



## History of English Become an International Language

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### **Abstract**

The need of the world community for mastery of the English language is increasingly showing a rapid increase. Not in some countries, English is used as a second language after the national language. English is one of the international languages that is widely taught in various countries around the world. The approach used in this study is a qualitative approach method. Two research data sources are used in studying this: primary and secondary sources. Examination technique \_ used in practice this technique triangulation source, where the source is available from dig truth information and uses various data sources like observation. Data analysis is based on the data obtained to compile and analyze the data collected using the descriptive quantitative method. Results show that the use of English as an international language is based on the history of British colonialism. England, the largest colonial territory, has influenced the expansion of the language spoken by colonized peoples, as quoted from Multicultural Education by Ainul Yaqin. In the British colonies, English developed as it was used in discussions about peace, religion, trade, migration, ideas, books, and so on. English-speaking soldiers, colonists, and sailors who spread in these areas also extended the use of English.

**Keywords:** *Language; English; International*

### **Introduction**

The demand for English language proficiency in the global community is accelerating. In some nations, English is the second language after the native tongue. Even in other nations, such as England, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States, some people speak English as their first language or native tongue. in order for this language to play a significant role in education, government, literature, and popular culture. English is one of the international languages that is widely taught in numerous nations. Numerous citizens of various nations use English as a means of communication in various international gatherings (Richard and Rodgers, 1986:1). Because it is possible to estimate how fortunate countries are whose languages have become international, we will now discuss how English became an international language. The country's citizens, especially the educated, enjoy pleasant amenities. They are able to travel to many countries around the world and communicate orally and in writing with many foreigners without difficulty in terms of communication and information. "Different applies to Indonesian intellectuals. As the language is not yet universal, they must learn English in order to progress. English is now an essential requirement for people in nearly every region of the globe. In Indonesia, English is used

as an introduction to learning and is required at all educational levels. Currently, English is taught as early as kindergarten (TK), albeit in the form of vocabulary recognition through imitation of the teacher. Since first grade, English has been taught in elementary schools using student textbooks in a more structured manner. Thus, not only are students introduced to sound but also to writing. Due to the stark differences between written and spoken English and Indonesian, however, elementary school students frequently mispronounce English words based on their writing. This causes students to feel confused and uncertain when reading English texts. As a result, some parents augment their children's English study time with a private tutor. Every student who studies English must master four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Each skill is interconnected with the others. The implementation of the free market necessitates that the Indonesian people be competent in all fields in order to compete. To achieve national prosperity, Indonesia must rely less on natural resources and physical capabilities and more on professional human resources. One of the requirements for achieving this is the ability to communicate effectively in English. Mastery of English is crucial due to the fact that almost all global information sources use this language in various facets of daily life (Durand, 2006: 7). It is clear that if they only speak Indonesian, they will feel less capable in the globalization era. They must be able to speak English like high officials and businessmen. If government officials, such as ministers, do not understand English, it will be difficult for them to develop the country, and there will be no international cooperation due to communication difficulties. Similarly, it will be difficult for large businessmen to export their products abroad if they only sell domestic goods, as this will hinder their ability to develop. Globalization can increase the frequency with which all of the world's inhabitants meet for discussion, negotiation, and other activities. All of this requires the use of a global language for communication. Along with the growing influence of globalization, students, professors, and perhaps even future generations will be expected to speak English, whether they like it or not. So that we can communicate directly both at school and on campus, we are encouraged to be able to speak English, as we already view English proficiency as a supplement to the ability to speak Indonesian correctly.

### ***Theoretical Review***

English is a Germanic language that was first spoken in England during the Early Middle Ages and is now the most widely spoken language in the world. [4] The majority of the population in a number of countries, including the United Kingdom, Ireland, the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and some Caribbean nations, speak English as their first language. English is also the official language of nearly 60 sovereign nations. English is the third most widely spoken native language in the world, after Mandarin and Spanish. [5] English is used as a secondary and official language by the European Union, the Commonwealth of Nations, the Nations, and a variety of other organizations. b. The Significance of English in the Contemporary World Language is an indispensable means of communication. It facilitates the exchange of thoughts and ideas and the formation of friendships, economic ties, and cultural bonds. Without language, we can only communicate through sign language. In addition, language distinguishes differences and preserves cultural diversity in a country, region, or community (Kirkpatrick, 2012). Language influences how people perceive the world and helps define the culture of any given society. Any language is a gift, and the ability to speak multiple languages makes a person more efficient and competent. It expands our minds and leads us into a fantastical world of dreams (Mumu, 2017). Certainly, proper language acquisition helps us develop our minds and personalities. Human language is unique because it is a system of learned symbolic communication that is not innate for some individuals. English is the official language of a number of Commonwealth nations and is widely spoken and understood. English is spoken in the most countries and in the most countries than any other language. Meanwhile According to Pity (2001:43), English is the most important foreign language for accessing information, absorbing and developing science, technology, arts, and culture, and fostering international relations (Horobin, 2016). According to Wells (2006), English is a tool for oral and written communication. Understanding and expressing information, thoughts, and emotions, as well as developing science,

