



The English – Speaking World

KEYWORDS

Globalization – Lingua franca – Conservative Estimates- Amalgamation – Isles – Phonetics – Morphemes - Weird

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English is undisputedly an international language and has its own importance in today's world of globalization. British language which invaded the world changed the global rules and that is the time where globalization started! To start with, there are many countries, many races and many languages. Take for example, India! The second largest and highest populated country in the world, has many states, many religions and many regional languages. Therefore, it is highly difficult to learn or speak all languages! Hence, those people who communicates in English can be easily survive anywhere in India and have better prospects in all trades and domains. Since British ruled India and later Indian Government adopted English language officially and made it compulsory in all the states of republic of India. It is an official language, written and spoken media of communication in all Government, Semi-Government, and Private offices. A revolution has been started everywhere in the world, where all countries are thinking to implement English strictly as a media of communication in their day-to-day business affairs or trades – medicine, business, management, education, law, science and technology.

Wor(l)d English: Corner Stones:

In the minds of many people, there is no longer an issue. They argue that English has already become a world language by virtue of the British as well as the political and economic progress made by the English-speaking nations in the past two hundred years, and is likely to remain so, gradually consolidate its position by sustaining its flexibility and superiority over other languages. English is the most published language world wide, is considered the "lingua franca" of our era, ad has more words than any other known language in the world!

Stepping Stones:

An impressive variety of facts about usage supports this view. According to conservative estimates, mother-tongue speakers have now reached around 300 million; a further 300-400 million use English as a second language; and a further 100 million use it fluently as a fluently as a foreign language. This is an increase of around 40% since 1950s. More radical estimates, which include speakers with a lower level; of language fluency awareness, have suggested that the overall total in these days well in excess of 1,000 million. The variation results largely from a lack of precise data about English language. Use in such areas as the Indian sub-continent, where the historical affect of the language exercises a continuing influence on many of its 900 million people, and China, where there has been a burst of enthusiasm for English language studies in recent years, with over 100 million people watching the BBC television English series – Follow Me.

Even if only ten percent of these learners become fluent, the effect on totals is dramatic; the number of foreign learners is immediately doubled. Surveys of range of use carried out by UNESCO and other world organizations re-inforce the general statistical impression.

Mile Stones:

English is used as an official or semi-official language in over sixty countries, and has a prominent place in a further twenty. It is either dominant or well established in all six continents. It is the main language of books, newspapers, airports, air-traffic control, international competitions, medicine, diplomacy, sports, pop-music, advertising, science and technology. Over two-thirds of the world's scientists write their observations in English. Three-quarters of the world's mails are written in English. Of all the information in the world's electronic retrieval systems and eighty percent is stored in English. Over fifty million in one hundred and twenty countries receive English radio programs. Over fifty million children study English as an additional language at primary level; over eighty million study it at secondary level (these figures exclude China). In any one year, the British Council helps a quarter of a million foreign students to learn English in various parts of the world.

Summing Up:

However, when you stop and think about it...English is Weird! Why? First, consider that English is the 'bastard love-child' of various Germany, Nordic, and Romance languages. This was largely due to various invasions of the British Isles throughout history. In other sense, I mean, weird, the cietic languages native to the isles are largely unrelated to modern English. The amalgamation of all these languages resulted in a complicated blending of Phonetics, Vocabularies, tenses and Syntax. Phonetically, English contains – like any other regional languages of India; several unusual or physiologically challenging sounds. These includes the "ch" in 'church', the "j" in 'judge', the "r" in 'road' and the two "l"s in 'laurel'...'ch" and 'j' are affricates. They are sounds made by saying two consonants at once, I mean, "t"+"sh"="ch"; "d"+"zh"="j" and "R" and "L" are Approximants. It just means you say them with your tongue almost touching the roof of your mouth. We probably not realize – 'English's "L" has an evil twins – which are confusing and twisting! Regular "l" begins a word or syllable – "Lavender", "Pilates", "Limpid" – "Dark l", which is written in the IPA as "t" comes at the end of a word or syllable – 'fumble', "Evil", "Balding", "Pelt"! An 'r' in English is pronounced differently from an 'r' in French or an 'r' in Russian language. They are all different types of the same sound which are collectively known as "Rhotics". English is a kind of Addiction language, where, we are all addicted without our knowledge to "MORPHEMES" –

which are word building blocks –stylish, unimaginable, and fabulous – like, ‘mort-ifi-cation, un-alter-ed, in-con-ceive-able! Yes, we fix! We use affixes, a type of morpheme, to indicate tense and aspect –like, ‘snores’, pack-ing,, build-ing and seat-ed! English has many Buzz words! You can use as you like! Where ever British goes, English grows! 85% of Swedish adults are conversationally fluent in English, which is the same amount of native English Speakers in Canada. There are more English Speakers in India than in the U.K and Canada combines. Well, in all fronts, China is leading now! In the future Chinese will be largest English speaking people in the world! English is what English does! So, if you are even annoyed, perplexed or fumbled..by someone’s imperfect grasp of English, remember: English is a Weird language –Anybody speaks or talks anything in English! English is like “snake in the grass”- It moves, moves and moving...like, Inglish “Indian English”- slang, Hinglish-“Hindi Spoken people English”, Singlish, “Southern Indian” where especially, Tamilnadu and Kerala Slang of English. How ever, there are people who have worked hard to learn it than there are people who grew up speaking it! Punctuation is powerful! Language is stylish and amazing! Last but not the least, an Anonymous English man says rhythmically:

We'll begin with box, the plural is boxes,
 But the plural of ox is oxen, not oxes.
 One fowl is a goose, and two are called geese,
 Yet the plural of moose is never called meese.
 You may find a lone mouse or house full of mice,
 But the plural of house is houses, not hices.
 The plural of man is always men,
 But the plural of pan is never pen.
 If I speak of a foot, and you show me two feet,
 And I give you a book, would a pair be a
 Beek? If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth
 Why shouldn't two booths be called beeth?
 If the singular's this be ever called these,
 Should the plural of kiss be ever called keese?
 We speak of a brother and also of bretheren,
 But though we say mother, we never say metheren.
 Then the Masculine pronouns are he, his, and him;
 But imagine the feminine...she, shis and shim!

English is a crazy language. Let's face it. English was invented by the people, not Engineers, not Doctors, not Scientists and not Computers- and it reflects the creativity of the Human Race – racing for some thing called Modern English, which of course is not a race at all! Oh? Yaa!

British who are proudly behind English are now behind United States of America? That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible but when the lights are out, they are invisible. Sometimes, I think all the English speakers should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane. In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? English for granted but not omitted or neglected. There is no egg in egg plant-nor ham in hamburger, neither apple nor pine in apple. Finally, and why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing and why don't I become a Journalist rather than writing to this Journal? English is Funny, Bunny!!