Chapter II

PERSPECTIVES OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE

In the twenty-first century there is an increasing prevalence of the English language. English today holds a very important position in the world. In fact it has been nicknamed "the language of power," primarily because English speaking countries have been the colonizers, conquerors, and holders of wealth. English happens to be one of the five languages most spoken in the world. The reason for the widespread use of English language was the colonial expansion of England in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The important political position and influence of the nations speaking it gives English a fairly strong chance of becoming a world language. The importance of any language in the international arena is definitely linked to the political, economic, commercial, social and cultural importance of the nations and people who speak it. English today is present in all the continents either as a native, second or third language. Language gains in importance because of certain events that shape the balance of power among nations. "Centred originally in the little kingdom of England, the speech has spread to all the corners of the globe. It has become the speech of two of the most powerful nations of modern times, and is now the speech of most numerous civilized people of the world."1 In the words of A.C.Baugh,

"The English language of today reflects many centuries of development. The political and social events that have, in the course of English history, so
profoundly affected the English people in their national life have generally had a recognizable effect on their language."

Philologists have identified several different families of languages. The English language owes its origin to the Teutonic branch of the Aryan language, what is known as the Indo-European language. The Indo-European language is believed to have been spoken way back around 3000-3500 year BC by nomadic tribes who wandered around the Black Sea, and even as far as the Steppes of Siberia. These tribes moved across Euro-Asia carrying their parent language with them. In course of time different dialects arose as off-shoots of the parent language. On the basis of their common features the Indo-European language is broadly categorized into nine principal groups. They are:

1. Indian (Sanskrit, Pali)
2. Iranian (Avestan, Old Persian)
3. Armenian
4. Italic (Latin with its descendants; the Romance languages- French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Rumanian; Oscan, Umbrian)
5. Hellenic (Greek dialects spoken on the mainland of Greece, in the islands of the Aegean Sea, and in Asia Minor)
6. Celtic (Irish and Highland Gaelic, Welsh etc)
7. Teutonic or Germanic
8. Albanian
9. Balto-Slavic (Lithuanian and Lettish from Baltic and Russian, Czech, Polish, Serbo, Coation etc)

The English language is said to belong to the Teutonic or Germanic branch of the Indo-European family of languages. The Teutonic or Germanic language was spoken by the Germanic tribes who inhabited the regions comprising modern Germany, Scandinavia, Holland, the Flemish parts of Belgium and Great Britain. From the beginning of the Christian era common Germanic is believed to have split up into three main branches- East Germanic, West Germanic and North Germanic. The only East Germanic language was preserved in Gothic. The North Germanic group is preserved in the language of Scandinavia, Denmark, Iceland and the Faroe Islands. North Germanic was divided into two groups West Norse and East Norse. The former included Icelandic and Norwegian and the latter Swedish and Danish.

The English language belongs to the West Germanic group. The West Germanic group can be divided into three branches

1. High German
2. Low German and Low Franconian
3. Anglo-Frisian

High German is now spoken in Germany, Austria and parts of Switzerland. Low German has given birth to many dialects of North Germany. The Low Franconian group includes the Dutch and Flemish language. English and Frisian are said to have descended from the Anglo-Frisian group. Originally
the Frisians had been a great sea-faring people but as their power declined their language too was reduced to the position of a dialect spoken in Friesland, (now a province of Netherland), along the Shleswig coast and in the neighbouring islands. The history of the English language began with the settling down of the Germanic tribes viz, the Angels, Saxons and Jutes in Britain. The West Germanic dialects spoken by these tribes have been the basis of the English language of today.

The earliest known inhabitants of England were a primitive race called the Paleolithic humans. The Paleolithic age means the Old Stone age. These people were of short stature, had long arms and short legs and very poorly developed chins. Their chief weapon was said to be the tomahawk "a flint or stone with a "butt" or bruising end, a well-marked strengthening rib and a "tang" to which the wooden shaft is bound." They had a high degree of artistic skill, on the other hand nothing is known about their language.

The Paleolithic times gave way to the Neolithic or the New Stone Age. The people of this age too were dwarfish, dark and curly haired. Though lacking the artistic gift of the earlier age these people did make pottery and lived in structures called crannogs. These were constructed on pilings driven into swamps and lakes. Even their language has not survived.

In the post Neolithic age came the Celtic invasion. The Celtic language had two divisions - the Gaelic or Goidelic branch - this was the language of
the Celts who lived in Gaul and whom Caesar conquered. The second branch was the Brythonic branch. Modern day Welsh, Cornish and Breton belong to the Brythonic branch. The Goidelic branch has given rise to Irish, Scots, Gaelic and Manx.

Julius Caesar conquered Gaul in 55 BC and then decided to invade England. After a couple of unsuccessful attempts Caesar made a little headway and succeeded in establishing himself in the south-east. But it was only in AD 43 that the actual Roman conquest of Britain under Emperor Claudius took place. The Roman occupation of Britain extended from 55 BC to AD 410. The Roman rule lasted for three hundred years. Around 410 AD the Romans living in Britain had to leave the country to look after the safety of their own homeland as it was threatened by external assault and internal strife. The Roman conquest of Britain had a tremendous impact on the cultural and linguistic life of the old Britons.

The Roman conquest inevitably led to Romanization of England. Everything Roman like dress, ornaments, pottery, utensils was used extensively. Romanization brought in its wake Christianity. The Christianizing of Britain in 597 AD had far-reaching consequences. With Romanization also came the use of the Latin language. The Latin influence was one of the earliest and strongest linguistic forces that contributed to the growth of the English language.
THREE STAGES OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The English language as it is known today has evolved through three main periods. They are the Old English Period, The Middle English Period and Modern English Period.

THE OLD ENGLISH PERIOD

The Old English Period is also referred to as the Anglo-Saxon Period. It roughly covers the period from AD 600 to 1100. When England was established one of the most advanced kingdoms was Northumbria. During the 7th and 8th century's Northumbrian culture and language dominated Britain. However the Viking invasions of the 9th century brought an end to this domination and the West Saxons became the leading power. Old English was written in an alphabet called Runic derived from the Scandinavian language. Christian missionaries from Ireland brought over the Latin alphabet to England.