technology, and culture using that language, constitutes communication (Pennycook, 2007). In a comprehensive sense, the ability to communicate is the ability to speak, that is, the ability to comprehend and/or produce written and/or spoken text through the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. These four skills are used to respond to and generate social discourse. In order for graduates to be able to communicate and have a discourse in English at a certain level (according to Chodijah 2000), English classes are geared toward developing these skills. English is an international language that everyone must know, so it is essential for everyone to learn the language, both as children and as adults. Not only must English be understood and comprehended, but it must also be mastered (Selvi, & Yazan, 2013).

### ***Research Methods***

The method employed in this study is a qualitative approach. In this case, the qualitative approach is descriptive and analysis-oriented research. The theoretical foundation serves as a guide, so the research can concentrate on the facts. In his research, the author made direct observations regarding English's status as a global language to date. This study uses two sources of research data: primary sources obtained from <https://www.wallstreetenglish.co.id> and secondary sources, which are titled "the history of English's recognition as an international language," and secondary sources derived from the fact that English has been recognized as an international language in the real world. This method employs the source triangulation technique for inspection, in which the source is determined by digging up the truth of the information using multiple data sources, such as observation. To compile and analyze the collected data, descriptive quantitative methods were applied to the obtained data for data analysis. The author employs the quantitative descriptive method to describe a situation to be analyzed, with the aid of literature studies to strengthen the researcher's analysis of the obtained data. The recording activities are performed to record the data obtained from direct observation. This action is taken to prevent the possibility of forgetting the data and information gleaned from study observations. The data were successfully extracted and gathered, then categorized and interpreted using qualitative analysis. Using this type of analysis model, the obtained data will be described and analyzed in depth in accordance with the research problem. As a result of this study's findings, students and the general public can understand why English has become an international language despite the existence of numerous other languages.

### ***Result and Discussion***

Every time we travel to a new country, we will use English as our primary language while we are there. This is due to the fact that English is considered a global language. Even in some nations, English is the second language after the native tongue. Kachru and Nelson (2011) divide English-speaking countries into three categories. The first category consists of countries where English is the native language, such as England, Canada, and Australia. Nigeria, Singapore, and India are countries with an institutional history of English in which the language plays an important role, particularly in the fields of education, government, literature, and popular culture (Clyne, & Sharifian, 2008). Indonesia, Russia, and China are examples of countries that use English for a variety of purposes but do not use it as their primary language for everyday communication (Expanding Circle Countries). In his writings, McKay (2003) asserts that the popularity of English is not a result of countries' efforts to spread their language, but rather of the global community's recognition of the significance of English proficiency. Because it cannot be denied on a global scale, all world information is written in English, so in order to access it, individuals must be proficient in the language (Sasaki, 2008).

## History of the English Language

Therefore, we will now discuss how English became a global language. What factors contribute to English's designation as a lingua franca or international language? In general, the widespread use of the English language can be attributed to the Allies' victories in World Wars I and II. This viewpoint is not incorrect, but English has spread since before the start of the first World War (Coleman, 2010). Prior to that, it must be understood that English did not originate solely in the United Kingdom and the United States, which are frequently regarded as their homelands. Several other languages originating from countries that once ruled Great Britain contributed to the formation of English. It began with the Roman Empire's conquest of Britain in 55 BC, which introduced Latin to British soil. Latin is the ancestor of many European languages, including Italian, French, German, Portuguese, and Spanish (Elyas, & Picard, 2018). After that, the majority of Europeans, particularly those who lived on the English mainland, spoke Celtic languages, along with a number of other languages. The German Empire colonized Britain in the fifth century AD, bringing with it the languages of its three tribes: Angles, Saxons, and Rami. Saint Augustine arrived as a missionary in the sixth century and spread Christian doctrine. Latin, Greek, and Hebrew were also impacted by the spread of Christian teachings on English. With the arrival of the Vikings in the eighth century, English was once again influenced by the Scandinavian language they brought with them. In 1066, the Normans from Normandy, Northern France, colonized and conquered Britain, thereby introducing French influence. In conclusion, English is derived from Latin, German (Anglo-Saxon), Greek, Hebrew, Scandinavian, and French. Additionally, English is influenced by Dutch due to the proximity of the two regions. During the exploration era of the 15th and 16th centuries, the spread of English derived from these diverse languages began. As the British Empire expanded, the English language also spread around the globe. Initially, however, German was the predominant language spoken everywhere.

