

GLOBAL LANGUAGES

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Part 1

Good morning everybody, good morning teachers. I hope that you enjoyed the walk over here this morning. I see that we have a student from Oman here I hope he enjoyed it? 'Yes'. I am going to ask you a question; are there any Arabic speakers in this class? No, OK. Are there any mandarin speakers? Speakers of Mandarin? Yes, anybody speak Chinese? Yes, ah, Maggie does OK, good. Have we got a Greek speaker here? Yes we have, and I think we have somebody from Thailand, is that correct? Ah, still sleeping, is he here? Somebody from Vietnam? Yes OK two people. It was that haircut that fooled me, actually, you know. The thing is that how do you communicate to each other if you are from Vietnam or Greece - how do you communicate? You communicate through English, right, good. And today I am going to talk about English. I have actually put the title 'Global Language', because I am not just going to talk about English. I am going to talk about Global Languages, but the main focus will be on English, the English language. I am going to talk about English in the past, the present and the future. I am probably going to confuse you because I am not just going to go - past, present, future, sometimes I might switch backwards and forwards, so it will be very good for your note taking skills.

Now like every good presenter, of course, first I have an outline of what I am going to do. You can read that for yourself, and I will particularly, probably spending more time talking about this than anything, but we will see. I will see how much time I've got, I am watching the clock.

The first thing I am going to do is explain the term '*lingua franca*' and what I am going to do is - I am going to actually read from a book which I have got here. It is actually a dictionary of Applied Linguistics by Jack Richards, John Platt and Heidi Weber. You might be interested to know that I actually bought this book when I was a student here at Reading University about 2,000 years ago. It says here that a '*lingua franca*' is a language that is used for communication between different groups of people, each speaking a different language. A language that is used for communication between different groups of people, each speaking a different language. What it actually means is each speaking a different first language. So it's a common language and it's the language that you use here. So English is a '*lingua franca*' but it is not the only '*lingua franca*' as you know. Spanish is - people from many parts of South America for example, speak Spanish. French is, Chinese is, Arabic is, you know there are many '*lingua franca*' around. It is actually a Latin term - and I will be talking about Latin later on. So I won't just be talking about English.

If you look at these facts and figures here, we are talking about the current status of English, how it is at present in terms of numbers of speakers and people who are learning the language. And what is interesting when you look at these figures is that the lowest number is the number of native speakers of English. And the

highest number is the number of speakers of English worldwide, 2 billion. That is according to David Crystal in his publication in 2006. And it is interesting to note that there are more than a billion people actually learning English right now. So you are 1 in a billion, each one of you, one in a billion.

Part 2

There's a few interesting terms here, interesting things to notice. E A L - English as an Additional Language. In this country, in Britain, as you know there are a lot of migrants. People who come here for various reasons. Mainly for work, I've got to say, people from Poland and Lithuania and Portugal. They're in schools in England, well they are not, the workers aren't, but their children are in schools in England studying in English in an English school system. But they are treated as EAL, they are in the EAL Unit. They are given special classes in order to enable them to be able to function very successfully in English schools. A lot of the younger kids, the little kids, 4 or 5 year olds who are just beginning school, you know what children are like. They just communicate quite happily with each other. The little kids learn English very, very, very quickly - the ones who are not native speakers. But older kids as well. They probably find it a lot more difficult to integrate with British children, because of the language barriers.

Now let's take a look at the status of English. This is a map of the world, I am going to show you another map in a minute. If you look at the red - these are the areas where English is spoken. Either as a first language, - as a native language, or as a second language or what we call an 'official' language - and I will talk more about that in a minute. And you can see North America, one side of the globe Australia, the Indian subcontinent, southern, central and eastern Africa, areas of West Africa. Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone. I am going to be talking briefly in a moment about a country in central Africa called Zambia. There's another map, and what's good about this map, I know you can't read it here very clearly, but you can see the colours. There are one, two, three, four different colours. Forget about the grey, just look at the orange, the light brown and the yellow. Orange is where English is 'official' and most widely used. The light brown is English, where English is official but not most widely used, so down in Africa for example, or in the Indian sub-continent. Yellow where English is not official but is widely used, for example in Egypt. OK, so those are two different maps and by the way you will be getting a handout from your teachers later on, so you don't have to draw the map right now.

