CHAPTER I

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Global Communication leading to International Integration is the pressing need of our time. 'United we stand, divided we fall', is no more a mere ornamental expression for essays and elocutions, but a stark reality that needs immediate implementation. The problems that threaten the very existence of our planet and the precious life on it are environmental, epidemic and ethnic. It's high time we realized that the real enemies of mankind are environmental pollution, global warming, epidemic diseases, poverty and terrorism, and not the unfriendly next door neighbour. Hence, men of goodwill and far sight need to put their heads as well as hearts together and plan out strategies to save our planet from total destruction.

First, we could take a closer look at some of these problems, in order to comprehend the gravity of the matter. Environmental pollution and global warming are highlighted today more than any other problem threatening our civilization. Environmental pollution is defined as the unfavourable alteration of our surroundings caused by human population explosion, rapid industrialization, deforestation, unplanned urbanisation and scientific and technological advancement. There has been an increase in the average global temperature, since the industrial revolution, and this global warming is caused by greenhouse gas
emission. Apart from this air pollution, the other factors of pollution are, water pollution, noise pollution, radioactive pollution (caused by production and explosion of nuclear weapons, nuclear power plants, etc.), soil pollution (caused by fertilizers and mineral wastes), and deforestation.

The report of the Intergovernmental panel on Climate Change as shown below calls for every one’s attention and response.

**Top Scientists Step up Climate Warning**

The world has just 10 years to cut greenhouse gas emission or risk runaway climate change that could make many parts of the planet uninhabitable. A new study projects more droughts, floods and rising sea levels by 2100, and warns that the effects of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere will last for centuries.

1. **Change in Temperature**

   Predicted to rise by 2 to 4.5 degrees by 2100 even if carbon dioxide levels are stabilised at 550 parts per million – roughly double current levels.

2. **Changes in Sea Level**

   Even if CO₂ concentrations are stabilised, sea levels could rise by further 30-80 cm by 2300.
3. Projected Impacts

**Warming:** Expected to be greatest over land at high northern latitudes, and lowest over Southern Ocean and North Atlantic.

**Antarctica:** Likely to stay cold for wide surface melting, and expected to gain in mass due to more snow.

**Weather:** Heavy rains and heat-waves “very likely” to become more frequent (“Top Scientists Step up Climate Warning “). 

**India cautioned on melting glaciers**

With the Himalayan glaciers melting, its eastern islands sinking and freak rain flooding deserts, environmentalists say global warming is already taking its toll on India.

Our planet is shared by 6.4 billion people and millions of species of plants, animals, fishes, birds, insects and other microscopic organisms. When the ecological balance of this biodiversity is affected through overpopulation of a particular species or extinction of another, it affects the entire planet. For example, the human population today is 6.4 billion while in 1850 it was just one billion, and according to UN estimates, by 2050 there will be 8.9 billion people on the planet. What belonged to just one person, two centuries ago is shared by 7 or 8 persons today. This disproportion affects not only the health and hygiene of human species, but also endangers other species that are deprived of their share of natural resources. That explains, how some species have become extinct, and a few
thousands (animals as well as plants) are on the verge of extinction, if no attention is paid to their plight. According to the report of the WWF, some 1932 species of animals are endangered or threatened today.

Another problem that has been posing a threat to our race is poverty. Unequal distribution of food, water and other natural resources, is the chief cause of poverty. While there is excess and even wastage of food in one part of the planet, there is malnutrition and starvation in another part. As it is, the resources of the earth are more than enough to feed every human being and every living organism, if properly co-ordinated. Who will do this co-ordination?

Economist Kaushik Basu feels that only a co-ordinated action at the global level will address the problems of inequality and poverty which remain a cause of worry in the country despite the good aggregate growth. A global approach is required, as individual countries cannot do much in the age of Globalization. (Ravikumar 14).

Coming to the epidemic diseases that are a constant threat to man and beast alike, we need to admit the reality that science and medicine have a long way to go before such deadly germs and viruses are wiped out, once and for all. The bird flu viruses, for instance, kill millions of birds in a country and cross the border, to carry on the havoc in another country. Incurable diseases like cancer and AIDS are still awaiting medical assistance.
It is evident that without International co-ordination and co-operation we cannot fight epidemic and deadly diseases, as these viruses can survive in one region when they are destroyed in another. In order to get rid of a particular virus, it has to be destroyed uniformly and globally. This calls for co-ordinated planning and strategy. Unfortunately, much of our time, talents and resources are wasted away in unwanted wars and conflicts.