One of the characteristics of Old English is that it has very little foreign influence in it. However there were a few Latin words connected with the institutions or rituals of the church or to certain elements of the Roman civilization. There is also a dearth of French words which are a common part of modern English vocabulary.

What is noticeable however is that inspite of the lack of foreign influence Old English happens to be extremely resourceful. It developed its own compound words and derivatives from native sources for expressing new ideas. The old English authors instead of adopting Latin words often invented new native words. One such word was 'handboc' (handbook).
Old English also abounded in synonyms for words like sea, ship, warrior, battle, hero etc. This points to the fact that the Anglo-Saxons were a war-like people, and who were also lovers of the sea-faring life. In fact in 'Beowulf' which is considered as one of the finest poems of Old English there are at least thirty-six synonyms for the word hero. Even for the word ship or boat there are at least thirty-six words in 'Beowulf'. One passage in Old English poetry lovingly describes a ship as, 'the foamy necked floater of the sea, most like a bird.'

Old English vocabulary is impressive because of its resourcefulness. It had abundantly sufficient resources to provide vivid expressions to any concrete thing or abstract idea which was introduced into the language. The Old English language utilized to the maximum its own resources for the expression of new ideas and objects. The Old English writers invented out of native elements new words like 'heahfaeder' for scribes and Pharisees. The archbishop is called 'heahbiscop' or 'ealor bispoc'. A hermit was called 'ansetla' (sole-settler) or 'western setla' (desert settler). The disciples of Christ are called disciple, cniht, folgere, lecnere, leorning cniht, leorning man and the like.

Old English also made liberal use of suffixes and prefixes to form new words from old words or to modify or extend the root idea. Thus the word mod which means mood, in Old English denoted 'heart' and 'mind'. By using
a common adjective ending it was transformed from mod to modig which in turn meant bold, arrogant, stiff-necked and the like.\textsuperscript{9}

Alliteration is another characteristic of Old English. It abounds in phrases like 'part and parcel', 'faint and feeble', 'ducks and drakes', 'busy as bees', 'cool as cucumber', 'still as stone' etc.\textsuperscript{10} Modern English also shows the same love for alliteration.

The Old English language was also characterized by some grammatical peculiarities the chief being its very unreasonable system of genders. For example 'woman' and 'maiden' (\textit{wi:f, maegden}) were neuter, 'stone' and 'foot' were masculine and 'hand' was feminine.\textsuperscript{11} Thus the Old English gender system was not dependent on the consideration of sex. It did not follow the natural gender system of modern English.

Old English is taken to be a synthetic language whereas Modern English is said to be analytical. In a synthetic language the relation of words in a sentence is expressed largely by means of inflections. Analytical language on the other hand makes extensive use of auxiliary verbs and prepositions and of the fixed word-order to indicate the relation of words in a sentence. Old English made use of inflections to indicate the relation of words in a sentence. No harm was done to the meaning of a sentence if the subject and object interchanged positions. For example the Old English sentence \textit{Se cyning pas word gehierde} when translated into Modern English means "the king heard these words". If however the word order is changed and written as \textit{pas word gehierde se cyning} the meaning would remain the same.\textsuperscript{12}
Adjectives too were highly inflected and even a simple adjective like 'glad' had eleven distinct forms in Old English, such as, glaed, glaedre, glawdne, glaedra, glaedu, glaedes, glaedums, glaede, gaeldena, glaeda, and glaedan. Adjectives had four cases with singular and plural forms for each and all these had again different forms for masculine, feminine and neuter gender. Thus the Old English adjective had 42 forms in stark contrast to Modern English which has only one form.

In the conjugation of verbs also Old English is marked by great complexity. In the conjugation of a verb like 'sing', for instance, modern English has only eight forms (sing, singest, sings, singeth, sang, sangest, singing, sung) of which three (singest, singeth and sangest) are rarely used now. In Old English however the conjugation of the same verb has sixteen different forms. "The subjunctive mood of which there are only a few traces left in Modern English, occupied as prominent a place in Old English grammar as it does in Modern German."  

MIDDLE ENGLISH PERIOD

The Middle English Period extends from around the twelfth century to the end of the fifteenth century. The political event which affected the administration system and language was the Norman Conquest. In 1066 AD William the Conqueror, the Duke of Normandy, crossed the Channel and became the master of England and the Anglo-Saxons. For the next several
years England was ruled by kings whose native language was French. Actually the new rulers spoke a dialect of Old French known as Anglo-Norman. Prior to the Norman Conquest the English language had come into contact with the French. But after the Norman Conquest a vast number of French words were introduced into the English vocabulary. During the Middle English Period vast changes came over the English vocabulary partly due to the Scandinavian invasion and partly because of the Norman Conquest.

Near the end of the Old English Period English came into contact with the Scandinavian language. This influence began with the Danish invasion of England towards the end of the 8th century and lasted for nearly three centuries till the Norman Conquest when the French influence became very pronounced. After the Norman invasion new words were introduced from the language of the Norman rulers. These borrowings totally differed from the borrowings from a Germanic language like Old Norse.

The Scandinavian loan words have become inseparable parts of the English language. In high or fashionable affairs the English use the Latin or French words but the Scandinavian words are part of the common conversation of the English people. The Scandinavian influence was quite harmonious with the native tongue and never seemed alien. This was due to the fact that the English and the Danes belonged to the same Teutonic tribe and their cultural, social and linguistic affinities were considerable. Hence the Scandinavian language never appeared foreign to an Englishman.
The Middle English vocabulary was a heterogeneous one. As mentioned earlier during this period great changes came over the English vocabulary on account of the Danish invasions resulting in a Scandinavianizing of the Northern dialects and the Norman Conquest resulting in a vast number of French loans relating to all departments of life. The French words which entered the English language after the establishment of the Norman rule in England were those relating to the customs, ideas and ways of life characteristic of the Normans. The main terms incorporated into the English language are terms relating to government, law and the church. However there were also terms relating to warfare, hunting, falconry, fashion, learning, medicine and social life.