Part 3

Let's look at this. I have actually, showing you this I haven't bothered to put any figures in. But it is just to give you an idea of the position of English in terms of world languages. In other words the number of people who are speaking English as their first, or official language. And you can see that it comes No. 2. Mandarin Chinese obviously is first, because there are more Chinese people than there are any other nationality. Interestingly Spanish is third - and you know all of South America for example, apart from Brazil, is Spanish speaking as well as Spain as well of course which is a pretty big country in it's own right. Hindi and Arabic and I will be talking about this later because this is going to change in the future. So those are first language speakers and then there's official language speakers and I should define these two terms. A first language speaker is the language of

birth, your native tongue. An official language however is a language which is a language of government and education. Now Joan mentioned to you earlier, and I mentioned to you earlier, that I spent many years in Africa and I was over there teaching English. And the country I lived in was a country called Zambia. In Zambia, I think, there are about 10 million people and there are 4 distinct languages *Bemba, Tonga, Nyanja* and *Lozi* - 4 national languages and they are very different. On top of that there are many dialects as well. So obviously for the country to function successfully they had to have a common '*lingua franca*' which is English. Ok, so the official language of government, education and so forth was English. But of course all the local people when they were at home or with their friends would speak their own local language.

I'm going to move on now to something called The Three Circles. Braj Kachru, Indian by birth, a very eminent linguist - linguistics expert has created, back 26 years ago now, something known as The Three Circles. I will show you a diagram of this in a second - which is an inner circle, an outer circle and an expanding circle. The inner circle being the speakers, the native speakers of English. The outer circle being the countries, the people who speak English as an official language, they have to have it to function successfully although it is not their native language, and then the expanding circle. You I think, all of you, are part of that expanding circle. All those countries, all those places where English is spoken for reasons of business, trade, science, education, entertainment etc. Although that entertainment thing is changing a bit. I don't know if any of you have seen the movie 'Slumdog Millionaire' 60% of it was spoken in Hindi, if you ever go to see it. Let's have a look at this diagram. Ok, here is our Inner Circle, native speakers from America, UK, Australia, Ireland where I come from and Joan comes from. Here is our Outer Circle, there is Zambia, and there is the expanding circle. So that's in diagrammatic form. You know Chinese, Russians Saudi Arabians and Omanis, Bahrainis and Kuwaitis, have I missed anyone - Quatari's, any Quatari's? No? Libyans and so forth, and Vietnamese of course. So let's look at the expanding circle because that is the 'capture' segment that you are particularly interested in because that's where you've come from and that's where you are. Some examples of the countries where people need at present to learn and use the English language. And they use it and learn it for many different reasons. They use it for education, for students, they need it for business, they need it for air traffic control, for travel. And what's interesting about English is the need often changes depending on the age of the person who is learning or speaking the language. The tendency is for young people to be using English for education and for older people to be using English for business or for trade. That makes sense doesn't it? Everybody uses English who is interested, for entertainment, I guess. So that term there, these countries are sensitive to the status of English as an international *lingua franca* in business, scientific, legal, political, academic communities. I didn't mention the law before, did I? Legal.

Part 4

To sum all this up we have this term 'anglosphere'. I looked this up in the dictionary and it wasn't there. It's a very, very recent term. And what's really interesting about the 'anglosphere' is - that 60% of proficient speakers of English are not natives of English. They are not native English speakers, they are foreign. Foreigners who have learnt English and use it so proficiently and so successfully

that they are defined as proficient speakers of English. So there are actually more non-native speakers of English who are proficient at the language than there are native speakers. Now that is quite an incredible fact.

Well now let's – I've kind of talked about the present, now I am going to go back to the past. I told you I was going to do this in the wrong order. Why did English – or how does a language become global? And you have to go back. I mean there are obvious reasons and the most obvious one and the oldest one is trade. One of the first things people did, mankind, one means of communication was through trade. And that involved travel and travelling to different places to exchange goods. And in order to do that you couldn't just use your local language you had to have some middle ground, some means of communication with those other people who lived across the sea, in the other island who spoke a different language. And then as boats became more sophisticated and worked more effectively and people became more adventurous and trade expanded across the globe, so language became more and more essential for them to successfully trade with each other.

Second term is conquest. Now conquest involves war and invasion and battle. Britain's a very good example of how conquest has affected this country in the development of language. And I'm going to show you some information in a little while which will explain that more fully. But I will say very briefly that 2,000 years ago people in this place that I am standing now, that we are here did not speak English. They spoke some sort of dialect which is completely unrecognisable today. I couldn't understand a word of it neither could you. 2,000 years ago Britain was controlled by the Roman Empire and Latin was very important. Later on other invaders, other people came and conquered Britain, defeated them. People from Norway and from Denmark, from France, from Germany, from all over Europe. They swarmed over Britain, controlled parts of Britain and brought with them their language and imposed their language upon the British, made them speak it. And that's how eventually English evolved.

