
GLOBAL RESURGENCE OF ENGLISH

DR. YOGESH KUMAR TIWARI

Abstract: The paper aims to demonstrate the significance of the English language as the unavoidable source of comprehending the international expanse in the light of world-wide happening called globalization. This paper pinpoints the fact that different views on 'globalization' head towards the uniform conclusion that the English language has become the chief source of internationally recognized organization and communication. The paper would ascertain that the English language and globalization walk side by side, towards the interrelatedness of communication, interaction among the people facilitating the ways around the world. Many renowned organizations of not only in India but of the world have been planning to make their respective policies so as to develop the fruitful competencies. The fact is also to be emphasized that the English language as lingua franca has embraced almost entire social milieu around the world. Even those who do not speak it are attracted by its widespread popularity. It has been acknowledged that English language has become fundamental means of the essential uplifting of human beings globally.

Keywords- Communication, English, globalization, language

Introduction: All around our circumference, as distant as our eyes can see, our universe can be considered to be a unified whole, compact into a single unit. The global vision has always been thought-provoking to the philosophers and thinkers. Unquestionably, the world seems to be more fastening itself into flawless web soaring from Alaska to New Zealand. Peter Stalker has rightly remarked: A logical first task is to establish what 'globalization' is---no simple matter since the term is applied to so many simple processes, that its meaning becomes steadily more elusive. In its weakest sense, it may merely refer to increasing number of events taking place simultaneously in more than one country--from the emergence of soccer as a global sport to the resurgence of Islam as a global religion---and that there is a steady multiplication and intensification of links and flows between discrete national entities. In its strongest sense the globalization goes beyond internationalization, it implies a higher plane of organization—one at which the discrete national entities are themselves dissolving so that all the major political and economic decisions will ultimately be transmitted globally. The new world sees the "death of geography". (Stalker 2) Globalization can be defined as "the interconnections of global economic, political, cultural and environmental processes that continually transform present conditions"(Steger 7-8) From Stalker's remark and Steger's definition, it can be asserted that there has been an increase in the relation of people, culture and economy due to globalization. Its contribution in spreading the intellectual growth and transnational flow of the most popular language like English around the world is far-reaching and mesmerizing. It further emphasizes the fact, as Steger has defined, that the global interconnectedness would constantly renovate the many aspects of social

milieu in terms of English. The increased vastness of the languages, specially the English language, has been the significant consequence of globalization. Furthermore the studies have shown that "only one fourth of all English users worldwide are native speakers, and most non-native speakers using English do so in the absence of native speakers". (Seidlhofer 1) It is unmistakably agreed that numbers of nonnative English speakers are increasing rapidly throughout the entire world. As noted by Hyter, globalization is usually described as the "increased and intensified interdependencies across national borders" (103). This very process of interconnected interdependence has brought the English language at the forefront and its spread has outsmarted the international borders. It has caused many languages of the world to become obsolete as people around the globe find themselves at ease while using it. Globalization will be dealt with minutely in this paper to find out: how has globalization affected perceptions of the use of English as a non-native language in most part of the world? As Phillipson and Skutnabb-Kangas (1996) have pointed out, English is the language predominantly used in the United States, United Nations, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and other large organizations and businesses and for this reason English is considered to be a world language by most of the world. Due to globalization, many languages of the world are on the verge of extinction. It is claimed that by the end of the present century nearly half of the existing languages would become extinct. The renowned authors have argued that languages would be endangered as a consequence of different pressures on community comprising social, cultural, economic, and military demands. Evidently one of the major consequences would be the DEATH of jeopardized languages throughout the world.

Reasons can be categorized into three groups why languages face disappearance: population loss, forced language shift, and voluntary language shift; it is obvious that due to population loss language spoken in a particular circle is bound to be imperiled. Crystal has defined Language shift as “the conventional term for the gradual or sudden move from the use of one language to another”. (2000: 20) Forced shift can be apprehended as dominant control over a minority group that requires a specific language to be used, while voluntary shift can be called the global shift for majority of the communities in the world have inclined towards the use of English for their benefits and boosting particularly in terms of the expansion of researches and scientific advancement. Unquestionably, English is becoming the most dominant language of international communication in the countries of the world. It is described as world language as it functions as the means of international communication these days. Furthermore it is believed that “the more international the language or the higher its international standing and the more justified its claim to the status of a world language”. (Ammon 11) Globalization is increasing relations of people, culture and economy. It can contribute to economic growth in different countries. The term can also refer to the transnational circulation of ideas, languages, and the popular culture where English is predominantly used. The second president of the United States, John Adams, predicted in 1780 that “English will be the most respectable language in the world and the most universally read and spoken in the next century, if not before the end of this one.” It is destined “in the next and succeeding centuries to be more generally the language of the world than Latin was in the last or French is in the present age.” It was a bold prediction, for at that time there were only about 13 million English-speakers in the world, almost all of them living in Britain or on the eastern seaboard of North America. They were barely one percent of the world's population, and almost nobody except the Welsh and the Irish bothered to learn English as a second language. So how is Adams's prediction doing now? (Dyer: 2012) His prediction undoubtedly proved to be true as it is strongly believed that English has achieved such a noteworthy height in a ferociously competitive world that we no choice left, ignoring its worth may lead to the mass uprooting the universities across the globe. Hence the topmost universities of the world are running all the courses in English. The authorities have taken it for granted that to maintain the international classes in the global atmosphere they have no option but to broaden the knowledge of English. It has been put at the top mostly as to maintain the ‘living’ in the global economy, people in the most part of the world have started speaking

