

THE GLOBAL DOMINANCE OF ENGLISH: OPPORTUNITY OR THREAT TO NATIONAL LANGUAGES?

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Abstract: The article analyzes the global dominance of English and its role in linguistic globalization. It examines effects on language diversity, threats to national languages, and strategies for preserving linguistic and cultural identity worldwide.

Keywords: globalization, English, language diversity, national languages, language policy.

Introduction. In the contemporary world, globalization has become a powerful force shaping nearly every aspect of human life, including culture, education, and communication. As international cooperation increases, languages are also influenced by these global connections. This process, commonly known as linguistic globalization, refers to the growing dominance of certain languages that function beyond national boundaries and serve as tools for worldwide interaction. Among all global languages, English has achieved a particularly strong position. It is widely used in international business, academic research, digital technologies, and global media. The spread of English is closely connected with historical, political, and economic factors, as well as the rapid expansion of the Internet and modern communication systems. As a result, English has become a key language for accessing global information and participating in international dialogue. Nevertheless, the increasing dominance of English raises important linguistic concerns. Many smaller and national languages face reduced usage, especially among younger generations, which may eventually lead to language decline. Therefore, studying the relationship between global language influence and the preservation of linguistic diversity remains a highly relevant issue today.

Literature review. The topic of linguistic globalization has gained significant attention in sociolinguistics because it directly affects the future of language diversity. Researchers widely agree that globalization strengthens international communication and increases the influence of a limited number of languages. Among them, English has become the most visible and influential global language. Crystal explains that the worldwide spread of English is connected to historical expansion and its strong position in modern scientific and technological development [1]. This view shows that English is not only a language of communication but also a language of access to global knowledge. However, the global role of English is often discussed as a controversial phenomenon. Phillipson argues that the dominance of English cannot be separated from political and economic power, describing it as a form of linguistic imperialism [2]. In a

similar direction, Pennycook highlights that English carries cultural influence and shapes social values, meaning its spread affects not only communication but also identity and ideology [9]. These approaches suggest that the global success of English may create unequal linguistic conditions. Language endangerment is another important aspect of this debate. Fishman emphasizes that the survival of a language depends on its active use within families and communities, as well as its transmission to younger generations [3]. Without this continuity, languages gradually lose their social function. UNESCO's reports also confirm that many minority languages are threatened and require urgent support to prevent extinction [4]. Nettle and Romaine further explain that modernization and globalization often accelerate language loss by replacing local languages with more economically useful ones [7]. Modern researchers also consider the impact of technology. Graddol notes that English has become the dominant language in global education, media, and business, especially due to the growth of digital communication [6]. At the same time, Skutnabb-Kangas warns that educational systems can become harmful for minority languages when they prioritize global languages and exclude native-language instruction [8]. Therefore, the literature suggests that globalization creates both opportunities and risks, depending on how language policies are managed. Overall, academic studies present linguistic globalization as a complex process. While English provides practical advantages, it may also contribute to the weakening of smaller languages. For this reason, language planning and national strategies remain essential for preserving linguistic diversity [10].

Methodology. The research is based on a qualitative approach because the topic requires theoretical interpretation rather than numerical measurement. The main objective is to examine how linguistic globalization, particularly the dominance of English, influences language diversity and national language development. The first stage of the study involved a systematic review of academic sources, including books, journal articles, and international reports related to global English and endangered languages [1][4]. This helped to identify major theoretical frameworks and scholarly viewpoints. The second stage applied a comparative method. Different perspectives on language dominance and language shift were compared in order to understand how globalization affects both major and minor languages. This step relied on concepts of language maintenance and revitalization described by Fishman and other scholars [3]. The third stage included elements of content analysis. The study examined the role of English in modern communication environments such as education, media, and online platforms. This approach was used to understand why English is often prioritized and how digital communication contributes to its expansion [6]. Finally, the findings from the literature and analytical stages were interpreted to draw conclusions about the positive and negative consequences of English dominance. Based on these conclusions, the study proposes strategies aimed at supporting national languages through education, policy development, and digital linguistic resources [8][10].

Discussion. The findings show that linguistic globalization has both positive and negative effects. On the one hand, English simplifies international communication and provides access to global education, science, and employment. On the other hand, its dominance reduces the use of national and minority languages, especially among younger generations. As a result, language mixing and the replacement of local vocabulary by English loanwords have become more common. This situation may

weaken cultural identity because language is closely connected to traditions and national values.

Results. The study reveals that English has become the main global language due to technological development, international media, and global economic influence. At the same time, many smaller languages are losing their social importance and are used less in everyday communication. The analysis also shows that the preservation of language diversity depends strongly on education in the native language, effective language policy, and the creation of digital resources such as online dictionaries, educational platforms, and local media content.

Conclusion. In conclusion, English plays an important role in modern globalization and supports global cooperation. However, its rapid spread may threaten linguistic diversity and lead to the decline of national languages. Therefore, it is necessary to maintain a balance: learning global languages should not replace the active use and development of native languages. Supporting education, cultural projects, and digital materials in national languages is essential for protecting linguistic diversity.

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