



# The Impact of Globalization and The Internet on English Language Teaching and Learning

## KEYWORDS

Globalization: The internet: English language learning and teaching

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**ABSTRACT** *It is to significant to note that the spread of English as an international language and the emergence of the internet as a fast communication channel that has no boundaries ,are mutually enforcing trends in an age of globalization. Since its conception, the internet has, so it seems, revolutionize the ways of human communication as well as English language learning in a global context. Learners of English language today need a new set of critical and interpretive skills. Teachers of ESOL therefore, need to understand how the internet is revolutionizing English language learning. This paper attempts to discuss the impact of the internet on English language learning as well as the need for new frameworks for teaching English language in computer mediated contexts.*

## INTRODUCTION

The last few decades have seen a growth in the role of the English language around the world as the Lingua franca for economic, scientific, and political exchange. The term lingua franca means, 'any language used for communication between groups who have no other language in common' (Matthews, 2000:209). According to Crystal (1997).85%of the world's international organizations use English as their official language international communication. About 85%of the world's important film productions and markets use English as well as, and 90%of the published academic articles in several academic fields. Such as linguistics, are written in English, in many cases, the increased growth in the use of the English language can be attributed to educational, economic, or cultural globalization.

The internet has also an ever growing impact on the lexical, phonetic, syntactic standards of language, and the great importance that most teachers plays are should put, on the use of correct language. For example this global technology has led to the evolution of an abbreviated English language that emerged in chat groups and what is referred to as the virtual world. Example for this feature include, 2day (today), cu (see you), b4 (before), etc. Computer mediated communication is one of the features of globalization and as a result, the internet has become an important linguistic medium. It has been added to every aspect of human life, including the learning of languages.

The internet: prescriptive/descriptive approaches to learning

There has been a widespread belief that the internet is bad for the future of many languages and enables rich (or technology able) countries to take monopoly over the content generated on the internet and that it becomes a form of cultural and linguistic imperialism in which western values dominate. In this scenario it was also argued that the internet must evolve its own principles and standards in order to grow and maintain as a newly emerging linguistic medium.

The descriptive approach, by contrast does not condemn usages that do not follow the standardized rules of language set by linguistics. Rather, it describes the variations

in usage found within a language, and explains the reasons for variations in usage. Descriptivists do not like the narrow minded intolerance and miss informed purism of prescriptivists. The prescriptive approach ignores the realities of everyday usages of language. Prescriptivists do not like the all inclusiveness and egalitarian philosophy of descriptivist's, which they interpret as a lack of responsibility towards what is best in the language. Even after 250 years, the controversy over these linguistic approaches remains with the arguments being passed on the each generation and refueled by the new (technological) developments within societies, such as broadcasting and the internet.

## CONCLUSION

From the above discussion, it appears that in the 21st century, speakers of English may increasingly diverge from what they have been thought is correct usage of language. Globalization offers huge potential profits to companies and nations but has been complicated by widely differing expectations, standards of living, cultures and values, and legal systems as well as unexpected global cause-and-effect linkages. The internet seems to have important implications for linguistics or language learning. In this context, this paper explores the impact of the internet on today's teaching and learning of the English language.

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