



DEVELOPMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE: LOCAL TO GLOBAL

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Abstract:

This paper discusses how English language progress as local to a global language. The explanation of its history is offered to enable us to detect the underlying motivation of spreading English world-wide. How English plays a role on the death of other languages is presented to make us aware of preserving our own language, while making use of English. The future of English is predicted to give us a direction to our activities in relation to a possible future of English. In the twenty-first century, the entire world has become narrow, available, sharable and familiar for all the people living on this earth as English is used as a common language even though there are some variations in habits, cultures, traditions, regions and idiosyncratic aspects.

Keywords: *English, global language, history, future. etc*

One of the most significant events of the 20th and early 21st centuries is the emergence of English as a world language. English has become an international medium of communication. Since the 1950's the non-native varieties of English have been growing in importance and productivity. The demographic and geographical spread of English is phenomenal. A language is generally associated with a particular community, geographical area, country, ethnic, group, population or a religious group as we see in case of most of the language of the world. However, English is the only language in the world that has successfully been able to transcend geographical, national, regional, religious and other types of restricted identities and boundaries has, therefore, been regarded as a global language. The educational, academic and literary development of English language at the international and international levels has truly made a global language.

English is the mother tongue of 340 million of people. Next to Chinese mandarin and Spain, it is the largest spoken language in the world. However, the speakers of English as second language are more than 500 million which outnumber the L1 speaker of English. In India, until recently, English was a 'second language'. It is now in the processes of accruing third language. In India English is the official language along with Hindi. According to David Crystal "the role of an official language is today best illustrated by English, which now has some kind of special status in over seventy countries, such as Ghana, Nigeria, India, Singapore and Vanuatu.English is now the language most widely taught as foreign language over 100 countries such as China, Spain, Germany, Egypt and Brazil" (Crystal, 4-5) .

In many countries, however the place of English in education may be more important, and indeed more fundamentally necessary, because it is either the medium of education itself or a necessary link with resources beyond the borders of the country where it is learnt. English as a foreign language refers to a situation where it is taught for certain specific purposes, viz., reading scientific works, translation, communication at certain levels and for certain purposes. English as a second language refers to a situation where English is used widely for purposes of administration, education and as a common link language.

English is the third largest spoken language in the world. It has 340 million speakers who regard it as their first language compare to Chinese Mandarin that has 329 million speakers. But when it comes to Geographical coverage, Chinese and Mandarin is spoken in only 20 countries whereas English has its presence in 112 countries of the world where people use it as their first Language. The presence of English in 112 countries, of the world in comparison to other largest spoken languages of world makes English as a global language. English, thus, has its presence in the entire globe whether it is used as a first language or a second language. For example in India, a large number of its population use English as L2. The L2 user of English in Kachru's (2005) outer countries in (India) and expanding countries (China) are more than its native user in the inner circle countries (Australia and New Zealand etc.).

Graddol Predicts: "First, the proportion of the world's population speaking English as a first language is declining, and will continue to do so in the foreseeable future. Second, the international status of English is changing in profound ways; in the future it will be a language used mainly in multilingual context as a second language for communication between non-native speakers. Third, the decline of the native speakers will be explored in the terms of changing ideological discourse about languages, linguistics competence and identity" (Graddol, 57).

From its birth place Britain, English spread to Ireland, U.S.A., Canada, Australia and New Zealand. According to Edward Finnegan, "Although Chinese is spoken by a greater number of people; English is spoken around the globe with a wider dispersion than any other language. From its earlier home in Britain (now with 60 million speakers), it has spread to nearby Ireland across the Atlantic to North America and across the world to Australia and New Zealand" (Finnegan 25). It replaced indigenous language of some of these countries and either wiped them or pushed them to peripheral status. Many languages in these countries disappeared under the dominating influence of English. Due to the industrialization and the expansion of British Empire, English also spread in many African and Asian countries including India during the colonial period. However even after British left India and many Asian countries, English remained in these once colonized countries. The indigenization and localization of English is in the social and cultural context of the countries like India, Nigeria, and Philippines etc.

The English language has had a remarkable history. When we first catch the sight in its historical records, it is the speech of some non-too-civilized tribes on the continent of the Europe along the North Sea. Fennell states that the development and spread of English across the globe can be divided into four phases:

- In the 17th and 18th centuries, English spread as a result of British colonialism.
- In the 18th and 19th centuries, English spread as the language as British leadership in the Industrial revolution.
- In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, English spread as a language of American economic superiority and political leadership.
- In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, English spread as a consequence of American technological domination.