Ethnic conflicts within a country and cross-border terrorism against neighbouring countries have been a curse for centuries – the pages of history are filled with them. The brute encounters of the cavemen of the pre-historic days, the religious fanatism of the crusaders of medieval history and the atomic attacks of modern history only reveal that we are yet to be civilized in spite of our achievements in science and technology; that we are yet to learn from animals and plants, the art of peaceful co-existence.

It is indeed a tragedy that a gang of terrorists target a group of innocent children and mercilessly kill them, as a reaction to some other incident that might have happened in a far away place. The irony of terrorism is that very often the victims have nothing to do with the terrorists' grievances, directly or indirectly.

A few incidents related to terrorism and ethnic killings of the recent past are given below:

- The army's deputy chief Lt. Gen. Parami Kulatunge of Sri Lanka was assassinated in an attack on the outskirts of the capital. As fighting between the
LTTE and the government intensified, more than 900 people, over half of them civilians died in assassinations, suicide bombings, mine attacks, military airstrikes and naval clashes. Tens of thousands were displaced and more than 4,000 fled to the nearby Indian state of Tamilnadu.

- India’s commercial and entertainment capital, Mumbai was scared and battered once again by terrorist attack in 2006. Earlier in the year the country’s holiest city, Varanasi was targeted. Later came the blasts in the communally sensitive town of Malegaon in Maharastra. In a span of 11 minutes, seven bombs ripped through the packed first class compartments of commuter trains in Mumbai, during the evening rush hour on July 11, killing more than 180 persons and injuring 700.

- The July-August 2006 attack between the Israelites and the Arabs lasted for nearly 34 days. In total more than 1000 Lebanese and 150 Israelis were killed and over one million people displaced. The war inflicted enormous damage on Lebanon which had just started to re-emerge after 15 years of civil war that ended in 1990. A rocket attack on a multi-storied building in the town of Qana killed 65 civilians, most of them children. The UN officials said that a third of the casualties in the war were of children.

As we can see, all the problems mentioned above, environmental, ethnic and epidemic, are basically man-made, and as such only man can resolve to solve them. The selfishness and greed of man has brought this beautiful planet of ours to the brink of destruction, and we are pushed to a ‘do or die’ situation where ‘do’
implies establishing an integrated global society, the absence of which could lead us to disastrous endings.

It may be high time that we reformulated the Panchaseela of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The 1994 Rwandan genocide, an ethnic slaughter that claimed an incredible toll of 800,000 or more lives (Hindu, 2 Dec 2006), for instance, is a disgrace to humanity, and we cannot dismiss it as an internal affair of a country. There is a dire need to review some of the so-called ‘values’ like ‘patriotism’. It is likely that fanatics and terrorists are produced under the cover of misguided patriotism and nationalism. On the contrary, today we need to be formed as global citizens, who would appreciate a global democracy, where everyone’s welfare is everyone’s concern.

A scientific discovery like ‘cloning’ will have its repercussions as it is tampering with nature. Similarly, some revolutionary ideas or ideologies published can spark controversies and invite communal or ethnic clashes. Such scientific discoveries or revolutionary ideologies springing up from any part of the world are likely to affect the rest of the world, positively or negatively, in a very short time, considering the effectiveness of the mass-media and communication system, we are equipped with, today. Hence it would be a wise ruling, if obtaining the approval of an international body like the UN, before publishing such inventions and theories, is made mandatory.
In this connection, we cannot ignore the modest efforts taken by enlightened men in the past to establish an integrated world. While on the one hand human history stands stained with hatred and violence, we also see, on the other hand, great souls like Socrates, Confucius, Buddha, Jesus, Vallalar, Bharathiyar, Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi, who preached Love and Brotherhood, purging the society thus, periodically. In fact, down through the ages, the prayers and yearnings of our sages and saints have been for lasting peace and harmony.

Where the world has not been broken up
into fragments by narrow domestic walls;
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father,
let my country awake. (Tagore, Song 35)

Of course, India has been, a model of tolerance and peaceful co-existence, all along. Mahatma Gandhi’s principles of Ahimsa and Satyagraha have been a source of inspiration for many, all over the world. These values are incorporated into the school curriculum in many countries, today, and Germany is one such.

