

## ORIGIN OF ENGLISH AND ITS IMPORTANCE IN COMMUNICATION IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

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### ABSTRACT

English is unquestionably the international language of business since we are living in the world of business changing as rapid as it has never had before, we find ourselves with new and ever-growing challenges, when it comes to learning Business English. In India, English is not used only for the utilitarian purpose but also as the Business Language and Lingua Franca. It has emerged as an essential skill for multinational and multilingual environment, which is common in India from past few decades. In the present paper we are discussing origin of English and its importance in the field of social sciences.

**Keywords:** lingua franca, origin, science, technology.

## INTRODUCTION

During the 5th Century AD three Germanic tribes (Saxons, Angles, and Jutes) came to the British Isles from various parts of northwest Germany as well as Denmark.<sup>4</sup> They spoke a mutually understandable language, alike to modern Frisian - the language of the north eastern region of the Netherlands – called as Old English. The arrival of St. Augustine in 597 and the introduction of Christianity into Saxon England brought more Latin words into the English language. Like as: *church*, *baptism*, *monk*, and *bishop*.<sup>5</sup> These words came indirectly through Greek language. Four chief dialects of Old English came into existence, Northumbrian in the north of England, West Saxon in the west and south and Mercian in the Midlands, and south and Kentish in the Southeast. These invaders pushed the original, Celtic-speaking population out England into Scotland, Cornwall, Wales, and Ireland, leaving behind some Celtic words. These Celtic languages survive now in the Gaelic languages of Scotland and Ireland and in Welsh. Cornish, unluckily, is, in linguistic terms, now a dead language.<sup>6</sup> Norse invasions and settlement, start around 850, carried many North Germanic words into the language, mainly in the north of England. For example, *dream*, which had meant 'joy' until the Vikings imparted its recent meaning on it from the Scandinavian cognate *draumr*, and *skirt*, which continues to live along its native English cognate *shirt*.

About six centuries back, during the Age of Chaucer, English was spoken by just two and a half million people on one, relatively small island, and the language consisted of dialects spoken by people who spoke only one language. Today there are more non-native speakers than native users of English, and English has become the linguistic key used for opening borders: it is a global medium with local identities and messages English has become a world language, spoken by at least 750 million people. It is more widely spoken and written than any other language, even Latin, has ever been. It can, indeed, be said to be the first truly global language. English is nowadays the dominant or official language in over 60 countries.

The English language has in the course of these centuries penetrated deeply in the Indian society, which has, in its turn, resulted in several varieties of English in India. The development of those new varieties is connected with historical and social factors.<sup>30</sup>

The new 'English's have all their own contexts of function and usage, and they have also, in their turn, affected the native varieties of English.

In India English is not the native language of any community or people at large. It is a minority language, but yet a language of national affairs and its status is often termed into question, as Bailey puts it, "not only by foreigners with their ideas of proper English, but also by Indians who remain ambivalent about its distinctive features and uncertain about its future."<sup>31</sup> In fact, many of transplanted kinds of Englishes have so attuned to the idea of a foreign standard of propriety that their independence remains partial.

English as International Language of Science English, according to Drubin and Kellogg (2012), is now used almost exclusively as the language of science. Though up till now, the world Scientist Association has not officially declared the language as the official language of science, but almost all activities in science and technology are carried in the language. Deng (2015) posits that five percent (5%) of people worldwide are native speakers. This means that ninety five per cent (95%) of worldwide speakers of English are non native speakers. However, there is daily increase in the learning and the use of the language among other countries where the language was initially ascribed the status of "foreign language". There are lots of factors responsible for the sudden interest in the use of English language worldwide. Among these are: The origin of English: English has its origin from German, Greek, Latin and Dutch. This made it easier to learn by the speakers of the four languages. Linguistic similarities in English and the four languages facilitate the learning of English language by the speakers of those languages. Apart from this, most lexical items in English are borrowed from other languages, including French. This makes the learning and understanding of English language easy by the speakers of other languages. The rising power of America: The activities of the United State of America helped tremendously in populating the English language in many ways: (a) Increase in the United States science graduates: The National Science Foundation, according to Deng (2015) calculates that two hundred and ninety- three (293) American graduated with a research doctoral in 1902. By 1990s, according to him, the country produced more than 30,000 new sciences Ph.D.s a year. More than a million new American researchers in the 20th century. All these projects were written and published in English language. This has helped to make the language an indisputable lingua franca in science. (b) The fall of the USSR – The role played by the United States of America in bringing an end to the Union of Soviet and Socialist Republic (USSR) also helped in the spread of English language. The USSR was established on December 20, 1922 comprising Federation of Russia, Belorussia and Transcaucasia federation. It later grew into the world most powerful and influential state. The war against the communist government of the USSR led by the USA government resulted to the collapse of the union in 1991. This gave more recognition

