

THE EVOLUTION OF ENGLISH AS A GLOBAL LANGUAGE: A LITERATURE STUDY

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Abstract

English has developed into a global language with widespread use in various aspects of society. This literature review aims to explore how the historical development, factors that have been involved in the rise of English as a global language. it investigates the origins of English, how it became a global language, examining its roots from Proto-Indo-European languages to its modern form. it examines the role of colonization, trade, culture and technology in the spread of English around the world. In addition, it discusses the impact of English itself as a global language of communication in international diplomacy, conference meetings and educational settings. By synthesizing the literature, this review reveals the positive implications of English as a global language, such as increased access to information and opportunities for cross-cultural collaboration. In conclusion, understanding the evolution of English as our current global language is crucial in the complex journey of our interconnected world. This analysis emphasizes our critical need to continue enriching and using English as a means to foster global communication and collaboration

Keywords:

English Language, Evolution, Global Language.

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INTRODUCTION

English, with its long history of development and its vast spread, has developed into one of the most dominant global languages at every end of the world today. From everyday conversation to international communication, English has become an essential tool that connects people from different cultures and countries. In this scientific paper, we will examine and examine how the evolution of English itself has acquired its status as a global language, witness how it has progressed over time, and why this has happened. Why is English a global language? At least that's what we currently know that English itself is the most widely used language by everyone around the world in communicating internationally. In addition to this language is used in many

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things such as business, technology, diplomasi, and even media. Why? Why does English have to be the global language among the many languages in the world? To understand how important English is as a global language itself, we need to look at the histories and factors that have influenced its development.

The history and aspects of the development of the English language from its origins from the Proto-Indo-European language to its spread through the colonial era and the modern era of globalization, the English language has gone through a long and convoluted journey. For example, in the colonial era, Britain controlled the majority of the world and brought the English language to various countries and cultures. In addition, the development of modern communication technology has also played a fairly wide role in accelerating the spread of English around the world. In today's era of globalization, English is not only used as a means of communication between individuals, but also as an official language in international forums and organizations such as the United Nations. This shows that the English language has become a symbol of global integration and progress. The study of Proto-Indo-European languages and their derivative languages provides an interesting glimpse into the ancient roots of the world's largest language family. Understanding the reconstruction of Proto-Indo-European languages not only explains the historical development of languages, but also provides insight into the linkages between diverse linguistic traditions. This exploration of the evolution of language can be particularly relevant in the context of the emergence of English as a global language, reflecting the ongoing evolution and adaptation of languages in response to changing societal needs and interactions.

The conclusions of the transformation of English as a global language, which includes its important role in connecting people from different cultures and countries, as well as potential challenges to the world's linguistic diversity, can be found in the source. This transformation also highlights the importance of collaboration between native and non-native speakers in the development of English teaching materials and adaptation to the local cultural context. In addition, the source emphasized that English as a global language has the advantage of being a communication tool that connects people around the world, but it can also be a threat to the world's linguistic diversity. In the context of education, English has become a compulsory subject in many countries as an effort to prepare the younger generation for the era of globalization.

In this paper, it is discussed that after World War II, the United States as an English-speaking country was the only major Western power that remained intact educationally, scientifically, and politically. This gave the United States the power to restructure the world through the creation of the

United Nations, where English became one of the four official languages spoken at the United Nations. In addition, the increasing use of English in the field of science and technology, where about 80% to 85% of all scientific and technological information is written in English, has also strengthened the position of English as a global language.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The development of English as a global language has been extensively discussed in various linguistic studies. Several factors have contributed to its widespread use, including historical events, economic power, and cultural dominance. This section explores the major influences that have shaped English into a global language. **Historical Development of English** The evolution of English can be traced back to the Proto-Indo-European language family. Over centuries, significant historical events, such as the Anglo-Saxon invasion, the Norman Conquest, and the Renaissance, played crucial roles in shaping the structure and vocabulary of English. Crystal (2003) argues that the transformation of English into a dominant global language was heavily influenced by British colonialism and economic supremacy. The Industrial Revolution and the expansion of the British Empire facilitated the spread of English across continents, embedding it in education, administration, and trade.

Factors Contributing to English as a Global Language.

