GLOBAL REASONS FOR GLOBALIZED ENGLISH: AN EXPLORATORY STUDY

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Abstract:

The paper analyses the fundamental causes for the spread of English all over the Globe. Global language is a very recent phenomenon that has been revolutionized the cultures, traditions, technologies and lifestyles of people across the globe. In the context, it is always fascinating to dwell upon the causes of the rise of an inferior language, English, into a world renowned rather most accepted or most adopted language. It is essential to assimilate the facets of the profound reasons that shaped modern English language. The paper outlines the vital causes of the spread of the English language and its essence to incorporate the ever changing language in the teaching and learning process.

Key Words: Global English, Industrialization, Multiculturalism, Modernization, and (Advanced science and technology) internet.

Definition-Global Language:

The expression 'Global Language' may give a wide range of meanings and interpretations. If the real sense of the term 'global language' is not defined properly it becomes a misnomer. It is certainly not as most people think of the expression- as a language spoken all over the world, a language recognized as an official language by all the nations of the world etc. All such notions are generally interpreted even by linguists which in turn is not what the expression 'global language' stands for in its true sense. The most appropriate idea for the term is a language that owns a special status and plays a significant role in every country rather in most countries of the world. To gain a special status in a country does not mean that the language must be a spoken as first or second or a foreign language but it should be the language primarily used as a mode of

communication in most parts of the world. This is the one of the significant characteristics of a global language. David Crystal elucidates the characteristics of a global language as follows

> If there is one predictable consequence of a language becoming a global language, it is that nobody owns it any more. Or rather, everyone who has learned it now own it-'has a share in it' might be more accurate- and has a right to use it in the way they want. (Crystal, David 2)

The fact concerned with 'English as a global language' is its rapid movement spreading the wings like no other language has ever done till recently. The following are the four profound reasons for the growth of the globalized English.

1. Industrialization

The transition in production of goods from manual process to machine took place in England during the period between 1760 and 1840. Most of the inventions during the period had affected various aspects of society including religion, literacy, economy, language and life style of people at large. For instance, William Caxton's initiative as a (merchant, writer, diplomat, publisher and printer) book publisher paved way to the literary revolution in England. Subsequently, the English script was available in the form of books (first printed book: Recuyell of the Historyes of Troye) from the year 1473. Before the application of printing press in England, there used to be religious scriptures accessible only for priests. However, the effects of industrialization (here press) brought significant changes in English language and society at large. The other inventions including telegraph, phonograph, telephone, television are responsible for new forms, styles and varieties of language that were never existed before the inventions. For instance, with the invention of printing press the news formats like report writing, sports column, editorial, features etc were evolved. Similarly, telegraph has changed the way of drafting for a specific purpose; it incorporated precision in written communication. In addition, with the advent of telephone, people started new conversational styles (opening the dialogue by saying 'Hello'). Expressions like 'you are not audible', 'there is lot of static on the line', 'May I place your call on hold', 'how may I help you?' and so on weren't used before in the typical sense of telephone communication. Further, new varieties of communication such as sports commentary, news casting, interviews, live telecasts, interviews formats have been evolved with the invention of television.

2. Multiculturalism

The harmony among diverse cultures, races, religions, ethnic groups, values, traditions, ideas, systems and languages in society is termed as multiculturalism. In such a society, ideally, people would value and accept one another in all aspects. It became prominent force in American society during the period between 1970s and1980s. As a result of the multicultural society the

new collocations of words have been added to the existing English words. The list includes the words like cross-culturalism, ethnic groups, pluralism, cultural-diversity, racism, acculturation, achievement gap, ageism, American Indian movement (AIM), Amerasian, apartheid, baby boomers, bicultural, barrio,bigotry,bilingual,colorblind,cultural-ally,ethnocentralism,Equal employment opportunity (EEO),fresh off the boat (FOB) and illegal alien, inter-cultural communities. Each of the above expressions has its own unique meaning and application. For instance, the expressions like Acculturation (the process of learning and incorporating the language, values, beliefs, and behaviours that make up a distinct culture). The concept is not to be confused with the expression 'assimilation' where an individual, family, or group may give up certain aspects of its culture in order to adapt to that of their new host country. The term 'achievement gap' has two significant connotations the first one is a trend in the US educational system where white students academic performance is greater than blacks. It could apply between girls and boys as well. And the expressions like Baby Boomers (Term used to describe the generation born during the two decades following World War II, from the 1940's through the '60's, when the United States experienced a significant rise in birth rates.), Cultural Ally (An individual who actively supports others who experience racism and/or discrimination.) and Glass Ceiling (term used to describe the "unseen" barrier that prevents women and people of color from being hired or promoted beyond a certain level of responsibility, prestige, or seniority in the workplace) are all result of multiculturalism. In this way the new and diverse experiences of people in multicultural world give rise to inevitable volume of expression all over the globe.

3. Modernization

A Progressive transition of a traditional society to modern society is termed as modernization. The process of modernization effects many domains including economy, education, life style and languages. World English speakers use the language predominantly in various domains such as business, politics, internet, media, education and culture. As a result of modernization English language is widely used all over the world.

4. Internet: Education, Entertainment, Enlightenment, News, Business, politics, culture, music, languages, sports and games, tourism, fashion, technology and many other spheres; If there is any platform that facilitates all the above mentioned domains the answer certainly one-the Internet- an outstanding contribution of the modern science. With the advent of internet, the vast world is seen through a small window with a click of a mouse connecting people of different parts of the world. And the chief language used in internet communication is English. There are many apprehensions that Internet is rapidly changing English language with new vocabulary, abbreviations and styles.

In the words of David crystal

> And as the internet comes increasingly to be viewed from a social perspective, so the role of language becomes central. Indeed, notwithstanding the remarkable technological achievements and the visual panache of screen presentation, what is immediately obvious when engaging in any of the Internet's functions is its linguistic character. If the internet is a revolution, therefore, it is likely to be a linguistic revolution. (Crystal, David 8)

In the modern linguistic revolution, the expressions like Netspeak, Cyberspeak, weblish, 'Msg' for Message, BRB for 'be right back', F2T for 'free to talk', PCM for 'please call me', MMYT 'mail me your thoughts', RUOK for 'Are you ok?', HHOJ for 'Ha ha, only Joking', TXT, weblish for 'web English' etc. Another novel usage in weblish is that the symbol '@' act as a universal link between sender and receiver and the trend has entered in various business organizations replacing the letter 'a' with the symbol '@' such @pex instead of 'apex' @tractions instead of 'attractions' and soon. Other symbols such as :-) for happiness, :- (for sadness, ;-(for crying,:-[for sarcasm and other symbols convey different emotions. On a global scenario, the web language is certainly emerging as a new domain and one should be updated with the current trends and varieties of web language to avoid " %-(" confusion.

Conclusion:

It is very essential to update oneself about the ever changing language for it is dynamic in nature. In the context of teaching and learning process, comprehending the nuisances of global language will keep abreast of new trends of learning and teaching language process. When a language teacher is not aware of the various facets and the causes of these global changes in its usage it would set the teacher in a conventional mode. However, a teacher of a dynamic language ought to be dynamic in nature. Therefore, the above paper addresses the need to understand the effervescent nature of Globalized English in teaching and learning process.

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