Migration is obviously important in making language global. British people, and Irish people I've got to say who spoke English migrated all over the world. Migration is actually linked to another thing I'll mention in a minute, colonialism. People migrated from Britain and Ireland to the United States, to Canada, to Australia, to the Caribbean, to Africa, South Africa and they took their English language with them.

Part 5

'Expansion diffusion' this is an interesting expression. It's a technical term, it's a term that I need to explain. It's very topical at the moment. Snow - you if you pick up a handful of snow and make it into a ball it's called a snowball OK. If you take that snowball and you roll it in more snow what will happen? It gets bigger and bigger and bigger and bigger, and eventually you get a great big fat snowball and then you turn it into a snowman. But this is the snowball effect. Expansion diffusion is like that. As a language expands it gets bigger and bigger and bigger and bigger as it spreads across the globe. So that's the meaning of that term. And it's not just always used with language. It's used in other terms like medical. Like how a disease gets hold of the body or how a flu epidemic passes through a community etc. And then obviously things like the introduction of new channels

of communication such as well, what, first of all there was the telegraph and the telephone. Then there was the radio, then there was the T.V. then of course there was the computer, the internet, mobile phone, what's next? I don't know it is beyond my imagination. And then there's the cultural impact of cinema and music and literature. That helps to spread a language and make it very powerful.

But let's now just go back in time and think specifically of English as a global language. There are some key reasons why English became a global language and the first one is England, or Britain is an island as you know, and it's surrounded by sea. And Britain as a result of this is what we call a sea-faring nation. The people were sailors from a very long time ago. And during the 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th century many of these seamen sailed off around the world. They were known as 'pioneers' and they discovered places and they landed, and they took over those places or they traded with those places, or they conquered those places. These names are the names of some of the most famous English seamen, sea captains who took ships around the world on voyages of discovery, known as pioneers. If you are a pioneer you are the 'first' to do something. Sir Francis Drake, Captain Thomas Cook, Sir Walter Raleigh they were all very famous names. All British children know these names and they are taught these names in their History lessons. These voyages led to the spread of colonialism and you know, some of you might come from ex British colonies yourself. You know, your country might have been a British colony. These are a colony as you know I'm sure you know, is a country which is taken over by another country. So, you know in that map that I showed you earlier of southern and central, and eastern and western Africa for example there are - all of those countries, every one of those countries which are English speaking or use English as the official language used to be a British colony including Zambia where I spent 14 years teaching English.

Part 6

Linked with colonialism was the Industrial Revolution. The 19th century was a time of industrial revolution all over the world but because Britain had developed a huge colonial empire - well one of the reasons why Britain became the first great industrial power was based on their colonies. Why? Because British seamen travelled backwards and forwards between Britain and these colonies bringing in raw materials for the factories that sprang up during the 19th century British revolution, industrial revolution. And then they carried the goods back once they'd been manufactured, back to the colonies to trade, to sell. So there is a very close link and because the British industrial revolution was so important, and the first great industrial revolution it led to a great number of inventions and a very rapid progress in science and learning because those things go hand in hand. And because Britain was, if you like, the first great industrial power of the modern era. That's another reason why English became a global language. But then of course the British are not the only people who speak English, Americans speak English as well. Come the 20th century Britain went into decline. Its maritime power, its military power became weaker and weaker and was superseded by American power. And America became the super power, and I guess it still is at present. And of course, Americans speak English and you know as well as I do the impact that America has had on the world. Whether it is good or bad is irrelevant. It has had a very great impact on modern society through science, technology, industry, military might etc. And that was another reason why English spread. And finally there's digitalization. I think this is another thing that has just added to this list.

This kind of link to the idea of a technology and digitalisation. American technology and then followed on by digitalization. American technology, Japanese technology, Asian technology - it doesn't really matter. Whatever the form of technology it helped to spread English as the global power. Now this is a very interesting quote, don't try to write it all down. But you might just like to write down the bit that I have underlined. British political imperialism had sent English around the globe during the 19th century so that it was a language on which the sun never sets. During the 20th century this world presence was maintained to promote it almost single-handedly through the economic supremacy of the new American super power. And the language behind the U.S. dollar was English. Now don't try to write all that down because you will get the handout later on. This expression 'a language on which the sun never sets' - if you think about how widespread English is throughout the world, come night somewhere in the world 24 hours a day the sun is shining and people are speaking English. So the sun doesn't set, it doesn't go down on English, not at present.