The establishment of English as a global language did not happen by chance; it was driven by multiple interconnected factors:

1. **Colonization and Political Power** – The British Empire introduced English to its colonies, making it a primary medium for governance, law, and education (Kachru, 1992).
2. **Economic Influence** – As the United States emerged as a global economic superpower, English became the primary language for international business, finance, and technological advancements (Graddol, 2006).
3. **Cultural and Media Influence** – The global popularity of English-language films, music, and literature contributed to its spread. Hollywood, pop culture, and international broadcasting channels like BBC and CNN reinforced the dominance of English (Phillipson, 1992).
4. **Scientific and Technological Advancements** – English became the standard language for scientific publications, technological developments, and internet-based communication, further solidifying its global status (Crystal, 2012).

Despite these factors, some scholars argue that the dominance of English poses a threat to linguistic diversity, leading to the decline of indigenous languages.

However, its role as a lingua franca continues to facilitate international collaboration and knowledge exchange.

METHODS

In this paper, the research method used is literature review or literature review. Literature study is a systematic research method in collecting, evaluating, and synthesizing literature relevant to the research topic. The steps taken in this literature study include searching and selecting literature sources through academic databases such as Google Scholar, PubMed, JSTOR, ProQuest, and so on. Keywords used in the search include "Evolution of English Language," "Global Language," "History of English," and other related terms. Relevant sources are selected based on inclusion criteria that include relevance to the topic, credibility, and quality of the research. The literature included in the analysis is academic journals, books, research reports, and in-depth articles on the evolution of English as a global language. Literature that is irrelevant or does not meet quality criteria is not included in the study.

In the preparation of scientific papers, each section is based on the analysis of the literature that has been presented critically. Any information, data, or thoughts taken from the literature are referenced according to the desired format, such as APA, MLA, or other formats. By using this literature study method, this scientific work is expected to provide a deeper understanding of the evolution of English as a global language, as well as its implications in the context of globalization. This method ensures that the arguments presented are based on a solid understanding and reliable literature analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Evolution in the sense of the term is a gradual process of change, where something changes into another form to become more complex or complicated or changes to a better form. The English language, with its rich history and long and complex journey, has grown to become one of the most dominant global languages in the world today. Quoted from the website of the Language Service Center in Florida, Lingua Edu, English has reached 1.4 billion speakers as of the beginning of 2023. English is an international language that is used all over the world. English is also the official language in 67 countries, such as the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. As the lingua franca of the global it is undeniable that in this section, we will explore how English has transformed from a local language in the British Isles to an internationally recognized language.

English is a Germanic language that was first spoken in England in the early Middle Ages and as reported by The New York Times (Seth Mydans 2007), is today the most common or dominant language spoken worldwide. According to Wikipedia, the advancement of English from the Anglo-Saxon era to Modern English is a complex process (Wikipedia, "History of the English Language"). The English language began with the Anglo-Saxon migration to the British Isles about 1,500 years ago. It is a branch of the West Germanic language, derived from the Anglo-Frisian dialects brought by Germanic immigrants from the northwestern region that is now part of the Netherlands and Germany. In the beginning, Old English consisted of a group of dialects that reflected the origins of the different Anglo-Saxon kingdoms in England. Among these dialects, the Western Saxons ended up being the most dominant. However, this Old English was later influenced by two waves of invasion.

(David Crystal, 2016) in his book entitled *"English as a Global Language"* defines that a global language is a language that achieves a truly global status when developing a specific role recognized in each country. One of the reasons why English is one of the languages that has achieved global status so that it is recognized by every country is because it is based on past history. In the era of colonialism and imperialism, Britain had the largest colonial territory. In the past, the British Empire colonized various countries around the world and made English a medium for communication. As a result, English spread widely to many regions, thus forming the basis for the spread of this nation globally.

There are several reasons why English is the one that achieved that status. Among them is because English is one of the oldest languages in the world and originated from the United Kingdom (a country in Europe). Quote from the journal *"English as a Global Language: Its Historical Past and Future"* (Rohmah, 2005) said that after World War II, many countries lost their strength. However, the United States as an English-speaking country is one of the only major western powers that remains intact educationally, scientifically, and politically. Therefore, the United States, aided by its allies, has the power to reorganize the world through the creation of the United Nations. English later became one of the four official languages used in the United Nations. This has made English gain a stronger status in the world. It is a coincidence that as the English language gained a better status in the political world, the computer age emerged. The first computer programs were then written in English and the results were also in English or similar to English. This, again, made the English language gain its status in science and technology where computers became very important in it. Today, about 80% or 85% of all

scientific and technological information is written in English (Kaplan, 2000; Mauranen, 2003).