In co-operation with partner institutions in India, the Gandhi Serve foundation, Berlin regularly organizes painting events entitled “Mahatma Gandhi – As I see him” for youth of 10-18 years. These events aim to inspire the young generation in Germany and India likewise to study Gandhi’s life and thoughts, and to reflect upon its today’s relevance. (Ruhe 16).
Efforts for integration are attempted by individuals, social organizations and International Organizations like the UN. The effort made by John Beatty, of Brooklyn College, New York and Junichi Takahashi of Obirin University, Japan, for instance, is commendable. The morale of Japan was completely shattered by the atom bomb attack of America in the Second World War. Forgetting the past wounds, John Beatty, representing America, and Junichi Takahashi, representing Japan, have come forward, and taken up as a joint venture, the study of intercultural communication. Their findings on intercultural communication are systematically and scientifically presented in the book, *Intercultural Communication*.

In the Globalized context, everyone needs to interact with everyone else, irrespective of differences in language and culture. Hence understanding the other’s culture is of utmost importance, especially in the case of people who work in international concerns. The following views expressed in this book, *Intercultural Communication*, highlights some of the pitfalls in intercultural communication.

- It is important to note that even among many third and fourth world peoples, the variations in social structures may be far more crucial than they are in first and second world countries. ... A greater difference exists between people from developing cultures and those from countries that are industrially and economically well
established. It is here that anthropology tends to make the strongest contribution (Beatty 144).

- Many cultures are initially somewhat tolerant of foreigners’ behaviour, but that may diminish with the amount of time one is there. Some behaviours are sufficiently powerful in meaning that even with all the tolerance it is very hard for people not to respond (Beatty 153).

- Anthropologists prefer to try to maintain a position of cultural relativism. “The British drive on the left side of the street” tends to be a statement that is less judgmental than “… on the wrong side of the street”. (Beatty 28).

Right from its establishment, the UN, along with many Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), has been making an earnest effort to divert the attention of the people from silly boundary disputes, religious conflicts and cultural clashes to major disasters such as global warming, earthquakes and floods that can put an end to our civilization, if we do not respond to this danger signal immediately. The UN Conference held in Brazil, in June 1992, was of great significance: it was attended by 153 countries 1400 NGOs and 8000 media representatives.
The following are some of the important Environmental Conferences convened by UN.

- The Stockholm conference of 1972 attended by 114 nations.
- The Nairobi Conference in 1982.
- Helsinki Conference in 1989, decided to protect Ozone layer.
- Kyoto Summit 1997, in Japan, set a framework for international action to mitigate global warming, for the next 10 years that followed.
- The Declaration on the responsibilities of the present generations to Future Generations” passed at the general Conference of UNESCO (1997), reminded every citizen of the world to be accountable to the future citizens, in their use of earth’s natural resources.

In fact, every Secretary General of the UN has been constantly reminding the world of the dire consequences of environmental pollution and the subsequent global warming. Headlines in the newspapers like, “control global warming: Annan” have been appearing for the past few decades.

The United Kingdom’s commitment to the fight against HIV/AIDS is commendable. “We (the UK government) are increasing further our already large funding and we will work with developing countries to make sure our support has the greatest impact in the fight against HIV / AIDS” (“UK’s Call for Action”).
At the inauguration of the 12th Gurudwara in Germany

The Inauguration of the 12th Gurudwara in Germany was attended by Government officials of Germany. "The inauguration of yet another Gurudwara in Germany is a remarkable example of religious tolerance and display of sympathetic understanding towards the resident Sikh community by Germans." ("New Gurudwara in Germany").

What we witness here, in the form of international interaction, is just a preview of the united world we shall live in, in the future. And as it is evident, the English language is facilitating this process, faster and faster.

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton, interacting with children of rural India.

Bill Clinton has been engaging himself in the community developing projects of many a developing nation. Such humanistic approach is characteristic of Jimmy Carter as well, another former U.S. President.
Tennis World Number One Roger Federer, Who is UNICEF’s Good-will Ambassador, converses with children at a government-run orphanage in tsunami-affected Cuddalore in Tamil Nadu.

In this regard, the alarm call raised by France is also commendable. The personal involvement of the French President, Jacques Chirac in the fight against environmental pollution, is praiseworthy: “It is the time for a revolution, in the true sense of the term. We are in truth on the historical doorstep of the irreversible,” said Chirac.