But is this going to go on forever, what's going to happen to the English language. Well it could be completely rejected. We are fed up with English, other languages are just as powerful. Or it could continue to be a very, very powerful language and a global language which we all need to know to survive in the world today and tomorrow. This might depend on how long America remains a super power. Or whether America gets superseded by other super powers. It is interesting to note however that in the U.S.A. not everybody speaks English as their first language. There are almost as many people who speak Spanish as their first language in the United States and there are a huge number of people in the United States who speak Chinese as their first language. If you've been to New York you will know that.

Part 7

There is evidence, um, from the past that languages base their strength on military power. While the - language is power but military might is also power and a good example is the decline of Russia. You know Russia was, well it still is a super power but it's not as big, as great a super power as it was. Less people speak Russian now than they used to. The Russians used to control Poland for example. And during the 19th century there was a process of what was called a 'rusification' in Poland. Poland is a very big country by the way with a large population. And everybody was forced to learn Russian in Poland during that period. And to learn Russian at school and use Russian as the language of education. But eventually of course Poland managed to throw off the might of Russian control and therefore Russian was no longer imposed upon the Polish people. The same thing happened with the French. The French used to be a mighty empire. There used to be a great French empire it also has declined. So if the American empire, if you like, declines maybe English will decline as well.

But then of course there's the whole thing of what you've read about - I know you read the text about divergence and convergence. And what is happening to English is it is beginning to diverge. Yes? It's beginning to fragment, it's becoming what is known as 'hybrid English' in many parts of the world. We have 'franglish' and 'spanglish' and 'chinglish' and 'japlish' - which is a kind of a mixture. You take 'japlish' which is a mixture of Japanese and English, or

'chinglish' is a mixture of Chinese and English. Or 'franglish' is a mixture of French and English where the two languages are beginning to work together and another kind of language is beginning to form which is not quite English, not the English that I speak or the English that you are learning. There is also talk of a new concept which is 'globish' and I will talk about that again very briefly in a minute.

I want to take you back in time now. I want to take you back to a man called Geoffrey Chaucer. Geoffrey Chaucer died in the year 1400 and he was a great poet and writer 600 years ago. And this is one of his poems, the first verse of one of his poems. Do you understand it? No you don't. You know one or two, but you probably think that's 'April' and that's 'March' and that's 'of' and that's 'every' and that's 'which' but a lot of the words I don't know. If you asked me what that meant I would really, really, really be struggling. But it's English, that was the English of Chaucer's time. Now I want you to look at some Shakespearian English. Shakespeare, William Shakespeare was arguably the greatest playwright and poet England ever produced. Ok? And he died, just a little short of 400 years ago. I think it was in 1616, or 1612, I can't remember exactly. Now in Shakespearian English the word 'ice' the word 'dog' the word 'cream' the word 'hot' - everybody knew those words in Shakespeare's time. But they didn't know hotdogs and they didn't know ice cream - those words didn't exist. So what's been happening is that English changes, the language evolves words are put together to form a new word. A new word, a completely new meaning.

Part 8

In your lifetime and certainly in my lifetime, certainly in my lifetime let's take the word 'text'. Now when I was at university, that was about 1800 years ago the only time I would ever use the word text was with some thing like textbook. Textbook was a book that you learned from. But of course these days - well it was just a noun, it was a compound noun or it was a noun. I mean the word 'text' was a very rarely used word. But of course now it has become a verb. You get out your mobile 'phone and you realise you haven't switched it off which you should have done. You get out your mobile 'phone and you text your friend. I bet you've all sent text messages today or half of you have - yes? Maybe more than 3 or 4. And what you've been doing is texting. Now even when you were 5 years younger than you are today you probably didn't use the term texting. Or certainly 10 years ago you didn't use the word 'texting'. Even if you spoke English quite well at that time. So as you can see this noun has become a verb. Then of course we have the language of texting. And we just wonder whether this language of texting is going to have an impact on the development and divergence of English, or is it convergence? - That's a good question. See you later, if not see you tomorrow. You could all translate that couldn't you? This is a typical example of texting, 21st century.