Besides French words a number of Latin words were also introduced into the language during this period. These were mainly technical, legal and ecclesiastic terms and some of them have become permanent parts of English. One marked feature of this period is the gradual disappearance of many words of native origin. Some of them were replaced by their Scandinavian or French equivalents whereas some generally fell into disuse. The result was that the English language lost its homogeneous quality and became heterogeneous being loaded with Scandinavian, French and Latin loan words.

The Middle English period witnessed many changes in the grammatical structure of the language. Inflexions were reduced in this period and many different inflexional endings became leveled under one standard form. Hence this period is termed as a period of 'levelled inflexions'. Because of the
weakening of inflexions the word-order became less free and the use of prepositions and periphrases came into vogue. The roughly phonetic spelling of Old English was replaced by a spelling which was far from being phonetic. Moreover there was at that time no standard dialect like the West Saxon of the Old English Period. Latin was used for all learned work and Norman French was the language of aristocratic life while English was reduced to a set of spoken dialects.

By the 14th century the vernacular asserted itself as the language of English culture. London became the centre of commercial, political and ecclesiastical life and the dialect of London emerged as the wide-spread medium of written expression or the literary standard acceptable to all users of the language. By the later Middle English Period the dialect of London had become generally accepted as the standard form of the written language. The Middle English Period had come to an end with the introduction of printing in England by Caxton. The latter half of the 15th century marks the transition from Middle English to Modern English.

MODERN ENGLISH PERIOD

The Modern English Period extends from the beginning of the 16th century to the present day. This period can be subdivided into Early Modern English Period and Later Modern English Period. The former covers the period from the end of the reign of King Henry VII to the accession of Queen Anne. The latter extends from 1700 AD to the present day.
The Modern English Period reveals a vast and varied increase in vocabulary. The Renaissance led to innumerable borrowings from Latin and Greek. Shakespeare's character Holofernes in *Loves Labor Lost* is a satire of an overenthusiastic schoolmaster who is too fond of Latinisms. Ever since all the new words required to expressing the vast technological innovations and scientific discoveries of the modern age have been coined from Greek or Latin elements. Apart from these the English language also freely borrowed from all the languages spoken by the people with whom the British Empire brought the English into contact. Owing to the continual expansion of the British Empire, the English language migrated from its homeland to the distant corners of the earth. English today is spoken not only in the British Isles but also in a large number of British colonies and the United States of America. Each part of the English speaking world has now developed its own form of English, which is different in vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation from the English spoken in other parts. Today London English has become more or less accepted as the Standard English all over the English-speaking world.

One of the distinctive features of Modern English is its rather illogical system of spelling. Spelling is rather unphonetic and at times there is no relation between the spelling of a word and its pronunciation. A.C. Baugh in his book *A History of the English Language* has pointed out that there are some fourteen spellings now used in English for the sound of 'sh' as in (shoe, shine, sure, tissue, expansion, transmission, relation, ocean, conscience, suspicious, chivalry, Asia, nauseous, and pshaw).
Attempts were made during the Modern English Period to make the pronunciation conform to the spelling. A movement towards a standard pronunciation has been at work in the English language. Thus an 'h' sound was introduced in words like humble, hospital, herb and honour. Moreover the ending of the present participle was changed from 'in' to 'ing'. The '-er' pronunciation in words like serve, servant, divert, fervent and the like which in the 17th and 18th centuries was pronounced like '-ar' was changed into the present day pronunciation except in words like clerk, Derby etc.\textsuperscript{17}

As far as grammar is concerned Modern English is called the period of lost inflexions. This means that the free word order of the Old English Period was replaced by a fixed word order in which the subject is always placed before the predicate and the verb precedes its object. Modern English also discarded the grammatical gender and adopted the natural gender system. English nouns are now either masculine, feminine or neuter according to their meanings.

One striking characteristic of Modern English is its copious and heterogeneous vocabulary. With the growth of the British Empire its vocabulary too was enriched by borrowings from the languages of the people with whom the English came into contact. The English vocabulary is being enriched everyday with the absorption of new terminology relating to science and technology, industrial and commercial growth, war, journalism new modes of
living and new thoughts and ideas which continually demand expression. Space travels as well as studies related to nuclear physics are also adding a lot of terms to the English vocabulary. Newspapers and journals, radio and cinema have also considerably enriched English vocabulary.

English today has risen to the position of a world language. Its vast cosmopolitan vocabulary and its simplified grammatical machinery have added to its appeal. It has a huge capacity for assimilating outside elements. Modern English is a link in a long chain of linguistic growth. The vocabulary of Modern English has been greatly enriched and this has been "made possible by the wonderful resourcefulness of the English language to adopt, assimilate, apply newly and invent."  

ENGLISH AS A WORLD LANGUAGE

Although the world has relatively few continents, however, they contain a myriad diversity of populations speaking in myriads of languages. Most countries today, because of increasing urbanization, international commerce, tourism, business travel, and modern technology have begun to embrace the concept of a society that is multicultural. And evidently, a globalized multicultural society would have to also be a society that is multilingual.

English is often referred to as a world language because it happens to be one of the most widespread languages of the world. "To be worthy of the designation 'global', a language needs to be present, in some sense, in every country in the world." English speaking people are scattered all over the
English - A Historical Summary

Fig 1

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world and it is believed that over 400 million people speak the English language as their native or mother tongue. In over seventy countries like India, Ghana, Nigeria and Singapore, English has achieved the status of 'second' language. English today holds sway over the fields of science, scholarship and instruction. It is spoken as a foreign language by over 700 million people. English is not only spoken and read as a second language in many parts of the world, it has also become an important medium of communication. English also stands closest to becoming an international language with some major academic systems like the United States of America, Britain, Australia, Canada and New Zealand using it. Moreover the academic systems of countries like India, Pakistan and Nigeria also use English as their main teaching and publishing language in addition to it being the language of administration and commerce. Braj Kachru notes the neutrality of English in the post colonial Indian context:

"English does have one clear advantage, attitudinally and linguistically: it has acquired a neutrality in a linguistic context where native languages, dialects and styles sometimes have acquired undesirable connotations. Whereas native codes are functionally marked in terms of caste, religion, and region, and so forth, English has no such 'markers' at least in the non-native context." \(^{21}\)

Nigeria happens to have three main regions with different languages but English is still the language of internal communication and university teaching. This is one language that is extensively used in many countries of Asia and Africa.
One of the reasons for English becoming the main international academic language is the fact that the English speaking nations particularly the United States of America have gained the status of academic superpowers. These superpowers are also home to some of the top universities of the world and they are also host to more than half the world's international students. Another main reason for English reigning supreme today is that the main scholarly journals or otherwise is usually published in English. In order to publish any work in international journals of repute scholars must necessarily conform to the interests of such prestigious journals.