A combo photo shows the illuminated and darkened Eiffel Tower in Paris. Lights were turned off for five minutes to help draw attention to energy consumption and the damage to environment.
An article by Margaret Beckett, the British Foreign Secretary, under the title, 'Threat to climate unites us all', represents in general, the apprehensions of the present generation concerning the safety of our planet and their eagerness to do something about it:

If the scale of the problem is clear, is there anything we can actually do about it? The answer is yes if we act now, act decisively and act together to cut carbon emissions. Everyone stands to lose out from global warming. This is not a problem any country can solve on its own. There is a global imperative for us to co-operative. Some of the countries that will be hit hardest will be the poorest. But it is the developed economies which have been responsible for the majority of greenhouse gas emissions. So they must take the lead (Beckett 10).

Based on the references seen in the preceding pages, we can understand that the threat to our planet is real and that individuals as well as institutions are making modest efforts to restabilise the planet and restore its natural purity. A lot is being done in this area, but a lot more remains undone. Perhaps, more than ever, the time is ripe now to sort out disorders and repair the damages, before it is too late; global communication and international integration have become imperative in the process. Certainly a common language will facilitate the process of integration and global communication. We need to identify a common language –
a lingua franca which is more ‘neutral’ and more ‘effective’, considering the period of globalization we are in.

Of course, every language will be more than pleased, to win the title, Lingua Franca. However, English and French have been the traditional rivals for this high honour. In fact, Latin was the world language till the end of the 16th century. French took over this position from the 17th century.

In 1780, John Adams wrote, “English is destined to be in the next and succeeding centuries more generally the language of the world than Latin was in the last as French is in the present age” (qtd. in Crystal, English as a Global Language 74).

To stress the unchallenged position French held in the 18th century, Crystal makes the following comment:

If in the Middle Ages you had dared to predict the death of Latin as the language of education, people would have laughed in your face, as they would in the eighteenth century, if you had suggested that any language other than French could be a future norm of polite society (Crystal, English as a Global Language 123).

However, today there is substantial evidence to show that English stands head and shoulders above French, or any other language, for that matter. In fact, French is nowhere near, even to the second place, as other world languages like
Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, Swahili and Arabic are extending their linguistic reach, further and further. Neither David Crystal nor David Graddol, includes French in the list of contenders for global status.

English is no longer the 'only show in town'. Other languages now challenge the dominance of English in some regions. Mandarin and Spanish, especially, have become sufficiently important to be influencing national policy priorities in some countries (Graddol, *English Next* 62).

Graddol, in his book *The future of English* mentions the decline of most of the European languages in their international importance, as a result of the prominence of English, in the 20th century. He makes a special mention about the decline of French as an international language.

The story of English in the 20th century has been closely linked to the rise of US as a super power that has spread the English language alongside its economic, technological and cultural influence. In the same period, the international importance of other European languages, especially French, has declined (Graddol, *Future of English* 8).

David Crystal is clear and definite about the present position of English as the global language, and he is also confident and optimistic about the continuance of this position, in the foreseeable future. In his preface to the first edition of
English as a Global Language, he wrote that in the 1950s, any notion of English as a true world language was but a dim, shadowy, theoretical possibility, surrounded by the political uncertainties of the Cold War, and lacking any clear definition or sense of direction. But now, after fifty years, ‘World English’ exists as a political and cultural reality. And the momentum of growth has become so great that there is nothing likely to stop its continued spread as a global lingua franca, at least in the foreseeable future.

On the contrary, David Graddol and a few other eminent language scholars like Tom McArthur are a little sceptical about the continuance of English as the Global language. For Graddol, English is stoppable; the current global wave of English may lose momentum. Tom McArthur, in his book, The English Languages, published in 1998, explains the radical changes English is undergoing currently, and how it would fragment into a ‘family of languages’ in future (McArthur 63-67).

David Graddol’s doubts about the continuance of the present pre-eminence of English, is clearly seen in the following lines:

English is widely regarded as having become the global language – but will it retain its pre-eminence in the 21st century? The
world in which it is used is in the early stages of major social, economic and demographic transition. Although English is unlikely to be displaced as the world’s most important language, the future is more complex and less certain than some assume (Graddol, *Future of English* 2).

Another observation, made by Rt. Hon. Lord Neil Kinnock, Chair of the British Council, in his forward to *English Next*, is worth studying. He too expresses uncertainty, regarding the influence of English in the future.