When World War I began, the German language was banned in all areas governed by the United Kingdom and the United States because it was considered an enemy tongue. In 1922, the British Empire was able to occupy nearly one-fifth of the world, or approximately one-fifth of the world's population. As a result, the British people spread throughout the region, and the use of English became more widespread. Also, scientific terms were created for scientific books and journals, as the use of German was forbidden, so scientists from other countries were required to read in English. Although French and Spanish were both widely spoken at the time, English gained popularity in the 20th century. This is due to the victory of the Allies in World War II. The Treaty of Versailles was drafted in both French and English, marking the start of the use of English in diplomacy. The United States, one of the victors of World War II, has been able to maintain and even increase its influence in the military, political, and economic spheres throughout the world. While the United States' influence on other nations grows, technological and communication advancements are also advancing. American cultures such as music, films, and television shows began to be disseminated, which contributed to the influence of world citizens and increased the use of English in diplomatic settings and by the general public. The widespread use of English in a variety of fields increases the demand for and necessity to master English. Finally, many countries' curricula mandate English instruction in schools. More and more English courses are also being offered. Prior to the Cold War, English competed with Russian as a global language because, at the time, the Soviet Union's member states used Russian as their Lingua Franca. After the demise of the Soviet Union, the use of Russian as a Lingua Franca and in scientific journals decreased (Al-Jarf, 2008). To date, it has been established that 96% of scientific journals are written in English. The progression of globalization strengthens English's position as an international language. The English language remains the most popular language on the Internet. In conclusion, the success of the United Kingdom in exploring and expanding its power was the first step in introducing English to the world. The United States' efforts to spread the language increased its popularity, and the development of technologies and information that facilitate communication between nations has resulted in English becoming the de facto international language. In addition to the lengthy historical reasons listed above, English has become a global language

because it is simple to learn. Specifically for native speakers of languages derived from Latin, German, and French, which are also the origins of English. Additionally, English is the language with the quickest rate of updating new vocabulary. Modern idioms and slang have contributed to the addition of up to 8500 new words to the English language each year (Kostikova, et al., 2018).

### **English Development and Change**

In England, the evolution of the English language over the past fifteen centuries has been continuous. In this development, it is acknowledged that there are three periods in the history of the English language that serve as useful dividing lines for the linguistic changes that have taken place. These time frames are: Early English There are many varieties of languages in this time period. Old English had four major dialects: Northumbrian, Mercian, West Saxon, and Kenniche. Spelling, pronunciation, vowels, and grammar are the primary distinctions between ancient and contemporary English (Albert C. Baugh, 1963; Haryono, 2002). Early English During the Middle English period (1150 to 1500), the English language underwent numerous significant changes. Change is more feasible when it is comprehensive and fundamental. This modification to z-aman impacts English grammar and vocabulary. In the section on grammar, high inflection has been reduced to a significant difference analysis. Modern English In the 19th century, personal pronouns changed from their original form to a different form. There are differences in the research, including: the absence of thou, thy, and thee; the substitution of you for ye; the use of the nominative case; and the recognition of its as the possessive of it. In the early 17th century, a clear distinction was made between the two cases, but by the 18th century, both took on a standard form.

The pronoun is the most fascinating of the various English development strategies. In this period, there is a new possessive neuter form, its; as is well known, the neuter pronoun in Old English was declined, namely hit, his, him, and hit. By combining the Dative (accompaniment) and Accusative (suffering object), hits became "hits" in Middle English. During this time, the position of hit pressure gave way to it, and by the start of the modern era, it had become the most common form for both subject and object. It is also the appropriate possessive form. (Baugh, 1963:294; Haryono, 2002) English is widely spoken in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Ireland, and New Zealand, as well as the island nations of the Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean (Kostikova, et al., 2018). English is an official language in India, the Philippines, Singapore, and sub-Saharan African nations, including South Africa. The English language belongs to the Indo-European family of languages and is closely related to Frisian, German, and Dutch. According to the Encyclopdia Britannica, this language, originating in England, is the most popular in the world. This decision establishes English as a global language or lingua franca (basantara). Approximately a third of the world's population, or roughly 2 billion people, speak English today. Obviously, there are reasons why English is so prevalent on a global scale. colonial legacy The use of English as an international language is rooted in British colonialism (Hashimoto, 2000).