Today the world has been transformed into a Global Village because of the widespread use of computers. It is well known that the computer uses English as its 'lingua franca'. In order to use the computer basic knowledge of English is mandatory. In fact English is the medium for 80% of the information stored in world computers. To browse the internet also requires knowledge of the English language.

The cosmopolitan vocabulary of the English language has greatly increased the chances of English being accepted as a world language. The English language has been profoundly influenced by foreign nations. English originally is a Teutonic language. When its origin is traced it is seen that it shares its family tree with languages like German, Dutch, Scandinavian, Norwegian, Swedish and Flemish. Over the years the English language has assimilated many words from these languages. More than half of the present
day English vocabulary has been derived from Latin and Greek. Because of its linguistic omnivorousness it has freely borrowed from other languages. Of all the world languages English is the richest in vocabulary. The Oxford English Dictionary lists around 500,000 words and over half a million technical and scientific terms are yet to be catalogued. As far as vocabulary and structure of English are concerned it is truly fitted to take over the slot of a world language.

In matters of international communication English reigns supreme. Till the 1930's German happened to be the international scientific language but now English has taken over from German. In the field of medicine the impact of the English language stands plain and clear. Some common medical terms which are frequently used are vaccine, penicillin, iodine, hormones, stethoscope, aspirin, proteins, carbohydrates etc. in the modern age business and commercial firms of many countries carry on business correspondences in English.

For any language to gain linguistic suzerainty two factors become vitally important. The first is its political strength and the second is its commercial importance. The English language comes closest to fulfilling these factors. The English speaking nations of the world are undoubtedly the greatest political powers today. America which happens to be the modern day superpower speaks English. Moreover the English speaking nations lead the world commerce and the economic imperialism of America is a much talked
about fact. The English language is also free from pedantry and rigidity. Modern civilization requires great powers of expression and the English language has the capacity to express the multiplicity of ideas and the present day refinement of thoughts.

The great dramatist John Galsworthy correctly remarked "Any impartial scrutiny made at this moment of time must place English at the head of all languages, as the most likely to become, in a natural unforced way, the single communicating tongue."²²

LINGUISTIC OMNIVOROUSNESS OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Of all the world languages, English perhaps has the most varied and heterogeneous vocabulary. The English vocabulary includes a large number of foreign words borrowed from different languages both ancient and modern. In the very first 700 years of its existence it came into contact with the languages of the Celts, the Romans, and the Scandinavians. Another great influence on the English language was the borrowings from Latin. According to C.L.Wren the most remarkable characteristic of English "is the abundance, the unparalleled variety," of its loan words and "the length of time during which foreign influences have been effective in its vocabulary."²³

Long before the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes had left their continental homes and settled in England, the Germanic people had contacts with the Roman Empire. Thus a number of Latin words had already been introduced into the German dialects and these in turn were introduced into
England by the Anglo-Saxon settlers. Words like street, wine, butter, pepper, cheese, silk, pound, mile, mint etc were Latin borrowings.

The coming of Christianity to England in 597 A.D. brought with it innumerable Latin terms used by the Roman missionaries for expressing ideas relating to Christian beliefs and Christian way of life. Words like 'minister' (from Latin 'monasterium'), monk (from Latin 'monaschus'), 'bishop' (from Latin 'cyriacum') were added to the English vocabulary. The largest numbers of Latin words in Old English were brought into the language through the Latin learning which came into English in the tenth century because of the revitalizing of church life. At that time the names of many herbs and trees were added to the English vocabulary from Latin. However most of them have not survived in Modern English. The Latin influence in the Middle English Period is hard to determine. At that time French was the dominating influence on English and one could barely distinguish between words borrowed direct from Latin learning and science and words borrowed from French which had developed from Latin. The words which are definitely known to have been taken from Latin include 'pauper', 'proviso', 'equivalent', 'legitimate', 'index', 'simile', and 'memento'.

It was in the period beginning with the reign of Henry VIII that the Latin influence on English was deeply felt. The Latin influence was very strong at the time of the Renaissance. It was during the Renaissance that the best minds turned to the Greek and Latin classics for inspiration. Latin was then
the chief subject of study in the best schools and a stream of Latin words and affixes entered the English language. It was natural for educated Englishmen to use Latin freely in their conversation. Shakespeare was the first to use words like castigate, auspicious, critic and tolerance. Scientific and philosophical works from the 16th to the 18th century were usually written in Latin. Francis Bacon and Sir Isaac Newton wrote their great books in Latin. Some 16th century Latin borrowings include words like 'exit', 'genius', 'area', 'vacuum', 'ignoramus' etc. In the 17th century words like 'specimen', 'apparatus', 'album', 'focus', 'minimum' etc were added to the English vocabulary. The 18th and 19th century were marked by Latin loans like 'nucleus', 'insomnia', 'via', 'deficit', 'opus', 'ego', 'referendum', 'inertia', 'babillus' etc. The vast numbers of Latin words have enriched the English vocabulary and have also increased the number of synonyms.

CLASSICAL GREEK LOANS

Long before the Renaissance which led to the revival of Greek learning in the countries of Western Europe, a number of Greek words had been introduced into English by way of Latin which abounded in expressions borrowed from Greek. Almost all the Greek words found in English before the 16th century were derived from French or Latin sources. They were even spelt and pronounced as the Romans had spelt and pronounced them and not according to Greek tradition. The Greek 'u' became changed to a 'y' in Latin and the 'k' was changed to a 'c'. the modern word 'cycle' was thus derived.
from Greek 'Kukklos'. The Greek words borrowed from Latin during the Old English Period were mostly those relating to Christianity. The Greek loans which were borrowed during the Middle English Period were either borrowed from Latin or from French which had earlier adopted them from Latin.