The Expansion of English through Translation of Regional and Local Literature:

Translation is a two-way traffic. It has mutual benefits for both the source and target language and literatures. It is a reciprocal relationship between the main and the marginal voices and identities. The translation of global works into Indian language will acquaint and contribute to the growth of literary competence and consciousness about the genres, forms, movements and experiments and innovations that have been taking place literature of the world. Whereas translation of Indian literature into English and other global languages of wide coverage will contribute to the growth and widening of the world literatures local and regional-will enrich and expand the thematic, socio-cultural, aesthetic and linguistic horizons of the world literature. The local writers and academic also

attempt to translate works of English into their local languages and as a result enrich its vocabulary and literatures. Under the UNESCO translation project, 1060 works from around 50 original languages and some African and Oceania languages have been translated into languages like English and French. 23 works from Sanskrit, 20 of Hindi, 20 of Pali, 20 of Bengali have been translated into English under this project. Globalization and technological advances in publishing industry have also benefited publications of literatures in translation with approximately 60% of translation come from English and 40% come from other languages.

An important area where English expanded its domain and presence is the creative writing in new English. Indian writing in English has phenomenal growth in India. Several Indian writers like R.K. Narayan, Mulk Raj Anand, Khushwant Singh, Raja Rao, Anita Desai, Kiran Desai, Arundhati Roy, Kamala Das, Salman Rushdie, Vikram Seth, A.K. Ramanujan, Nissim Ezekiel, Mahesh Dattani and Girish Karnad etc. produced creative works in English. The Critics like K.R. Shrinivas Iyenger, C.D. Narasimhaiah and M.K. Naik etc., through their critical writings bring the beauty and strength of these works before the academia and contribute in English at the U.G. and P.G. levels study in India. Indian Writing in English (IWE) also drawing attention of the research scholars in English to pursue their doctoral research on a number of authors and subjects. This development of English to creative writing in Asia and Africa contributed in the evolution of hybridized varieties of English. Raja Rao explain the predicament of the non-native creative writers writing in English.

According to Annamalai, the creative writers like M.K. Anand, Raja Rao, Khushwant Singh, Achebe and Ojaide consciously deviate from the norms of the so called native writers of English. Their adoption of English for literary writing is another instance of nativization, which extends the process to expressive domains. The deviant use of English by the indigenous creative writers with experiments to create a hybridized variety to acculturate it to suit the local socio-culture ethos expanded the core English variety to new dialectal varieties of English like Indian English, Nigerian English and Phillipines English etc.

The strength of a language is measured not only from its demographic profile but also from its functional profile or its use in different functional domains like education, media, government officers and institutions and industry. Language of minority and indigenous people are generally confined to spoken medium only and only serve the communicative needs of these communities. The languages have limited vocabulary that is confined to perform communication within the speech communities and occupations in which these communities are engaged. These languages are particular geographical areas do not have their presence in offices, education, media and the profession of upward mobility. However, English is not confined to one particular area and only one particular functional domain of oral communication. Its penetration can be seen in different functional fields including education, media, web and different occupational including medical science, engineering, journalism, sports, law advertising and religion etc.

Since English is used in this country in several situations, it is natural that several registers of IE have developed over time; for example, the registers of legal system, administration, business, finance, science and technology, Indian philosophy, art, criticism, creative writing, politics so on. An investigation into the several register varieties of IE will provide an insight into societal function and range of IE varieties.

Conclusion:

The two important revolutions are in the world. One is the industrial revolution and another is the information. The technology revolution had a great impact on the development of English language. Industrial revolution that results in the British colonial expansion geographically scattered English from one corner of the world to another corner. The ICT revolution provided it an opportunity to rule the information system of the world functions as computer lingua franca. Approximately 90% websites and journals are available in English. English is now regarded, rather claimed as a Global language as it evokes mother tongue like sentiments among the people of diverse linguistic backgrounds for whom it is not their natural mother tongue.

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To Cite the Article: *Bhosale, Suresh, Mathpati, Sudhir*, “Development of English Language: Local to Global”. *Literary Cognizance*, II-1 (June., 2021): 14-17. Web.