

THE NECESSITY AND DANGERS OF GLOBAL LANGUAGE
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Abstract. This chapter critically examines the paradoxical nature of a global language, exploring its indispensable role in facilitating international communication, commerce, and diplomacy, while simultaneously scrutinizing the profound dangers it poses to linguistic diversity, cultural identity, and geopolitical equity. Drawing upon interdisciplinary scholarship, the analysis synthesizes arguments for the economic, scientific, and diplomatic efficiencies afforded by a lingua franca with concerns regarding linguistic imperialism, cultural homogenization, and the exacerbation of power imbalances. The chapter argues that while the emergence of a global language is a historical inevitability driven by various socio-evolutionary factors, its unchecked dominance necessitates proactive strategies to foster linguistic pluralism and mitigate the risks of cultural erosion and geopolitical leverage.

Keywords: Global language, lingua franca, linguistic imperialism, cultural homogenization, soft power, international trade, geopolitics, linguistic diversity, communication barriers.

Аннотация. В данной главе критически рассматривается парадоксальная природа глобального языка, исследуется его незаменимая роль в содействии международному общению, торговле и дипломатии. Одновременно анализируются глубокие угрозы, которые он представляет для языкового разнообразия, культурной идентичности и геополитического равенства. Анализ синтезирует аргументы в пользу экономической, научной и дипломатической эффективности, обеспечиваемой лингва франка, с опасениями относительно лингвистического империализма, культурной гомогенизации и усугубления дисбаланса сил. Глава утверждает, что, хотя появление глобального языка является исторической неизбежностью, его бесконтрольное доминирование требует проактивных стратегий для содействия языковому плюрализму и снижения рисков культурной эрозии и геополитического влияния.

Ключевые слова: Глобальный язык, лингва франка, лингвистический империализм, культурная гомогенизация, мягкая сила, международная торговля, геополитика, языковое разнообразие, коммуникационные барьеры.

Annotatsiya. Ushbu bob global tilning paradoksal tabiatini tanqidiy ko'rib chiqadi, uning xalqaro aloqa, savdo va diplomatiyani osonlashtirishdagi ajralmas rolini o'rganadi. Shu bilan birga, u til xilma-xilligi, madaniy o'ziga xoslik va geosiyosiy tenglikka tahdid soluvchi chuqur xavflarni tahlil qiladi. Tahlil lingua franca tomonidan taqdim etiladigan iqtisodiy, ilmiy va diplomatik samaradorlik argumentlarini lingvistik imperializm, madaniy gomogenizatsiya va hokimiyat nomutanosibligining kuchayishi bilan bog'liq xavotirlar bilan sintez qiladi. Bob global tilning paydo bo'lishi tarixiy muqarrarlik bo'lsa-da, uning nazoratsiz hukmronligi lingvistik plyuralizmni rivojlantirish va madaniy eroziya hamda geosiyosiy ta'sir xavfini kamaytirish uchun faol strategiyalarni talab qilishini ta'kidlaydi.

Kalit so'zlar: Global til, lingua franca, lingvistik imperializm, madaniy gomogenizatsiya, yumshoq kuch, xalqaro savdo, geosiyosat, lingvistik xilma-xillik, aloqa to'siqlari.

Introduction

In an increasingly interconnected world, the concept of a global language, or lingua franca, has become central to discussions of international relations, economic development, and cultural exchange. Historically, lingua francas have emerged during "liminal periods" of global transformation, serving as unifying forces across diverse populations [1]. Today, English predominantly occupies this role, facilitating unprecedented levels of global interaction.

Literature Review

The scholarly discourse on global languages, particularly English, is rich and multifaceted. Chew [1] highlights the often-overlooked significance of lingua francas in shaping world orders, arguing that their emergence is intricately linked to socio-evolutionary factors, historical change, and national identity. Employing a diachronic linguistic approach, Chew offers a de-centered perspective on English's role, moving beyond analyses focused solely on social relations to examine its broader historical and geopolitical context [1]. This perspective is complemented by the Cambridge University Press chapter on lingua francas, which identifies four principal motives for their development: commerce, conquest, religious conversion, and cultural attraction [2]. The survival of such languages, it notes, depends on the continuation of these motives or their adoption as a mother tongue (Regeneration), while decline can result from community dissolution (Ruin/Resignation) or deliberate suppression (Relegation) [2].

