Education are in English. Students, teachers and researchers around the world use English as it is the main medium used in different fields of education. The information is stored in the form of books and journals in printed as well as electronic form is in English only.

Studying in a foreign country for better employment opportunities around the world is the main attraction for the students for that English will prove to be a great asset. Learning English is encouraged to promote the abilities of the students in the field of Science and Technology, engineering, medicine, tourism and so on. Materials of Higher Education are written in English with the intention to make it available for the learners and the teachers anywhere in this world. In the field of education the learning of English is very important because most of the books are published in English.

The advent of internet as a mode of communication and the globalization of English are bringing tremendous changes in this present scenario. Inception of internet has brought drastic changes in the ways of people's communication and learning of English language. Status of global language has been attained by English and the same is the case with internet also. No other language is as widely used as English for internet purpose. Majority of the internet sites are designed in English. To design the websites and browse the internet international language English is used.

All the international travel and tourism departments' agencies use English. While travelling to foreign country one must know the language of the people of that country, English as a common language serves the purpose of the tourists, when they travel to a foreign country. International travel agencies recruit people who can communicate well in English with international tourists. Here it increases employment opportunities.

English is the language of the leading newspapers and magazines along with news broadcast programs on the TV. TV channels like Discovery, Animal Planet, National Geographic and so on help to improve English. Learners improve their vocabulary watching the programs on these channels. Young generations follow these English channels to improve their languages skills. Watching these channels in English help children pickup English language very fast.

The famous and biggest industry of television and movie has its basic foundation in Hollywood, United States where English is used as a medium of communication. English is used as primary language there for promoting their programs or movies to all parts of the world. To entertain people movies and some programs are made in English. Programs like cartoons, movies, moral stories in English entertain children and improve the English language skills. Music and TV play a pivotal role in entertaining people and gaining knowledge along with enhancing their English language skills.

To conclude it can be said that English is being used increasingly and widely. English is acquiring more functions now than ever before. English is the main language of education, the mass media, administration and science and technology. English has emerged as a world language used increasingly in trade and telecommunications. English serves as our 'window to the world' it functions as 'the language of development and upward social mobility'. Our scientists, technologists, engineers, doctors and other researchers must be able not only to have access to professional literature in English but also be able to contribute to it and communicate with their counterparts in other parts of the world.

REFERENCES:

- [1]. Crystal, David. English as a Global language, Second Edition, U.K. Cambridge University Press, 2003
- [2]. Giddens, A. (2000), Runaway World: How Globalization is Reshaping our Lives, New York: Routledge
- [3]. Kachru, B. (1983), The Other Tongue: English across cultures, Oxford; Pergamum