A great number of technical terms in English have been borrowed from Greek or made up of Greek elements. The majority of Greek loans in English were originally scientific or technical terms though some soon formed part of popular vocabulary. Words like 'fancy', 'idea', 'ecstasy', 'pathos' and 'sympathy' were among the first to enter popular vocabulary. Some Greek words have become acclimatized in English and now serve as a source for technical terms. These include 'graph' (writing), 'phone', (sound), etc and they are sometimes combined with Latin elements in words like 'dictaphone', and 'appendicitis'. The names of scientific processes and inventions like 'photography', 'lithography', 'ophthalmoscope', 'stereotype', 'telephone', 'cinematograph' etc are all derived from Greek. Almost all medical terms in English are taken from Greek or coined on Greek models. Psychology is from Greek 'psyche' meaning mind, Neurology is from Greek 'nerial' meaning nerve. Hepatic id from Greek 'hepata' meaning liver and phlebotomy is from Greek 'phlebo' (vein). Classical Greek thus contributed greatly to the English language vocabulary because it was peculiarly suited to supply the need for precise technological or scientific terms.
THE FRENCH INFLUENCE

The main additions to the English language and those which had a great impact on its literary and linguistic development were from the French. The main additions to the English Language which were instrumental in bringing about fundamental changes in it were from the French. Initially the English Language was influenced by the Northern French of the Norman conquerors and then from the literary and learned speech of Paris. Even before the Norman conquest social, political as well as religious intercourse had begun among the ruling classes of England and Normandy. 'Castel', 'Capun' (capon) and 'bacon' (bacon) are examples of pre-conquest French words.

Soon after the Norman Conquest a large number of French words were introduced into the English language. Terms like 'prison', 'tower', 'market', 'rent', 'justice etc were borrowed from the language of the Norman rulers. The French loan-words entered into every walk of life. Legal terms like 'plaintiff', 'defendant', 'privilege', 'malfeasance', etc found their way into the English language. The English also borrowed from the French words of family relationship like 'uncle', 'aunt', 'nephew', 'niece', 'cousin', 'Grandsire' and 'Grandame'.

According to C.L.Wrenn, "A new impulse was given to the French influence early in the thirteenth century, however, by the dominant influence which France, with its then supreme university of Paris, came to exercise in matters of culture and letters; and it was in this century that very many cultural
terms came into the language.\textsuperscript{27} As a result, in addition to many Norman words already existing in the language, their Parisian French synonyms were also added to the vocabulary.

The French domination in matters of the church led to the adoption of religious terms like 'chaplain', 'prior', 'baptist' and 'prophet' into the English language. The fourteenth century witnessed a great increase in the number of French loans. They were no longer limited in use to the educated or upper class but had become integral parts of the language. The contacts with the French continued throughout the Hundred Years' War resulting in more and more French loans. Though like Latin, French continued to be the source of new words, the French loans after the fifteenth century were confined to particular classes of technical words restricted in use to the better educated people. The sixteenth century borrowings were mostly technical terms relating to war and they had very little to do with the common man.

The accession of Charles II to the English throne in 1660 greatly intensified the French influence on English. It ushered in a period of exceptionally close contact between the English and the French in matters relating to literature and social intercourse. Dryden's play \textit{Marriage a' la Mode} is entirely devoted to satirizing of the Frenchified fashionable woman of the times. Words like 'dragoon', 'stockade', 'reprimand', 'ballad', 'burlesque', 'tableau', 'chagrin', 'champagne', 'liaison', 'cortege', 'forte', 'soup', 'quart' etc are some of the seventeenth century borrowings from the French.
While the eighteenth century was also rich in the French entrants into English vocabulary the "nineteenth century was the richest of all periods in French loans since Middle English times, especially in terms of art and letters, of textiles and furniture, with the usual borrowings of military words." 28 'Barrage', 'communiqué', 'renaissance', 'resume', 'cliché', 'negligeé', 'chauffeur', 'debutante', 'fiancée', 'attaché', 'impasse', 'dossier' are some of the nineteenth century French loans. The process of borrowing from the French continued even in the twentieth century. The two world wars in which England and France were allies aided the process of borrowing.

MINOR SOURCES OF ENGLISH WORDS

The English language has also borrowed freely from Germanic languages like Dutch and High German. The maritime importance of the Dutch in the seventeenth century is indicated by such loan words as 'skipper', 'deck', 'hoist', 'buoy', 'hull', 'avast' etc. words like 'landscape', 'easel', 'sketch', 'maulstick', reflect the influence of Dutch artistic culture on the English. Two, much in vogue English words 'kindergarten' and 'plunder' are Dutch borrowings.

Some of the other European languages which have influenced and enriched English vocabulary are Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, modern Scandinavian, Czech and Celtic. The Italian influence is much experienced in words like 'opera', 'piano', 'studio', 'fiasco', 'motto' and many others. Words like 'albatross', 'cocoa', 'verandah' have been taken from the Portuguese language. From modern Scandinavian have been taken words like 'eider',
'geyser', 'tungsten', 'ski', 'saga' etc. the Celtic influence on the English language has been almost negligible. The only known Celtic influence is seen in place names ending in 'combe' which means valley.

The English vocabulary has been enriched with words from the language of America and the Far East as well as the Red Indian languages of America. The heterogeneousness of the English language can be seen in the following borrowings - 'tattoo' (from Polynesian), 'igloo' (from the Eskimos), 'chimpanzee' (from Africa), 'squaw' and 'wigwam' (from the American Redskins), 'kimono', 'hara-kiri', 'geisha' (from Japanese) and the like. There are also many borrowings from the Indian languages due to the long period of British rule in India. Words like 'sepoy', 'bungalow', 'bangle', 'copra', 'calico', 'mongoose', 'dungaree' are taken from Indian languages.

The incorporation of various alien elements has definitely added to the powers of expression of the English language. This heterogeneous nature of the English language has invested it with a subtlety and force which is unequalled by any other language. It may be said that the whole British History lies fossilized in the English vocabulary.

