

Significance of English as International Language

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Abstract:

English is widely recognised as the language of the world, even though there are more Mandarin and Spanish speakers in the world than English speakers. International language ranks high both in terms of the number of countries where it is spoken as well as the sheer number of people who speak that language either as native speakers or as second language speakers. A global language such as English is an enabler for international communication. Historically; languages that became popular were those whose leaders wielded great power. Latin, which was the language spoken by the Romans, is one such example.

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Reasons for choosing English Language:

1. **Default language:** Apart from international politics, English is recognised as the default language of choice in the world of academics, business, science and technology (including digital technology), films and music, literature, and news distribution, to name a few.
2. **Recognised at the UN and across the EU:** English is the preferred language at international organisations such as the United Nations, and especially during diplomatic exchanges between political leaders of countries. English is the official language of the European Union. It is spoken as a foreign language in 19 of the 25 EU Member States, even though it is not an official language in these countries. Once again politics is at play, as it is expected that **English will cease to be the official EU language once Britain exits the European Union.**
3. **The British Empire:** One of the biggest propellers of the English language between the 17th and 19th century was the erstwhile British Empire. The geographical expanse of the colonies and the international trade driven by the British led to the spread of the English language across continents, from South Asia, Asia Pacific, to Africa, the Middle East, and Australia. In fact, most former British colonies such as India, still use English as a language of formal communication and education in addition to the local dialect.

4. **The rise of USA:** English is the dominant language spoken in the world's most powerful nation – the United States of America. The emergence of USA as a global leader in almost every field ranging from business, science and technology, entertainment and sports, is one of the main reasons why English commands such global influence even today.
5. **The purchasing power of English-speaking nations:** Every international brand worth its salt and every invention and discovery of our age, must gain acceptance in leading English-speaking markets such as USA, Canada, UK and Australia. This makes the use of English as medium of communication almost mandatory.
6. **Status symbol:** In many countries, being able to speak and write English fluently as a non-native English speaker, is often seen as a status symbol because it means that you have had an 'English' based education in a private school. In continuation of this thought, some of the world's most aspirational academic institutions such as Yale, Harvard, Cambridge and Oxford are based in English-speaking nations.
7. **The Internet is mostly English-based:** Most of the content created on the web is in English.

As of today, English is recognised as the 'world's 'lingua franca' or the common language spoken by people of other languages. While it's hard to say which languages will be popular in the future, it is estimated that by the year 2050 the French language will be the most spoken language in the world. But it is expected that English will retain its top spot as the language that bridges communication barriers between people from diverse linguistic backgrounds.

Known reality about the English Language

Whether you are learning English or consider yourself somewhat of a master communicator in English, here are a few interesting facts about the language.

- The English language as we know it evolved in the 14th century.
- It's difficult to estimate the **number of words in the English language** but a new word is added every two hours. Every year about 1000 new English words enter the Oxford Dictionary.
- The vowel 'e' is the most used letter in the English language
- A sentence that uses every alphabet in the English language is called a pangram. For example, "We promptly judged antique ivory buckles for the next prize."
- Ironically the word 'pronunciation' is one of the most mispronounced words in the English language.
- English is a mandatory language if you aspire to have a career in international aviation. As a **pilot or crew on international flights, you** must be able to speak English.
- While English is an easy language to learn, the longest word in the dictionary can leave even the most fluent speakers of English speechless. The longest English word is

Pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis, a lung disease caused by inhalation of dust and fine ash.

- After the U.S, India has the highest number of English language speakers in the world.

Conclusion:

English is the closest thing to be used as a Global Language. English language enjoys such wide spread reach. Its reach is explained primarily by the world of Politics. Hence English is widely recognized as the international language.

References

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