

WHY IS ENGLISH SO WIDELY SPOKEN AROUND THE WORLD?

*D. Baxtiyorova*¹, *S. Isroilova*², *O. Sattorov*³

Abstract:

English has become a global language spoken by millions worldwide, functioning as a primary or secondary language in numerous countries. Its widespread use can be attributed to several key factors, including the colonial expansion of the British Empire, the economic influence of the United States, and the spread of globalization. Additionally, the internet, the dominance of English in education and science, and its cultural impact through media have all played crucial roles in its global prominence. This article examines the historical, political, and cultural reasons that have contributed to English becoming the world's lingua franca, and its continued relevance in international communication.

Key words: English as a global language, colonial expansion, globalization, internet, education, cultural influence, economic power, lingua franca.

doi: <https://doi.org/10.2024/rs4r4683>

English has achieved the status of a global language, spoken by millions of people across continents. It functions not only as the mother tongue of nations like the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia but also as the second or foreign language for billions in countries like India, Nigeria, and China. This widespread use of English stems from a combination of historical, political, economic, and cultural factors that have enabled it to become the lingua franca of the modern world. This article explores the key reasons behind the global spread of English.

Colonial Expansion and Political Power. One of the primary reasons for the global reach of English is the colonial expansion of the British Empire from the 17th to the 20th century. At its height, the British Empire spanned across Asia, Africa, the Americas, and Oceania. English was introduced as the language of administration, governance, and trade in these colonies, leaving a lasting linguistic legacy even after the colonies gained independence. As Phillipson notes, “the expansion of the British Empire led to the initial widespread distribution of English, especially in regions like South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Caribbean” [Phillipson, 1992, p. 57].

Economic Influence of English-Speaking Nations. The rise of the United States as an economic superpower in the 20th century further cemented English’s global dominance. Following World War II, the United States emerged as a leader in commerce, technology, and culture, making English the language of global business, diplomacy, and technology. Companies like Microsoft, Google, and Apple, which revolutionized communication and technology, originated from English-speaking countries, reinforcing the use of English worldwide. As Crystal explains, “economic power, especially that of the United States, has been a significant driving force behind the spread of English in the modern era” [Crystal, 2003, p. 47].

¹ *Baxtiyorova Durdona Adiraim qizi, Student of Group 506 at the Night Faculty, Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages*

² *Isroilova Sitora Shahriyor qizi, Student of Group 506 at the Night Faculty, Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages*

³ *Sattorov Ozod Bobirovich, Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages, Teacher*

Globalization and the Internet. The advent of globalization has further amplified the importance of English. With the rise of global trade, multinational companies, and international cooperation, English has become the default language for communication across borders. Additionally, the internet, which was largely developed in English-speaking countries, has expanded English's influence. Today, an estimated 60% of websites are in English, making it a key language for accessing information online [Statista, 2023].

Education and Science. English is also the dominant language of science, technology, and academia. Leading scientific journals, research publications, and higher education institutions use English as the primary language. This has led to a growing number of non-English-speaking countries adopting English as a medium of instruction in universities, particularly in fields like engineering, medicine, and business. According to Ammon, "the language of science has increasingly shifted to English, with over 90% of published research papers in natural sciences written in English" [Ammon, 2012, p. 143].

Cultural Influence. The influence of English-language media, including Hollywood films, pop music, and TV shows, has contributed to English becoming a cultural force around the world. American and British entertainment industries have a global audience, spreading not just the language but also English-speaking cultural norms and values. Graddol highlights that "cultural imperialism through media has played a significant role in maintaining the global status of English" [Graddol, 1997, p. 82].

English's status as a global language is the result of centuries of historical events, economic shifts, and cultural trends. From the expansion of the British Empire to the economic power of the United States and the impact of globalization, English has solidified its place as the language of international communication, science, and popular culture. As the world becomes more interconnected, the prominence of English is likely to continue, making it an indispensable tool for global interaction.