to the USA and English language in the world. (c) Google: In 1995, Larry Page (22years old) and Sergey Brin (21years old) met at Stanford University, and by 1996, they began a collaborative work on a search engine called BackRub. BackRub operates on Standford Servers. Google.com was registered on September 15, 1997 as a domain. The language of Google is English. Most world Science and technology researchers make use of the Google. This also helped in the spread and dominance of English in the field of science and technology. ([www.google.com](http://www.google.com)). (d) The face book and other social networks – most social networks were developed by Americans. They were majorly developed as a means of social interaction. However, they were developed in English language. World Attitudes towards English language: There are one hundred and ninety-six (196) countries in the world including Taiwan (Till this moment, People 's Republic of China considers Taiwan as a breakaway, province of China). Currently, 192 countries are members of the United Nations. The official language of the United Nations is English, though interpretations are made into German, Chinese, Spanish, French and Finnish. The activities of the United Nations helped in the spread of English language worldwide. Eighty-three (83) countries of the world, according to [www.nationonline.org](http://www.nationonline.org), have English as their official language. Likewise, it is spoken in other one hundred and four (104) countries as either second or foreign language. This has helped tremendously in the spread of the language. International Science Association: International awards, meetings and activities in the field of science and technology are carried out in English language. The following international associations, among others, perform their activities using English language as the medium of communication: (a) The International Society for the Psychology of Science (b) The International Society for the History, Philosophy and Society for Literature, Science and the Arts (SLSA) (c) The International Society for Psychology of Science and Technology (ISPST) The associations recommend that cross national and international researches should be conducted in English language.

The results of survey revealed that, in India mastering in business English language skills is crucial for professional progression, as 87% Indian business professionals agreed that learning English for business purpose is must, and 79% professionals believed that learning Business English is important for efficient management and implementation of

business policies. 93% business professionals believed that Unprofessional writing can damage the company brands as well the impression of individual, and 96% professionals said Company must organize some personality development workshops for its employees. Today English is not used only for the utilitarian purpose by Indians but also as the Business Language or/and Lingua Franca. It has emerged as essential skills to be adapted for multinational and multilingual environment. English is the language of business, industries and organizations in India and abroad. Thus multinational companies require their employees to have adequate language competencies. English is unquestionably the international language of business in present era. The world of business is changing and growing so rapidly that new challenges come before the professionals to learning business English, which is a mandate to survive in highly competitive world of business. In the corporate world only speaking in English language is not sufficient but correct usage of English in a specific manner is more important, which contribute to the identity of a successful business professional. Indian Business Professionals required business English skills to grow and prosper in all the spheres of life. It helps to mark their presence in the global world as well. Acquaintance with the art of business communication is the key to success in professional environment. Business English language skill is essential to carry out the business successfully and also to communicate with people of different cultures. All in all, a good command over English can be one's passport to the world of excellence and prosperity.

As a consequence of globalization big international companies increasingly use English as a corporate language, and today English seems to be perceived as an essential part of employees' competencies. It is a fact that English is the principal global language used to facilitate communication in a multinational and multilingual environment. In India the majority of business professionals feel that English language skills are required to work efficiently in all the good companies. English indeed is the first language for many educated Indians, and for many, who speak more than one language, English is the second one.

Therefore the impact of learning business English for professionals working in India has been studied in this thesis. It has covered the history of English language and its emergence in India. It has witnessed the journey of importance of learning Business English language and its role in two states- Maharashtra and Delhi. The Research Methodology used for this work is survey. It was conducted with the help of a questionnaire as the tool. This presents a stratified research in which employee working with MNCs have been chosen as the sample of research. There are prominent findings derived out of this research which suggests that learning Business English is an asset for working professionals. Speaking in English has become a trend, which is being judged by young generation as a status symbol. People who join MNCs are fresh graduate and/or post graduates who are keen on maintaining their image among the peer group. Surprisingly the fact is, people with magnificent communication skills and spoken efficiency in English are preferred at entry level too. The efficiency of learning Business English is reflected in their growth patterns clearly, which depicts the importance of correct usage of English for communication. It has been found that Indian business professionals want companies to build encouraging environment for practicing business English language skills, as Business English. The present study has made an attempt to explore the importance of English language for business professionals and the attitude of business professionals of India towards learning business English.

The present research has taken the view of business professionals from only two states, for future research the survey can include other states of India too. The present research focused only on getting attitude of business professionals towards importance of Business English language. Future research can be done to analyze the barriers and short comings which business professionals face while using English language. The present study is based

on random selection of professionals from some companies of repute. Future research can be gender specific.

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