STANDARD ENGLISH

The English language is spoken all over the world by millions of people. These speakers belong to different social backgrounds and also follow different social backgrounds and also follow different occupations. Thus the language has varied speakers. Apart from the different classes of people using English,
the writers, the poets, the scholars, the journalists also influence the language.

In England itself three main currents of English speech are discernible. The first is that of the local dialects, which are confined to restricted areas. The second is a form of English spoken by some people in parts of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. The third is the speech of majority of people in each region. The last two forms are commonly referred to as Standard English. The second form is called the 'Received Standard', and the third is called the 'Modified Standard'.

Standard English gained popularity as the speech of the metropolitan population and gradually spread all over England. Between the Middle Ages and the close of the sixteenth century there were rapid changes in the shapes and sounds of English words. However by the end of the sixteenth century the language became standardized in the form it still retains. The 'Received Standard' is the speech of the products of the English public school education and hence also known as Public School English.

Modified Standard is widely spoken in England by the majority of people. It is the speech of a large number of people who have been brought up in a regional or occupational dialect and have corrected its sounds and usages in the light of the Received Standard. Modified Standard differs from class to class, from locality to locality; it has no uniformity and no single form of it is heard outside a particular class or a particular area.

Standard English is preferred by speakers all over the world because
it is not a local dialect and because it has qualities far superior to those of any regional dialect. Like every living language, Standard English is subject to change and development. Sound change, whether due to some alteration in the speech habits of the speakers, or due to the influence of one sound upon another, is an unconscious operation constantly going on in all spoken languages. Another change in Standard English can be caused by a change in its grammatical structure. A third change is the change in vocabulary, it consists in discarding old words and adopting new words be it freshly coined or borrowed from another language. The poets, the scholars, the scientists and the creators of slang terms all help to enrich the vocabulary of Standard English. Literary artists have contributed a great deal to the making of English vocabulary. The common man also does his share by using vivid words and phrases which express feelings and images more vigorously than the worn out phrases of Standard English. These are usually termed as 'slang' and gradually find their way into Standard English.

AMERICAN ENGLISH

Standard English arose as the speech of the metropolis and gradually spread over the whole of the English speaking world. This form of English was subject to changes brought about by the various influences acting on it. The chief among these is the form of English which developed on the other side of the Atlantic in America. England and America are two great countries separated by the same language. In these two countries two different forms of
what had originally been one and the same language are being spoken.

In the more than three centuries which have passed since the first English settlements were made in America, American English and British English have developed in divergent ways. One reason why American English differs from British English is that many features-old senses of words, old words and phrases, old pronunciations characteristic of the seventeenth century have been retained in the United States. Again there is a primary difference between American and British English in the rhythm and intonation of speech. However increased intercourse between the two countries has resulted in leveling down the differences considerably.

It is well known that the American spelling differs widely from the customary English is the spelling. The distinctive features of American spelling are mainly the legacy left behind by Noah Webster (1751-1843) whose *American Spelling Book* appeared in 1783 and was followed by his *American Dictionary of the English Language* in 1828. Today the unabridged edition of *Webster's International Dictionary* is the official spelling guide of the Government printing office and the accepted authority in all American courts. It sanctions such changes as or instead of - our (honor, humor, valor) - er for re (center, fiber, caliber), singular consonants for double ones (traveler, jewelery), s for c (defense, offense, practise) and simplified spellings like ax, catalog, tho, thru etc.

The difference in vocabulary between American English and British
English looms large in the language of travel and transport. In America one has to travel by 'rail' instead of 'train', and instead of 'registering his luggage' he is told to 'check his baggage'. The 'luggage van' of the train is referred to as the 'baggage car'. The word 'notice board' is replaced by 'bulletin board' and the alternative for 'timetable' is 'schedule'. The difference between American and English pertains to the practical spheres of life also. The American 'cracker' is the English 'biscuit'. The Americans say 'oatmeal' for 'porridge', 'desserts' for 'sweets', 'gasoline' for 'gas', 'truck' for 'lorry'.

AMERICAN INFLUENCE ON ENGLISH

American English has considerably influenced British English. The influence of American upon English is partly due to America's leading position in commerce, films and finance and also because of increased intercourse between the two countries. The verbs to 'advocate', 'placate' and 'antagonize' have found their way into English vocabulary.

One of the greatest American influences is in the slang used by the younger generation in Britain. The films are responsible for introducing into English these American expressions which are noted for their vividness and force. Among metaphorical usages in Good English which are from America are expressions like 'to get down to brass tracks' and the word 'fix' in such a sentence as 'try and fix it so that the prisoner escapes'. Again the word 'the party machine' is American because the use of 'machine' in this sense was unknown in British English. Among the slang expressions which hang on the
outskirt of colloquial expressions are 'dumb' for 'stupid', 'blue' for 'depressed', 'pass out' for 'die' or 'faint' and 'o.k.' for 'alright'. On the whole it may be said that American English has helped to re-vitalize and re-invigorate British English especially through the use of vivid metaphor.

THE DECOLONIZATION OF ENGLISH

Language has a strong relationship with society and culture. When discussing about English as an international language there is the need to take into account the relationship between the international spread of English across national boundaries and the many groups of people within their own society, each with distinct traditional languages and ethnic traditions, since the beginning of colonialism around 500 years ago, to the present age of globalization.

The colonizing nations forced the people in the colonized societies to accept their lower ranking in the colonial order of things and succeeded in colonizing the mind of the people. If colonialism involved 'colonising the mind', then the resistance to it required, in the contemporary Kenyan novelist Ngugi wa Thiongo's phrase the terminology of 'decolonising the mind'.

English language has contributed a great deal towards understanding and communication of tribes, villages, nations and continents. One of the unique features of English language is that as it changes the world, the language itself changes. The more it becomes a part of us, the more we own it.

Chinua Achebe who is considered to be "the voice of Nigeria" and the winner of the Man Booker International Prize, 2007 tried to reconstruct the
image of Africa in his novel *Things Fall Apart*. However he uses Standard English blended with pidgin rather than an indigenous language like Igbo. What Achebe strived to do was to decolonize English and use it to build up an African identity. Achebe actually hybridizes English language with Igbo language to come up with an Igbo-English language.