English as a lingua franca. One cannot expect to carry on very far in the developed nations of the world, like Europe or USA and undeniably the most part of Asia, using the local languages spoken thereat. Rather people have shown their trust on the single lingua franca with which interaction can take place comfortably. Since its being more expressive the Lingua Franca has been chosen by majority of the people living in the different part of the world. ‘Mandarin Chinese has been the biggest language by number of speakers for at least the last thousand years, but it has never spread beyond China in any significant way. Spanish, like English, has grown explosively in the past two centuries: each now has over 400 million speakers. But Spanish remains essentially confined to Central and South America and Spain, while English is everywhere.’ (Ibid.) The predominance of English has certainly threatened the languages i.e. Spanish, Italian, Arabs, Chinese across the globe and no force can eradicate the presence of these languages, but they will articulate in English while talking to one another. It can be asserted that some invisible power has been working in the favor of English language. Its predominance is due the reign of British who ruled in the major portion of the world and consequently there are several countries where English has acquired the official status. This first world-wide lingua franca has broken all the records in term of international trade and diplomatic perspective. Surely its distinction has been par excellence for several decades since the decline of British reign. Even though a large number of people have not acquired the adequate eloquence, but the effort is being so much put in globally that they will verbalize it more than the native speakers and this knowledge would continue to be transferred to the coming generation. The inclination towards being globalized and the need for a competent way of communication around the world is a fact which does not depend on our likes and dislikes believing or being skeptical- it is the most unavoidable actuality in the universe. The domain of English is, today a basic need for any professional in any major area. The internationalization of manpower made nations approve of English as the official language of the world; the learning of the Language opens doors not only for selected few but for common people personally, professionally and for intellectual development of their cultures. The last two decades have been influenced by the globalization. The mental faculty of the people has considerably grown in terms of innovation, the needed information, commerce, technology, literature and international affairs. The local problems in the world have turned into global ones i.e. the ecological destruction, forced immigration, the fatal terrorism, drug addiction etc. and with the result of scholastic contemplation, they have become of global reflection. Interestingly people

wish to brood over these problems with the help of the materials available in English language either on Internet or the digitally globalized libraries around the world. There has also enhanced an international consciousness that we should act locally, think globally, now the world has become the unified whole. The transnational problems of communication necessitate the comprehensive approach and the solution is commonly known to all. The humanity has been facing the global problems with the sense of equivalent similarities and these problems need to be communicated which is easier by the most relying English language. English and globalization have vastly flourished themselves. Surely English seems to have supported globalization and globalization on the other hand strengthened the global language. This global language had its advent and dominance in the English speaking countries like UK and AMERICA now its association with the INTERNET has crossed the international borders. The Universities around the world are assessing more than earlier, the competence of English language in its exams. The students and the people of all walks of life belonging either to public or private sectors need not only the knowledge but are supposed to have the expertise of the global language. Unless they acquire it their chances are less in this competitive world. The most prestigious international organizations of the world like the UNO, INTERPOL, UNESCO, have placed English language at the front despite the enactment of five languages: English, Chinese, Spanish, Russian and French. The Security Council has also adopted English as the most working language. Samuel P. Huntington has observed that every year hundreds of business men, bankers, state employees, intellectuals and journalists from dozens of countries meet in Switzerland for the World Economic Forum. Almost all, with college degrees in all imaginable areas: social, exact, business, law. They regroup every year

to debate and decide on the direction the world must take, they control virtually all international institutions, many of the governments and they mainly use the English Language to advocate, arrogate, derogate and delegate decisions that will influence every human being in the planet. (1996 11)

For the global advancement for, INTERNET strictly demands the knowledge of the English language to work more efficiently. All the world class digital research online libraries provide study materials in English with the help of the most powerful technological instrument. Unless you have the knowledge of English, your trip not only to the abroad but to the most parts of India would not be enjoyable. It can clearly be stated that the 21st century started its voyage with the English Language as the main language of communication in international area. Due to globalization English cannot be seen simply as an international language wrapped in imperialism and the standardization of the world. It is a border language which people have adopted to act socially making the language work locally and globally. To conclude, it can safely be asserted that the English has created its own universe affecting the culture, products, teaching and learning process and mostly all the ways of life and its process of revitalizing itself is on and on. It may sound disturbing that 'if you do not find yourselves comfortable with the use of English you are underprivileged. There is no exaggeration to admit that the expanse of English has influenced the process of globalization. It has become the need of the hour. The formation of flourishing future, whether real or imagined, rests on this global language which is resurrecting itself with the greater force. Unmistakably, the globalized impact and transnational chorus of English would continue to be revered, listened and sung in ages to come and nothing can uproot its significance.

References:

1. Ammon, U. English and other international languages under the impact of globalization. *Neuphilologische Mitteilungen*, 111 (1), 2000, pp. 9-28.
2. Crystal, D. *Language death*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2000.
3. Dyer, Gwynne. "The triumph of English: Never before has a language had more people learning it than it has native speakers". <http://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/OpEd/2012/05/27/201205270194>
4. Huntington, Samuel P. *The Clash of Civilizations: The Debate*, New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996.
5. Hyter, Y. A conceptual framework for responsive global engagement in communication sciences and disorders. *Topics in Language Disorders*, 34(2), 2000, pp.103-120 doi:10.1097/tld.000000000000015
6. Phillipson, R. and Skutnabb-Kangas, T. (1996), English only worldwide or language ecology?. *TESOL Quarterly*, 30, 429-452. doi: 10.2307/3587692
7. Seidlhofer, B. *Understanding English as a lingua franca*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2011.
8. Stalker, Peter. *The Impact of Globalization on International Migration*. Switzerland: Lynne Rienner Publication, 2000.

-
9. Steger, M. Globalization: A very short introduction. Oxford university press, 2013

Dr. Yogesh Kumar Tiwari , Assistant Professor (Eng.)
Govt. Naveen College Khadgawan
Dist: Koriya (C.G)