

# Prominence of English Language in The Indian Society

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## Abstract:

The purpose of this research is to explore the impact English language has on Indian society, how it affects the personality, thinking and well-being of the Indian layman and what impact it has on their decisions, choices and ultimately their future. Literature-based qualitative research of methodology is adopted for this research. Various secondary sources of data collection viz. textbooks, journals, articles, magazines, etc. are also used for the progress of this work.

## Introduction:

“Language is the blood of the soul into which thoughts run and out of which they grow. “-Oliver Wendell Holmes

Looking back in history we find that English was not the native language of England as many of us would think it is. The German tribes had invaded England during the fifth century. One of the tribes were known as Angles and the English name is derived from Anglisc, which was the speech of the Angles. English has a vital role to play. It is the language of international politics and is one of the six official languages of the U.N.O. It is also the medium of Language at the U.N.O. and common wealth. The English language is the primary language of several countries including Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and many of its former colonies, and the United States and a second language in a number of multilingual countries including India, Singapore, Hong Kong, Germany, Austria and the Philippines. It's learned around the world by children in schools as a foreign language and often becomes a common medium of interaction between people of different nationalities when they meet while doing business, studying, travelling etc. There was a time when there was an emergence of an artificial language. While many languages were invented, they failed to penetrate in the daily language of the people. There was one however, that did gain momentum- Esperanto. Esperanto is an extremely easy language to learn. Esperanto has a relatively simple grammar, which is also completely regular. Hundreds of English prefixes and suffixes can be expressed with just a few dozen unambiguous Esperanto ones. However, even with its simple grammar and easy-to-learn vocabulary, it did not gain as much popularity in use as English did.

## Background Review:

### **English & the Indian society:**

A good English accent always makes heads turn in your direction if you are residing in India. It is one of the easiest ways to impress your way through an interview, a discussion, an argument, speeches or just general day to day activities. English has become a symbol of intellectuality and modernism in India. Now there are institutes and courses for teaching English in the context of special professions like doctors, teachers, engineers, etc. English is also important to know if one intends to be a part of competitive exams in India. Its importance lies in the roots of Indian history where India was subject to colonisation by England. During the British reign, English was imposed as a medium of communication while the ancestral languages of Indian society were sidelined. It gained momentum in the legal system, trade and business, higher education, administration & even technology.

## **Popularity of English among parents of young children:**

As an owner of a pre-school, I see how enthusiastic parents are to get their children to learn English. English has become a worldwide benchmark for all conversations and as we have discussed earlier, speaking English has become a basis to start a successful career. Children are quick learners and grasp information quickly if they are given an environment that supports their learning process. Conversing in English, reading to children, learning through games are all very effective ways of teaching English to children that are being adopted by schools and English teaching institutes. The upcoming generations are very keen to learn the language and new parents are working hard in attaining this goal which will result in many more ppl knowing English in the years to come.

## **Popularity of English among the Youth:**

As I've discussed earlier in this article, English language is popular amongst the youth as it is considered a symbol of being trendy and stylish. Also, a lot of content available online is mainly in English and with the increasing popularity of social media and the internet in general in our lives, it has become more important than ever to be educated of the English language. Many of the youngsters these days are interested in working abroad and for doing so, they need to be thorough in the English language as it is the most common lingua franca. Being well-versed in it will make endeavours smoother for the one pursuing a career abroad. Also, many companies abroad demand that their employees have good knowledge of English, irrespective of their designation and dealings.

## **Influence of British on Indian language:**

The British Invasion is not the only reason that the English language gained Immense impact in our society. If it was so, there have been the Portuguese, French, Persian & even Chinese who have invaded India but their linguistics did not leave a permanent print on our country. English did. English comes with its leniency to deliver a message in a most simple manner. It has become one of the highest spoken languages internationally. Even though the English language does not top the languages spoken by maximum number of people, which may be mandarin as it is the most common language spoken by people as their first language, English may be considered as one of the most widely used Lingua Franca. A lingua Franca, according to the dictionary, is a language that is adopted as a common language between speakers whose native languages are different. We shall further discuss our findings on various reasons for English language popularity in India.

## **Research questions:**

1. How far are the Indians influenced by English domination?
2. What has made English one of the most popular language worldwide?
3. How far has the American domination in various fields influenced its popularity?
4. What are the factors that make English language so popular in India?
5. What is a Lingua franca and is English one of them?
6. Reasons why people prefer English over other languages.
7. How Far is Indian literature affected by the colonial literature

### **Conclusive finding:**

- English is simple in form, flexible in grammar and easy in pronunciation much contrary to many other languages which come with complex grammars and hard to pronounce words.
- The British advent is definitely one of the major reasons for English language being popular in the Indian society. Another notable reason for its popularity would be the influence of American pop culture, music, TV shows, & advertising which have gained fast popularity among the Indian masses as well.
- The internet plays a big factor in making English language more intriguing to the masses. English being a very common medium of communication among people of different nationalities becomes one of the top ten languages used by them.
- When one travels and find themselves in a country that speaks a foreign language, English serves as a lingua franca, meaning a common language adopted among speakers of different native languages.
- Almost 50% of the content that is available on the internet is in English and in order to avail this information, one must read through the English content.
- Another reason that makes learning and speaking English popular is that people are driven to settle in places abroad like Canada, U.S.A, England and many other countries where English is the primary language. To settle in these places, they must have a particular minimum score in courses like TOEFL and IELTS which are exams that test your basic level of English. For doing so, they join institutes that teach English. Thereby increasing the number of English speakers in our country.
- It has become a general mentality of the people that knowing English would mean higher chances of getting a good job, getting a scholarship, getting into good colleges and universities. The competition has toughened and knowledge of English has become inevitable nowadays.

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