Ok, what about hybrid English and the future? Well, yes here's some, here's chinglish, japlish, hinglish. Hinglish is from Hindu English. Here's some examples 'drinktea' meaning closed, (sign outside a shop which I saw in, I think it was Indonesia). 'Torunbusines' one word - open - sign outside a shop. I think I actually saw that in Taiwan, I'm not sure. But those are two that I picked up on my travels in the past 2 or 3 years. So that's one sign of the future. Another sign of the future is the fact that something like 20,000 new words are registered in the English language per year - that's impressive! But of course a lot of those words are, kind of hybrids, combined words. And look at the size of the current number of words. Not the current - the No. of words that were existence in 2006, just under a million. So go home and learn some vocabulary quickly tonight, ok? About 1,000 words should do. Let's look at Latin. Let's look at what happened to Latin. Just to give you some example of what might happen to English. 2,000 years ago the Romans from the great Roman Empire - remember the Romans conquered Britain - spoke pure Latin. 1,500 years ago, that's 500 years nearer to our time pure Latin had been replaced by what's called vulgar Latin. Now, vulgar actually means common. And it was the Latin of the ordinary people. Pure Latin had really been the Latin, the only pure Latin that was spoken 1,500 years ago was by the very, very educated, very, very wealthy people. The vast majority of people spoke vulgar Latin. Vulgar Latin spread. The kind of Latin that was spoken in England by the Romans, and the people whom the Romans conquered was vulgar Latin. And the Romans conquered all of Europe and brought with them their vulgar Latin. 1,200, years ago, that's getting nearer to our time Latin was officially a dead language. But it had splintered, it had diverged into the romance languages, Spanish, French, Italian and to a certain extent English. Because there's a lot of Latin influence in English. So that's what happened to Latin.

Part 9

Let's look at English. 1,600 years ago the language that was spoken in this country we wouldn't understand. I wouldn't understand it, you wouldn't understand it.

After that time many invaders came to Britain and brought their own languages. The Danes, the Norsemen, the Vikings, the Saxons and finally the Normans from France, 1066, 1,000 years ago. 1,000 years ago the English spoken would be like a foreign language today. If you heard it you'd think 'oh what's that foreign language?'. Six hundred years ago Chaucer died. And you know I gave you an example of Chaucer's writing. Four hundred years ago Shakespeare died and the age of colonial expansion began. And the expansion diffusion process of English began, 400 years ago. The language that was spoken even 400 years ago would be very difficult for Jonathan or Margaret, or Joan or Sarah or myself to understand. We'd understand it but we'd struggle because it was so different to what it is today.

So what will happen to English? Well, let's just look at these predictions very quickly. According to my research, and I have spent a lot of time researching a man called, reading work by a man called David Graddol. The number of English learners will peak at 2 billion in about 15 year's time. So you are nearly at the peak, at the top, the maximum number. And the reason for this is because other languages will begin to compete. It's already happening on the Internet. There are more and more Chinese language websites and Arabic language websites, and Spanish language websites, more and more and more. Native speaker norms will become less important. Now a 'norm' is like - speakers of the 'norm' are the ones who impose the rules of grammar. You know - present perfect tense and all that stuff, that hard stuff that you have to learn. They will become less important. People will begin to ignore them because English will have fragmented. Because chinglish and japlish and spanglish will have become more influential and people will communicate with each other - less rigidly. The rules will be easing off.

Other languages are growing on the Internet. Mandarin and Spanish will challenge English, especially Mandarin probably Spanish, possibly by 2050 Arabic, Urdu and Hindu will all have overtaken English as the global languages. What is interesting is that soon it won't be just good enough to learn English to get on. You will need English and another language. That's going to come as a shock to English people because they're very bad at learning languages. So it's a question of convergence or divergence, ok? Well in terms of convergence I've got this quotation from a man called Jack Payack who is from the University of Montreal 'English has triumphed because it is open to change unlike French which is watched over by the Academie Francaise'. The French language - the intellectual people in France are making desperate efforts to preserve the French language as it is, and not let it change. But in English there is no such academy to protect the language. What's happening more importantly, and this is in terms of divergence is the ever-increasing learning of English in an informal way. The more informal the approach is to learning a language the more it will change. This will lead to the development of dialects of English and it may be that the only, and this is a 'maybe' - it's just a guess - it's an idea put forward by this guy Paul Nerriere very, very recently that what will end up will be something called 'globish' which would be a very small language of, say, about 1500 words which everybody in the world will learn to speak in order to communicate with each other. But the English, or any other language, will splinter up into these hybrid dialects. So globish is something which might be interesting to research. Maybe later on in your classes I thought, your teachers might like you to discuss some of these questions. Especially this last one. The question is: who has ownership of English? Is it the British, is it the Americans or is it non-native speakers of

English? Who is going to shape the future of English? Those are my references, these are the books that I've read. This is a very recent article in the New Scientist which you might find on the Internet. And I think that the article that I gave you to read - I can't remember whether it was Graddol or the Erard, was it? Was it Erard or Graddol? Um - but the most readable of all of these is David Crystal. So if you are interested in this topic do read David Crystal's book. David Crystal, by the way, used to be a university lecturer here at Reading.

That's all I have to say today. We don't really have any time for questions unfortunately. I talked far too long but maybe you'd like to ask questions of your teachers when you get back. Thank you very much.