English has a long and complex history of development, dating back to the West Germanic language brought to the British Isles by Anglo-Saxon immigrants about 1,500 years ago. In the beginning, Old English consisted of a variety of dialects that reflected the origins of the different Anglo-Saxon kingdoms in England. Among these dialects, the Western Saxon dialect eventually became the most dominant. However, the development of English does not stop here. Old English was then influenced by two major waves of invasion. First, was the invasion of Scandinavia, which brought with it the influence of the Norse language. Later, after the Norman Conquest in 1066, English was also influenced by Norman French, which brought with it Roman elements. This acculturation and mixing of various influences gave birth to Central English, which then continued to evolve into Modern English as we know it today. Throughout its journey, English has not only developed internally, but also continued to adapt and absorb influences from the different cultures and languages it came into contact with. Invasions, colonialism, trade, and contact with other cultures of the world have shaped the increasingly rich and complex face of the English language. It was this long evolutionary process that ultimately brought English to its status as one of the most dominant global languages today.

English has its roots in the Proto-Indo-European language family, an ancient language that is thought to have emerged in Eurasia about 4,000-5,000 years ago. From the Proto-Indo-European family, then developed the West Germanic language group, among which English was born. Anglo-Saxon immigrants who came to the British Isles around the 5th century AD brought with them West Germanic dialects that later transformed into Old English. In the beginning, Old English consisted of a diverse array of dialects that reflected the origins of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms in England. Among these dialects, the Western Saxon dialect ended up being the most dominant. However, the development of English does not stop here. In the 9th century AD, Old English was influenced by the invasion from Scandinavia, which brought with it the influence of Norse. Later, after the Norman Conquest in 1066, English also acquired influence from French Norman, which brought with it Roman elements. This acculturation and mixing of various influences gave birth to Central English, which then continued to evolve into Modern English as we know it today. Throughout its journey, English has not only developed internally, but also continued to adapt and absorb influences from the different cultures and languages it came into contact with. Invasions, colonialism, trade, and contact with other cultures of the world have shaped the increasingly rich and complex face of the English language. It was this long

evolutionary process from its Proto-Indo-European roots to its development into a global language that ultimately brought English to its current dominant status.

English with its vast and complex history and development, has become one of the most dominant global languages at every end of the world today. Whether it's from how our everyday conversations are to international communication, English has become an essential tool that connects people from different cultures and countries. In this scientific paper, we will examine and examine how the evolution of English itself has acquired its status as a global language, witness how it has progressed over time, and why this has happened.

Proto-Indo-English is a proto-Indo-European language that is the ancestor of modern English. It evolved from a Proto-Indo-European language and underwent a transformation through various periods of linguistic history to modern English. (English et al., 2012) English has a long and complex history of development, dating back to the West Germanic language brought to the British Isles by Anglo-Saxon immigrants about 1,500 years ago. In the beginning, Old English consisted of a variety of dialects that reflected the origins of the different Anglo-Saxon kingdoms in England. Among these dialects, the Western Saxon dialect eventually became the most dominant. However, the development of English does not stop here. Old English was then influenced by two major waves of invasion. First, was the invasion of Scandinavia, which brought with it the influence of the Norse language. Later, after the Norman Conquest in 1066, English was also influenced by Norman French, which brought with it Roman elements. This acculturation and mixing of various influences gave birth to Central English, which then continued to evolve into Modern English as we know it today. Throughout its journey, English has not only developed internally, but also continued to adapt and absorb influences from the different cultures and languages it came into contact with. Invasions, colonialism, trade, and contact with other cultures of the world have shaped the increasingly rich and complex face of the English language. It was this long evolutionary process that ultimately brought English to its status as one of the most dominant global languages today.

Sharing a role as a global language with other languages can have potential advantages and disadvantages. The advantages include promoting language diversity and cultural exchange. On the other hand, the disadvantages may include challenges in maintaining unified communication standards and potential conflicts between speakers of different languages.

This division of the roles of global languages with other languages can lead to a more inclusive and diverse linguistic landscape globally, but it can also pose challenges in terms of standardization and mutual understanding among speakers of different languages. Proto-Indo-European languages are languages that are believed to be the ancestors of many languages in Europe and South Asia. The language is believed to have developed around 4500-2500 BC in what is now Ukraine and southern Russia.