The growth of the use of English as the world’s primary language for international communication has obviously been continuing for several decades. But even as the number of English speakers expands further there are signs that the global predominance of the language may fade within the foreseeable future. (*English Next*, Forward)

With the rise of China and India, the two Asian giants, as the future economic powers, many linguists, especially David Graddol foresee a probable shift in the language position as well. That is, just as English is becoming more and more global on account of the political and economic power of America, and Britain, in future Chinese or Hindi could take the place of English, when India or China attain economic stability. But then, this fear is groundless – these two countries are fully aware of the positive role English can play in their economic
development, and they are already exploiting this linguistic advantage to the maximum. Hence their rise to power will only strengthen, and not weaken, the global position of English. So is the case in most of the fast developing countries; learning English is viewed as a surer way to progress.

Based on my studies and reflections on various languages in the world, this research purports to establish the proposition that among the international languages such as English, French, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, Hindi, Swahili, Russian, Portuguese, Japanese, German and Arabic, English is the most suited language today, for promoting international integration and global communication, as English is being learnt more and more all over the world, more than any other language.

This does not mean that mother languages are neglected in the process. On the contrary there is a better awareness about the importance of mother languages, and it is a general phenomenon today, that every society is making a conscious effort to develop its mother language, as that is the very soul of that society. The UN itself has assumed the responsibility of protecting the endangered languages. In 1992, International Linguistics Congress in Quebec made the following statement: “The disappearance of any one language constitutes an irretrievable loss to mankind” (Crystal, Preface to ‘Language Death’).
……… the year 2001 was designated the European Year of Languages. This was the first time a whole year had been devoted to languages… It was a year which focused on the importance of language as an expression of cultural identity….. (Crystal, *Language Revolution* 4).

It is noteworthy that a small country like Bangladesh was able to attract the attention of the world, and specifically the attention of the UNESCO towards the significance and importance of Mother tongue:

In 1999 UNESCO had already created 21 February as International Mother Language Day – a date which commemorated the deaths on that Date in 1952, of five students defending the recognition of Bangla as a state language of former Pakistan (now Bangladesh). (Crystal, *Language Revolution* 2).

Another important event in the year 2001 was the establishment of 26 September as an annual World Language Day, the purpose of which was to keep public attention focused on the importance of plurilingualism or multilingualism.
If one of the major outcomes of the Language Revolution, as depicted by Crystal, is a greater interest and involvement shown in the development and study of one’s mother language, the other important outcome is the interest and enthusiasm seen in learning a second language. David Graddol also expresses the same view regarding the multilingual nature of the future world:

There is a growing belief among language professionals that the future will be a bilingual one, in which an increasing proportion of the world’s population will be fluent speakers of more than one language (Graddol, *Future of English* 4).

It is evident that there is a general enthusiasm and interest, all over the world, to-day, for learning a second language, or a foreign language, or an additional language (depending on the policies and socio-political needs of a country). The aim of this research is to prove that in the case of most people, ‘this second language’ happens to be English, and that this linguistic advantage can be exploited for global communication and international integration. Globalization is reducing the whole world to a single vast global village, and English is being used in this global village, more than any other language. “Although estimates vary greatly, 1500 million or more people are today thought to be competent
communicators in English. That is a quarter of the world’s population” (Crystal, “English in the New World”).

Going by the above mentioned data, we can conclude that in a group of 100 persons, 25 are able to communicate in English, while 75 do not use English for communication. In such a case, how does English deserve to be called the global language? The point is that no other language has achieved this level of internationality, so far in the history of languages, and no other language is likely to reach this level, in the foreseeable future. Above all, this 25:75 ratio, is only the beginning of a trend that is gaining momentum day by day; there is every indication that this percentage of people using English will go up from 25 to 40, and 40 to 70 ... as years go by.

English has less number of native speakers than Chinese or Spanish. However what counts is that English is learnt as a second language, today, all over the world, while Chinese and Spanish have very few second language learners. English is globally present in almost all the countries, while Chinese and Spanish are concentrated only in China and Latin American regions, respectively.

In 1995, the British Council undertook a project, to assess the position and role of English in future: people professionally involved in ELT in some 90 countries were asked to react to a series of statements concerning the role and future of the English language. The following are the responses received for some of the statements:
English will retain its role as the dominant language in world media and communication. 94 per cent agreed or strongly agreed.

English is essential for progress as it will provide the main means of access to high-tech communication and information over the next twenty-five years. 95 per cent agreed or strongly agreed.