Achebe writes that -

"I feel the English language 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's main purpose of writing "Things Fall Apart" was to reconstruct the image of Africa in a language that respects the national tradition of his native land while recognizing the demands of cosmopolitan, international audience. Therefore English is no more the language of the imperialists because it has undergone a denationalization in the hands of writers like Achebe.

The implications of English as an International Language are extremely varied. The emerging reality is that English 'no longer belongs to its natives'. It is not so much that natives are suddenly being dispossessed, but more that non-natives are increasingly becoming 'possessed'.

Salman Rushdie is one of the pre-eminent post-colonial writers. The term post-colonial is used to refer to the literature that is exclusively produced in the former colonies of Great Britain. Rushdie uses English in his own unique way to decolonize the language. In his fiction he incorporated some
exclusively Indian (mostly Hindi or Urdu) words, phrases and collocations. Rushdie's attempts to decolonize the English language can be seen in his books "Midnight's Children", "Shame", and "The Moor's Last Sigh". In the very first paragraph of "Midnight's Children" there is the phrase "Piece-of-the-moon" which happens to be a literal translation of the Hindi phrase "chand-ka-tukra". Rushdie goes in for transliteration of vernacular idioms. For example he writes "[…] donkey from somewhere!" and "[…] madman from somewhere!" in "Midnight's Children". He also uses phrases like "the cloth of modesty" for "dupatta" and sentences like "You can have. Pudding-shudding?" and "These badmashes would not get away with their whistling shistling if it was my affair!"

It is universally and unanimously hypothesized that the widespread study of English language in India was imposed upon Indians by Lord Macaulay with the solitary aim of serving the end of British administration in India. Traveling a long way, from being a language doused in colonialism, English has come a long way as the language that has lent India an edge over countries where English is rendered the status of a 'foreign language'.

The departure of the British from India in 1947 called for a fresh look at the role and status of English in India. It initiated the process of the decolonization of the English language and also the teaching of English language and literature. Salman Rushdie best explains the process of decolonization when he says, "What seems to me to be happening is that those people who
were once colonized by the language are now rapidly remaking it, domesticating it, becoming more and more relaxed about the way they use it... assisted by the English language's enormous flexibility and size, they are carving out large territories for themselves within its frontiers".37

IMPORTANCE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN THE MODERN PERSPECTIVE

The world today is shrinking very fast and all this is because of Globalization. The term Globalization refers to the increased pace of interconnectedness which had its beginnings in the twentieth century and is continuing until now. It is the result both of human innovation and technological progress. "Globalization means global, transnational interactions of people, shared cultures, information and technology, education, economy and value systems beyond the cultural divide of West and East, Orient and Occident."38

Modern society is now termed as a knowledge society wherein the emphasis is on life-long learning. Thus there is today a constant need for knowledge and skill updating. Higher education system of any country must necessarily visualize the concept of life-long learning or continuing education as one of its primary objectives. The measure of any nation's economic development and progress depends on its higher education system. The aim of higher education should be not just to impart knowledge but also to ensure the supply of a skilled and efficient workforce. In a globalized economy to be at par with other countries it becomes imperative that every country capitalizes on something that would ensure that it becomes globally competitive.
One of the greatest barriers of Globalization happens to be the linguistic and communication barriers. In Globalization language and communication become key factors in unifying the world's culture and economy. This is done by the use of the information technology and the media. In the global world language plays a crucial role in helping people to expand their social network. The use of English language can enhance global literacy. There is a strong need to develop inter-cultural spirit and a multi-cultural citizen of the world. English today has become the language of the global village and the ability to communicate in English has now become a necessity. This language can help bridge the gap between the local and global communities. English today has become a gateway towards progress and learning.

When looking at a country like India it is found that both at the college and university level the education system produces "drop-out's" and even for those who eventually "pass-out" with a degree happen to do so with deficiencies in knowledge and skills. Thus the education system produces each passing year an army of "educated unemployed". This in turn results in a dearth of employable people. The potential of any country to become a shining economic power is dependant on the elimination of the mismatch between the education imparted in the higher education sector and the requirements of the modern. Everyone is well aware of the fact that higher education sector serves as the gateway to employment. Employment brings in its wake money, status and social advancement. To ensure employment in the global market the
emphasis of the higher education course curriculum must be on skilled manpower development. In the knowledge age it is human capital that really matters. Any education system must reflect the dynamics of the country's economy and the diversity of the needed human capital for powering its growth in an increasing globalized world.

In the wake of globalization the war for talent is spreading wider and getting bigger. In recruiting candidates employers are on the look out for graduates who possess high level skills, knowledge and appropriate personal attributes and who can 'grow' the job or help transform the organization. Globalization on the one hand offers tremendous employment opportunities for technocrats, professionals, diplomats, traders, journalists, jurists, transcriptionists etc. but on the other hand to enhance employment potential in the emerging global employment market one must fulfill three (3) key pre-requisites.

1. Possession of information technology skills
2. Enhancement of Soft skills and
3. English communication skills

Employers generally see a graduate's achievements related to the subject discipline as necessary but not sufficient enough for them to be recruited. Achievements outside the boundaries of their discipline (such as the possession of so called soft-skills) are generally considered to be important in the recruitment of graduates.
The English language has evolved a powerful standard of its own both in the written and spoken form not just in its mother island but also in different parts of the world like the United States, Australia and also in various parts of the Commonwealth. The English language has thus been "nationalized, localized and democratized" abroad. There are also some specialized forms of the English language like the English of engineering, medicine and of aeronautics. What is extremely striking about the English language is that it has given rise to a number of styles and registers as numerous as the departments of thought into which the human genius for creative perception, discovery and invention has poured itself in modern times. In this way this language has converted itself into a world language. Kachru notes that "English now has national and international functions that are both distinct and complementary. English has thus acquired a new power base and a new elitism."  