The economic imperative for a global language is strongly articulated in studies on international trade. Research consistently demonstrates that effective communication, underpinned by shared language skills, is fundamental for establishing mutual understanding, cultivating trust, and fostering enduring partnerships in global commerce [3].

Methodology

This chapter adopts a qualitative, analytical, and critical synthesis approach to examine the necessity and dangers of a global language. The research design is primarily conceptual, drawing upon a focused review and critical evaluation of existing scholarly literature provided as primary data [1-5]. This methodology allows for the synthesis of diverse theoretical perspectives and empirical findings from linguistics, economics, and geopolitics to construct a comprehensive argument.

The "data" for this chapter consists of the five provided academic texts. These texts are treated as primary sources for the analysis, representing distinct yet interconnected facets of the global language phenomenon. The analytical instruments employed include:

Thematic Analysis: Identifying recurring themes, arguments, and concepts related to the benefits and risks of a global language across the diverse sources.

Findings & Analysis

The analysis of the provided literature reveals a compelling dichotomy regarding the role of a global language. On one hand, its necessity is underscored by undeniable efficiencies and facilitative capacities in an interconnected world. On the other, its pervasive influence presents significant dangers to linguistic diversity and geopolitical equity.

The economic benefits of a common language are particularly pronounced. Effective communication is identified as fundamental for establishing mutual understanding, trust, and enduring partnerships in international commerce [3]. Linguistic competence and intercultural communication skills are critical for successful negotiation outcomes, conflict resolution, and fostering cooperation in global markets [3]. The empirical study on Common Korean Language (CKL) provides concrete evidence, demonstrating that a 1% increase in the proportion of the population speaking Korean correlates with a 1.8% increase in trade value share and a 2.3% increase in transaction share [4]. This effect is attributed to the reduction of communication barriers, mitigation of informational asymmetry, and lower negotiation costs, leading to reduced commodity prices and a wider diversity in goods and trade methods [4]. These findings highlight how a shared language directly translates into tangible economic advantages, particularly for developing economies and in regions with established trade links.

Beyond commerce, a global language facilitates scientific collaboration, academic exchange, and diplomatic efforts, enabling the rapid dissemination of knowledge and fostering international cooperation on complex global challenges. Chew's analysis of lingua francas emerging during "liminal periods" underscores their unifying potential in a diverse world, connecting their influence to broader world order phenomena [1].

Discussion

The findings underscore a critical tension: the undeniable utility of a global language for efficiency and connectivity versus its inherent capacity to foster linguistic imperialism and cultural loss. This paradox necessitates a nuanced approach to language policy and education in a globalized world.

The economic advantages of a shared language, as demonstrated by the impact on international trade and business negotiations [3, 4], are compelling. However, these benefits must be weighed against the potential for creating linguistic barriers for non-native speakers, thereby disadvantaging certain populations and economies. The strategic importance of integrating comprehensive language training into business education curricula [3] is a positive step, but it primarily addresses the needs of those already within the dominant linguistic paradigm.

The geopolitical implications are particularly salient. The use of language as a tool for soft power and cultural domination [5] means that the rise of a global language is not merely a communicative convenience but a significant factor in shaping international relations and power structures. This necessitates a critical awareness of the origins and perpetuation of linguistic dominance, as highlighted by Chew's focus on

lingua francas emerging during "liminal periods" and their connection to evolving world orders [1].

Conclusion

The emergence of a global language is a complex phenomenon, simultaneously a necessity for efficient global interaction and a potential danger to linguistic diversity and geopolitical equity. This chapter has synthesized evidence demonstrating the profound economic, scientific, and diplomatic benefits derived from a common lingua franca, particularly in reducing communication barriers and fostering international trade. Concurrently, it has critically analyzed the perils of linguistic dominance, highlighting its role in cultural homogenization, linguistic imperialism, and the exacerbation of power imbalances on the global stage.

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