Proto-Indo-European languages (PIE) are language reconstruction reconstructions of the ancestors of the Indo-European language family which is the related language group with the largest number of speakers in the world. There have been far more attempts to reconstruct Proto-Indo-European languages than any other proto-language, and it is by far the most researched proto-language. Most of the language research efforts of the 19th century were devoted to the reconstruction of Proto-Indo-European languages or their proto-descendant languages, such as Proto-Germanic languages, and modern language reconstruction techniques (such as comparative methods) were developed during this period. (Wikipedia, "Proto-Indo-European Languages." Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia. Retrieved on 18 Apr. 24, from https://id.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bahasa_Proto-Indo-Eropa).

It is mentioned that in the sixteenth century, Jesuit missionaries began working in India and discovered striking similarities between Sanskrit and classical European languages such as Latin and Greek. This can be the basis for discussing how English, as one of the European languages, has a global influence and similarities with other languages. (2016, bk. *The Oxford Introduction to Proto-Indo-European and the Proto-Indo-European World*). Quoting from the Journal *"the Transformation of English As a Global Language in the Future"* (Pandarangga, 2016) English has undergone a transformation into a global language due to its important role as a communication tool that connects people from different cultures, countries, and backgrounds. (David Crystal, 2016) stated that English has succeeded in uniting the wider world into a global village. For example, people from India, Senegal, Portugal, and Spain can share cultural understanding with each other through English. However, there are concerns that the dominance of English as a global language could threaten linguistic diversity in the world, with some minority languages threatened with extinction due to a lack of use. To overcome this, Thao (1991) proposed a collaboration between native speakers who design English teaching materials and non-native speakers who understand the local cultural context, so that the quality of English teaching and learning can be improved globally. In addition, the adaptation of English teaching materials into the context of local culture has been carried out in various countries such as China, India, Africa, and Korea. This shows that English as a global

language continues to undergo transformation and adaptation to the new environment and challenges from other languages such as Mandarin, Arabic, and Spanish.

As such, while English continues to evolve as a global language, it is important to maintain the linguistic and cultural diversity around the world from becoming endangered. Collaboration between native and non-native speakers in the development of English teaching materials and adaptation to the local cultural context can be an effective step in maintaining linguistic diversity in this era of globalization.

CONCLUSION

In this study, it has been revealed that the evolution of English as a global language involves various complex and interrelated factors. Through a careful analysis of history, the influence of colonialism, trade, technology, and the role of the United States after World War II, we can see how English has become the dominant lingua franca in various fields of communication and international interaction. The development of English from the Anglo-Saxon dialects of ancient England to a global language that is widely spoken around the world is the result of a long and varied process. British colonialism, global trade, and advances in modern communication technology have all played a significant role in the spread and mastery of the English language at the international level. In addition, the important role of the United States as a great power after World War II cannot be ignored. Political, economic, and cultural support from the United States has strengthened the position of English as the dominant language in politics, science, technology, and entertainment. In the context of growing globalization, the role of English as a global language cannot be underestimated. By being the primary language in fields such as business, education, technology, and diplomacy, English has become a powerful tool for connecting people from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds. In this study, the authors have tried to dig deeper into the process of evolution of English as a global language, which involves a complex history, the important role of colonialism and trade, and the impact of technology and political power after World War II.

The development of English from the Anglo-Saxon dialects of ancient England to the language widely spoken around the world is a reflection of continuous adaptation and transformation. With the strong influence of various external factors such as British colonialism and the domination of the United States, English has become one of the important aspects of modern globalization. Nevertheless, in this increasingly complex and connected context, further study of the evolution of the English language is still needed

to understand the further implications of its dominance as a global language. How the English language affects cultural identity, economic development, and power inequality around the world are some of the questions that can be explored further. Thus, this research is not the end of the discussion, but the beginning for a deeper understanding of the role of language in the dynamics of globalization. We hope that our findings can make a meaningful contribution to our understanding of language and communication in the context of this increasingly connected world. Thank you for the attention and support provided during this research process. In the context of growing globalization, the role of English as a global language cannot be underestimated. By being the primary language in fields such as business, education, technology, and diplomacy, English has become a powerful tool for connecting people from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds. In this study, we have attempted to delve deeper into the process of evolution of English as a global language, which involves a complex history, the important role of colonialism and trade, and the impact of technology and political power after World War II.

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