References:

- [1]. Ablakulovich, Abror Ernazarov, and Nasrullayeva Nafisa Zafarovna. "Theory of teaching english vocabulary." In *Proceedings of International Conference on Modern Science and Scientific Studies*, vol. 2, no. 4, pp. 11-15. 2023.
- [2]. Akbaraliyevich L. A. *Peculiarities of teaching foreign language to grown-ups //modern views and research*. – 2020. – C. 171.
- [3]. Akhtamovna, Mamatkulova Kholida. "Expression of ethnocultural concepts in japanese philosophy and artistic text." *Spectrum Journal of Innovation, Reforms and Development* 5 (2022): 6-9.
- [4]. Ammon, U. *The Dominance of English as a Language of Science*. – Berlin: De Gruyter, 2012. – 143 p.
- [5]. Crystal, D. *English as a Global Language (2nd ed.)*. – Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003. – 47 p.
- [6]. Graddol, D. *The Future of English?*. – London: The British Council, 1997. – 82 p.
- [7]. *Humorous phraseologisms - as a tool of funny assessment of real events (in French material) Shahobiddin Ashurov and Nigorabonu Suvonova BIO Web Conf.*, 65 (2023) 10024 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1051/bioconf/20236510024>
- [8]. Jenkins, J. *World Englishes: A Resource Book for Students*. – London: Routledge, 2003. – 256 p.
- [9]. Kachru, B. B. *The Other Tongue: English Across Cultures*. – Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1982. – 192 p.
- [10]. McArthur, T. *The Oxford Companion to the English Language*. – Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992. – 951 p.

- [11]. Nasrullaeva, N. (2024, October). *Gender aspect in phraseology*. In *Conference Proceedings: Fostering Your Research Spirit* (pp. 324-327).
- [12]. Nettle, D., & Romaine, S. *Vanishing Voices: The Extinction of the World's Languages*. – Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000. – 240 p.
- [13]. Phillipson, R. *Linguistic Imperialism*. – Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992. – 57 p.
- [14]. Respublikasi, O'zbekiston. "Interpretation of national concepts in the works of abdulla qodiriy and navarre scott momaday sattorov ozod bobirovich." *toshkent davlat sharqshunoslik universiteti* (2024): 590.
- [15]. Sattorov, Ozod Bobirovich. "Paremiologik birliklarda variantlanish hodisasi". *Innovation: The Journal of Social Science and Researchers*, vol. 1, no. 8, 2023, pp. 10-14. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7847813>.
- [16]. Sattorova, Gulmira. "Features fantasy Kenzaburo Oe." *Результаты научных исследований в условиях пандемии (COVID-19)* 1.03 (2020): 57-60.
- [17]. Schermerhorn, R. A., & Wright, D. J. *The Cultural Dimensions of International Business*. – New York: Wiley, 2005. – 336 p.
- [18]. Shermatov A. *Some features of implicature in english and uzbek literary texts*.
- [19]. Statista. *Share of Languages on the Internet as of January 2023*. – Retrieved from www.statista.com.
- [20]. Tuychiyeva Navbahor Ruzimurot kizi, & Latipov Aziz Akbaraliyevich. (2023). *The relationship of phase with components of aspectuality*. *Новости образования: исследование в XXI веке*, 1(10), 333-337.
- [21]. Zafarovna, Nasrullayeva Nafisa. "Family. concept, types, structure, problems." *ijtimoiy fanlarda innovasiya onlayn ilmiy jurnali* 3.4 (2023): 160-163.
- [22]. Ашууров Ш. *Лексические особенности английских эквивалентов узбекских пословиц, передающих национальные ценности //Зарубежная лингвистика и лингводидактика*. – 2023. – Т. 1. – №. 1. – С. 1-10.
- [23]. Ашууров Ш., Мирзакулова М. *Концепт «любовь» в пословичной картине мира в английском и узбекском языках //Общество и инновации*. – 2021. – Т. 2. – №. 4/S. – С. 78-83.
- [24]. Ашууров, Шахобиддин Саидович. "К проблеме типологии субстанциональных синтаксем (на примере английского и узбекского языков)." *Ученый XXI века* 2-5 (2016).
- [25]. Насруллаева, Нафиса Зафаровна. "Национально-культурная специфика английских фразеологизмов с именами собственными." *ББК 74.48 Р76* (2019): 208.
- [26]. Насруллаева, Нафиса Зафаровна. "Функционирование английских гендерно маркированных фразеологизмов в художественной литературе." *Бюллетень науки и практики* 6 (19) (2017): 342-348.
- [27]. Озокова Ч. А., Шерматов А. А. *К вопросу истории теории женской литературы (на примере современной узбекской прозы) //Современное общество: актуальные проблемы и перспективы развития в социокультурном пространстве*. – 2019. – С. 167-169.