English will remain the world’s language for international communication for the next twenty-five years. 96 per cent agreed or strongly agreed.

(Crystal, *English as a Global Language* 113)

The origin, growth and development of English has not been a story of smooth-sail all the way. There has been stiff opposition from nationalists and patrons of regional languages, against English and English medium education, even in countries where English is well established. The following words of Mahatma Gandhi, written in 1908, are a striking example:

To give millions a knowledge of English is to enslave them... Is it not a painful thing that, if I want to go to a court of justice, I must employ the English language as a medium; that, when I become a Barrister, I may not speak my mother-tongue, and that someone else
should have to translate to me from my own language? Is this not absolutely absurd? Is it not a sign of slavery? (qtd. in *English as a Global Language* 124).

English persevered, all the same. Although it is not thrust upon anyone today, it is hotly sought after. The number of English medium schools is on the increase, year by year. English is no longer the sole possession of the aristocrats and elites; it is the language of necessity and opportunity of the average global citizen today. An attitudinal change, explicitly noticed among the peoples who resisted the English language hitherto (owing to historical, political or economic reasons), could be another reason for spreading the red carpet for English in most of the countries today. Japan and China who hoped to achieve progress through mother tongue only, have now included English as well, in their agenda. Manfred Görlach, a language scholar of German origin, in his book, *Still More Englishes*, explains this attitudinal change:

One of the most striking phenomena is that the use of English has apparently become totally detached from the concept of the colonial oppressor’s language in Africa and Asia. Rather, English is regarded as having been a vital asset in the Fight for independence and it has eminent advantages as a nation-building language in multilingual countries. (Görlich 10)
To a very great extent this attitudinal change can be noticed even in France, where unlike in the past a good deal of English learning is taking place now. Europe, in general, is receptive to English today, much more than what it was a decade or two ago.

There could be no doubt about the global status of English, any longer. What is uncertain is the future form it would take, in the hands of its new masters. The peoples of UK, America, Canada, Caribbean, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand together form the native speakers of English. The non-native speakers of English from countries like India, China, Philippines and Nigeria, outnumber the native speakers, today. As Salman Rushdie, in his essay, “Commonwealth literature does not exist” says, “The English language ceased to be the sole possession of the English some time ago” (Rushdie 12).

The English language has been always flexible and adaptable. As such, it is likely to undergo changes and fragment into a family of Englishes. The wish and prayer of the language scholars is that these fragmented versions of Englishes should not become mutually unintelligible.

The remarks of the Nigerian Novelist, Chinua Achebe, concerning the quality of a world language, are quite apt here:

The price a world language must be prepared to pay is submission to many different kinds of use. The African writer should aim to use
English in a way that brings out his message best without altering the language to the extent that its value as a medium of international exchange will be lost. He should aim at fashioning out an English which is at once universal and able to carry his peculiar experience...I feel that English will be able to carry the weight of my African experience. But it will have to be a new English, still in full communion with its ancestral home but altered to suit its new African surroundings (Achebe 62).

**The theme and the main thrust of this research are:**

i). English is the most suited language for Global communication.

ii). English is the most suited language for international integration.

How far English is effective as a medium of Global communication, can be assessed and measured to a large extent, using linguistic or social parameters. However, it is difficult to measure exactly the quantum of integration achieved through English. We can only deduce it from the fact that a commonly accepted language – a lingua franca, is more effective than any other language, in bringing about international integration.

In this research, David Crystal has been one of the Chief sources of reference, as he is an acknowledged linguistic expert, and an authority on world languages. He has authored or edited more than 100 books. *English as a Global*
Another linguist of international reputation is David Graddol, known for his works, *The Future of English?*, and *English Next*. Apart from David Crystal and David Graddol, the views of many other language scholars like Tom McArthur, Manfred Görlach, Randolph Quirk, Braj Kachru, Martin Wooding and John Slaght are taken into consideration. The views of teachers and observers from English-learning countries like China, Taiwan and India are also examined. What is striking is that most of the scholars who write on the global status of English, fall back on David Crystal or David Graddol as their point of reference.

An earnest effort was made to verify whether other researchers have made a study on the **status of English as a global language**, more particularly on the suitability of English as a medium of global communication and international integration. This researcher did not come across any, among the theses submitted in the Bharathidasan University or Madras University. Of course, there are quite a few on ELT.