Knowledge of English is necessary today if only for discarding English at a later stage. Literature can be enriched by means of translations. It is possible to find in the English language translations of outstanding works relating to any field and written originally in any language of the world. English literature itself is rich in such writings. These can be translated into other languages only by people who know English well and the subject which is their field of study. That is one of the reasons why the study of English should be stressed upon.
Moreover there is the need to interpret a nation's thought and culture abroad.\textsuperscript{41} It is well known that many international committees and conferences transact their business in English. Everyone is also aware of the fact that a book translated into English stands the chance of winning a world public. Knowledge of English is imperative for getting access to modern scientific and technological knowledge. There is the urgent need of a common language which can be understood by people all over the world and a language in which all data and information is available. The English language very conveniently fits into the slot and hence there is the growing hegemony of this language. The nations and universities who have regionalized their medium of instruction will have to think twice before extending this step to courses in Law, Medicine, Engineering or Agriculture. Such a step will put the cart before the horse, the medium before the content of a subject.

The English language helps in keeping abreast with the latest thought in Europe and the West in every field of life and culture. Unless a nation is capable of overtaking the West in intellectual leadership or even match up with it on its own ground, rejecting the study of English will amount to committing intellectual hara-kiri.

In the political arena also English reigns supreme. For any country to spread its policies or point of view it is necessary to have a common medium for the exchange of ideas and views. English has an international status and can thus provide the best medium and platform to interact with the rest of the
world. It is a known fact that in all international seminars or summits all speeches or course material is in English. To capitalize on the best opportunities available it becomes essential that one should have at least a working knowledge of the English language.

In modern society the ability to communicate in English has become a necessity because it is the language of the global village. It also happens to be the language used in business, technology, media and education. The English language narrows down cultural and linguistic gaps and it also happens to be the language that narrows cultural diversity and expands cultural divergence.

Crystal says that "The language has penetrated deeply into the international domains of political life, business, safety, communication, entertainment, the media and education. The convenience of having a lingua franca available to serve global human relations and needs has come to be appreciated by millions. .....A language's future seems assured when so many organizations come to have a vested interest in it."42

With the evolution of English to the status of a world language, awareness has been generated about the features that a world language must possess. Irrespective of its origin, a world language must become a utility language that embraces the needs of everyone. Though English originally was the language of the British, there are now many varieties of English, including American English, African English, Indian English and Australian English. English tends to be a default world language for the present.
THE DOWNSIDE OF ENGLISH HEGEMONY

One of the problems of English and globalization is the threat it and other dominant languages pose to hundreds of other languages now decreasing in usage. Some countries are concerned that they will lose their cultural heritage along with their native tongue as a result of the increasing use of the English language. A language apart from culture also carries hard knowledge and precious lore that may be discarded along with a dying language. The study of particular ethnic groups has led to much advancement in medical science. Global English risks reducing cultural diversity. It is essential to protect indigenous languages because the loss of a single language will lead to the loss of the knowledge and culture of an entire population.

With the spread of globalization, more and more children of minority cultures are being educated in dominant languages which will give them access to expanded opportunities for success and prosperity. Without a concerted effort to promote multilingualism and an ongoing interest in the culture which supports traditional mother tongues, a huge divest of knowledge, ideas and traditions will be absorbed into the dominant culture, changing radically in the process.

Language defines culture, the way of thinking, and interaction with the environment. If something is of great interest to people, they will invent a number of different words to describe various aspects of it. The Japanese language uses a system of honorifics to define the nature of a relationship,
showing reverence, affection or respect. The German and Greek language classify all objects as masculine, feminine or neuter, while English makes no such distinction. All these shades of meaning, colour human perceptions. It is virtually impossible to observe something which cannot be described in words.

English today happens to be one of the most widespread languages for international and intercultural communication. The dominance of English has however resulted in English becoming hegemonic and creating linguistic and communicative inequality. It is also seen that the dominance of this language in the international arena has brought about colonization of the consciousness of the non-English-speakers. This in turn leads to a kind of psychological dependency and identification with, the English, its culture and people.

The English language also creates discrimination against people who are not proficient in the language. Those who cannot speak the language fluently are labeled inferior. A. Pennycook, Australian applied linguist points out the interrelationship between the dominance of English and the structure of global relations as follows:

"Its widespread use threatens other languages; it has become the language of power and prestige in many countries, thus acting as a crucial gatekeeper to social and economic progress; its use in particular domains, especially professional, may exacerbate different power relationships and may render these domains more inaccessible to many people; its position in the world gives it a role also as an international gatekeeper, regulating the
international flow of people; it is closely linked to national and increasingly non-national forms of culture and knowledge that are dominant in the world; and it is also bound up with aspects of global relations, such as spread of capitalism, development aid and the dominance particularly of North American media."

Today majority of world population is familiar with McDonalds, Subway and KFC. Shopping malls have become our favourite shopping destinations. Movies and popcorn have become almost synonymous. All this has become possible because English has become one of the best-selling commodities in the world. English language related products ranging from movies, CD's, T-shirts, jeans, discos have huge consumers the world over. The use of English products has lead to 'cultural domination' over the non-western countries and the Third World by the United States and the transnational Corporations.

English has also become the dominant academic and scientific language. The academic journals and books published in English and edited from the United States and the United Kingdom increasingly dominate world scholarship. In the globalized world academic curriculum is increasingly dominated by trends prevalent in the major English-speaking countries which mean that the United States and a few other countries dominate the scene. Again, the United States was also responsible for the creation of the "Information Superhighway" and the global spread of the internet. Thus
there has been an Anglo-Americanization of world culture mainly because the United States happens to be a superpower and happens to influence and dominate other countries.

The globalization of the English language has also caused riots and uproars. The Soweto Riots demonstrates the power of the English language and how at times it causes people to reject their own language. The Soweto Uprising of South Africa began on the morning of June 16, 1976. "The cause for this march was a protest against the compulsory use of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction for some subject in black secondary schools in the Transvaal."46

On that fateful day thousands of black high school students walked from their schools to Orlando Stadium for a rally to protest against the use of Afrikaans in schools. The association of Afrikaans with apartheid prompted black South Africans to prefer English. The protest was intended to be peaceful but turned violent when 13 year old Hector Pieterson was shot dead outside Orlando West High School.

Thus the hegemony of English creates inequality, discrimination, Americanization and commercialization of contemporary life. Though at present this language cannot be done away with but perhaps an alternative way can be found by promoting multilingualism and multiculturalism.
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