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THE INTERNATIONAL USE OF ENGLISH

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Abstract: This article discusses the importance, advantages and disadvantages of English as an international language. International English is the concept of using the English language as a global method of communication, comparable to an international auxiliary language, and frequently refers to the language's march toward an international standard. English is the official language of 67 independent and 27 autonomous countries worldwide. It is also used in commerce and is the official language of several of the world's most prominent organizations, including the United Nations, NATO, and the European Union.
Key words: International, language, English, communication, pronounciation, mother tongue, first language.

INTRODUCTION

It may be claimed that English has been termed a world language for more than 150 years, having grown dramatically since its early roots and influences. These comprised Northern European Anglo-Saxons, Vikings, and Norman French, whose language was significantly by Latin. However, there were only five million people who spoke English at the time of Shakespeare. Over the years, English has been influenced by 'borrowings' from other languages, such as terms and phrases carried back from the Empire's territories, as well as large-scale immigration into the UK itself. English is now firmly established in international organizations such as the United Nations, where it is one of the official languages with French, Russian, Spanish, Chinese, and Arabic. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, the North American Free Trade Agreement, academia, popular music and culture, and increasingly multinational commerce in the globalized economy all use English as their primary language. Papers in science are frequently published in English before being reprinted in the author's original tongue. Thousands of words from Greek have entered the English language, including angel, alphabet, chorus, cycle, example, martyr, and myth. Many are Latin in origin, such as altar, candle, circus, disciple, divine, essence, , literature, public, omnibus, and referendum. Television, for example, is a mix of Latin and Greek.

English is also spoken throughout Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the United States, the Caribbean, the Indian subcontinent, and portions of Africa and Southeast Asia, albeit with many subtle distinctions. Differences are most noticeable in accent, but also in syntax, style, spelling, and vocabulary.

It is estimated that one-quarter of the world's population speaks at least some English, and this proportion is likely to rise in the near future as English is widely taught in China and Eastern Europe, in schools and universities around the world, and is frequently used in international trade and commerce. Indeed, many Eurovision Song Contest contestants sing in English, as English is widely considered as the dominant language in mainstream culture.Over 350 million people worldwide speak English as their mother tongue or first language, with minor variations. If persons who have learnt English as a second or foreign language are included, Crystal estimates that the total number of English speakers in the world in 2005 might be between 1.5 and 2 billion. He emphasized that any additional increase would be mostly determined by the number of individuals who studied English in India and China.

English is also the official language of roughly 50 countries, and English is used in more than half of all scientific journals. It is the language of air traffic control and Seaspeak (for maritime shipping), and it is spoken by more than 50% of the population.[1]

The advantages of English as an international language.

●It has a broad, diverse, and cosmopolitan vocabulary that contains numerous foreign borrowings and assimilations, and it can easily adjust to changes in social communication techniques. The English language's main strength is its adaptability.

●It also has numerous common vocabulary and structures with Germanic languages, particularly German and Dutch. Furthermore, it shares numerous vocabulary with other European languages descended from Latin, such as French, Italian, and Spanish.

●It features simple inflections - simple plurals, verb forms, and adjectives - and employs natural rather than grammatical gender. It also does not have cases.

●It is mainly phonetic, albeit there are a few challenging pronunciations. However, it does not have the challenges associated with multi-tone languages such as Thai, Korean, or Chinese.

●A number of English words, such as airport, passport, hotel, telephone, tennis, golf, stop, and jeans, have become universal.

●Learners of English gain understanding of British culture, literature, values, and way of life. The British Council and the BBC World Service have extensively promoted these.

● The dominance of English is mirrored in the fact that teaching English in schools in non-English-speaking nations is now regarded as a 'lifestyle' subject, second only to the mother tongue, and is being introduced in primary schools for students as young as five.

● According to a British Council report from 2006, the number of individuals learning English worldwide will reach two billion by 2020. English language tuition, including courses, instructional materials, and books, is expected to rise, with China, Eastern Europe, and Latin America leading the way. With the rise of digital programs, there is also an increase in demand for online courses.

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Disadvantages of English as an international language.

English has an extremely large vocabulary. This is also a drawback because it is rich in colorful and colloquial terms, which can frequently lead to mistranslations and comprehension issues, as illustrated by the following: We're in a difficult situation. It's a tall task. We're going all out, so please bear with me.' This would surely confuse foreigners who are unfamiliar with colloquial English. 'This is a challenging scenario,' it obviously means. You're asking for a lot. We're working hard, so please be patient.

Furthermore, spelling can be perplexing at times, with several exceptions to the standards. There is also a regular absence of link between spelling and pronunciation, such as 'rough,' 'through,' and 'thought'.

Other countries are actively resentful of English because of its popularity. This is especially true in France, where former French President Jacques Chirac referred to the global growth of English as "a disaster" a huge threat to humanity'. This approach has been expanded with the purposeful attempt to prevent the eclipse of *la langue diplomatique*, to the point where the French government is anxious that English would become the de facto official language of the EU at the expense of French. The EU's linguistic diversity is a difficulty in and of itself, as there are over 20 official languages, and as a result, a large quantity of documents must be translated at

great expense into all of the official languages.

Despite the fact that, according to the European Commission, more than 40% of EU citizens have a decent working knowledge of English, which is higher than the combined totals of the next four languages (French, German, Spanish, and Italian). Lack of invention in a single language over the world means that language innovation and expansion will come to a halt, and there will be no more dialects. With the loss of privacy, language arose as a way of communication among groups of humans.

The most significant disadvantage of learning English is its difficulty. English has a large vocabulary, and mastering it requires a lot of memorizing because there are many words that sound the same yet have very different spellings and meanings.

Another problem which foreigners experience is the use of the English understatement. A classic example is the use by the English of 'rather good', which a foreigner may not realize is, in fact, a compliment. The use of the double negative is also confusing, as in the example 'I wouldn't disagree with that idea'.[2]

Off- shore English

Native English speakers' usage of colloquialisms and idioms usually confuses their trading partners. As a result, the development of a reduced form of English that can be acquired has increased easier to use in international business. This is known as "off-shore English," because it involves less time and effort on the part of foreigners than learning a full foreign language. It focuses on assisting non-native English speakers in making the most of English with a very limited vocabulary for practical usage in business. At the same time, it seeks to persuade native English speakers to adjust their own usage of the language in order enable outsiders to comprehend it better.

Conclusion.

In conclusion, English as a global language has advantages and disadvantages. Its strong aspects include improving cross-cultural contact and setting the door for more international trade between countries.Because of its potential to connect individuals from all over the world, English has become the global language. The world is changing when it comes to language. English has swiftly become the worldwide language of business, travel, and communication, and its significance is anticipated to rise in the coming years.

English becomes an international language because people in other nations value English even if they do not speak it as their first language. Other countries' special treatment of English can take the shape of English as a second language (ESL) or English as a foreign language (EFL).

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