According to Multicultural Education by Ainul Yaqin, the expansion of its speakers among colonized peoples was influenced by England, which had the largest colonial territory. In British colonial countries, the English language grew as it was used to discuss peace, religion, trade, migration, ideas, and books, among other topics. English was spread in these regions by soldiers, colonists, and sailors who spoke the language (Crystal, 2013). International cooperation The twentieth century is regarded as a period of increased international cooperation (UN) with the establishment of the League of Nations, which later became the United Nations. This development has also contributed to the international spread of English. This cooperation has made the United Kingdom and the United States the new economic imperialists. As a result, English has advanced in a number of fields, particularly economics, investment, and international relations. Music for film subtitling Music, film, the telephone, radio, television, and the Internet all contribute to the development of English in society. This medium gives young people access

to English-language content produced by various English-speaking nations, with or without subtitles. This facilitates informal English learning outside of government and economics (Harris, 2001).

### **What is the Influence of English in the International World?**

English is the most widely spoken language in the world; more than 400 million people worldwide speak it as their native tongue. Every day, millions of people use English for work and social interactions. At international conferences between heads of state, English is the language most frequently spoken. Similarly, when people from different countries meet, English is their only common language. If you are still a student in high school or college, it is possible to learn and master English. If you have completed high school or college, you should be prepared to enter the workforce with the English skills required by your employer. These English skills can be continuously improved for those who are already employed. With strong English skills, it is likely that your career will continue to advance. Working in a foreign company increases the need for English proficiency. Communicating via e-mail or conference calls with the parent company or subsidiary companies in other countries is a normal part of a foreign company employee's day. Everything uses a global language, specifically a foreign language. According to research, English proficiency is strongly associated with a nation's development. A country's culture can also change in tandem with its openness to information, which is determined by the initiative of its citizens to seek out reputable news sources, information that knows no bounds, and a propensity to share vital topics. This relationship also has an effect on economic conditions and income levels.

According to 2017 data from the World Bank, there is a correlation between a country's English proficiency and its per capita net income. The greater the ability, the greater the earnings. Indonesia's per capita income ranks very low despite its English proficiency being one level higher. The high population figures of Indonesia also contribute to the overall average. Indonesia's GDP per capita and internet penetration are below the global average. This suggests that Indonesia has a significant opportunity to improve the quality of its English-speaking human resources. To improve the quality of human resources in Indonesia, it is necessary to take a massive approach and raise awareness of the significance of English as the most widely spoken foreign language on the planet.

Learning this language is no longer a requirement for good grades or school rankings, but rather a defense against the increasingly challenging currents of globalization. The English language can facilitate access to unlimited resources that Indonesians require. There are numerous methods for enhancing English proficiency. With the convenience of technology and increasing competition in the commercial education sector, the nation's next generation should have numerous opportunities to improve their individual qualities. *didik* Teachers must possess the necessary skills in order for the knowledge they impart to be effectively received. The method of instruction must also be tailored to the learning styles of Indonesian students. With good curriculum analysis and design, it is hoped that the next generation will develop a preference for English classes.

### **Conclusion**

The use of English as an international language is rooted in British colonialism. According to Multicultural Education by Ainul Yaqin, the largest colonial territory, England, has influenced the growth of languages spoken by colonized peoples.

As peace, religion, trade, migration, ideas, books, and other topics were discussed in the British colonies, the English language evolved. English was spread in these regions by soldiers, colonists, and sailors who spoke the language. English is the most widely spoken language in the world; more than 400 million people worldwide speak it as their native tongue. Every day, millions of people use English for work and social interactions. At international conferences between heads of state, English is the language

most frequently spoken. Similarly, when people from different countries meet, English is their only common language. If you are still a student in high school or college, it is possible to learn and master English. If you have completed high school or college, you should be prepared to enter the workforce with the English skills required by your employer. These English skills can be continuously improved for those who are already employed. With strong English skills, it is likely that your career will continue to advance. Working in a foreign company increases the need for English proficiency. Communicating via e-mail or conference calls with the parent company or subsidiary companies in other countries is a normal part of a foreign company employee's day. Everything employs an international language, specifically a foreign one. According to research, English proficiency is strongly associated with a nation's development.

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