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THE ROLE OF ENGLISH AS A GLOBAL LANGUAGE

Khalilova Shokhista Mukhammadi qizi

Teacher, Navoiy Innovation University, Surkhandarya Campus

+998900471828

E-mail: khalilovashokhista@gmail.com

Pardayeva Bahora Yusupovna

Student, Navoiy Innovation University, Surkhandarya Campus

+998 91 238 92 94

E-mail: bpardayeva606@gmail.com

Abstract (English)

This thesis investigates the role of English as a global language in the context of modern globalization, international communication, education, science, technology, and intercultural relations. The study analyzes historical, sociolinguistic, and pedagogical factors that contributed to the worldwide spread of English. Comparative and analytical approaches are used to evaluate both the advantages and challenges associated with the global dominance of English. The research also discusses linguistic imperialism, multilingualism, and the preservation of national languages in contemporary society. The findings demonstrate that English functions as the leading international lingua franca and continues to influence academic, economic, and technological development worldwide.

Keywords

English language, globalization, lingua franca, multilingualism, communication, linguistic imperialism, education, technology

Annotatsiya (O'zbek tilida)

Ushbu tezisda ingliz tilining zamonaviy globallashuv jarayonidagi o'rni ilmiy jihatdan tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqotda ingliz tilining xalqaro muloqot, ta'lim, fan, texnologiya va iqtisodiyotdagi ahamiyati hamda uning dunyo miqyosida keng tarqalishiga sabab bo'lgan tarixiy va ijtimoiy omillar yoritilgan. Shuningdek, maqolada lingvistik imperIALIZM, ko'p tillilik va milliy tillarni saqlash masalalari qiyosiy hamda pedagogik yondashuv asosida tahlil qilinadi.

Kalit so'zlar

ingliz tili, globallashuv, xalqaro muloqot, lingua franka, ko'p tillilik, lingvistik imperIALIZM

Аннотация (Русский)

В данной статье рассматривается роль английского языка как глобального языка современного мира. Анализируются исторические,

социолингвистические и педагогические факторы распространения английского языка в международном общении, образовании, науке и технологиях. Исследование также подчеркивает проблемы языкового неравенства, многоязычия и сохранения национальных языков.

Ключевые слова

английский язык, глобализация, международное общение, многоязычие, лингвистический империализм

Introduction

In the 21st century, English has become the dominant international language used in diplomacy, science, education, technology, economics, and intercultural communication. More than one billion people worldwide use English either as a native, second, or foreign language [1]. The rapid development of globalization and digital technologies has significantly strengthened the role of English in international interaction.

The historical spread of English began during the expansion of the British Empire and continued through the political, economic, and technological influence of the United States. Today English serves as a global lingua franca connecting individuals from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds. Consequently, English proficiency has become an essential requirement for academic achievement, professional development, and international cooperation.

Main Part / Analysis

One of the most important functions of English is its role in international communication. International organizations such as the United Nations, UNESCO, and the World Health Organization actively use English as one of their official languages [2]. Scientific conferences, diplomatic negotiations, and international business meetings are frequently conducted in English, which facilitates effective intercultural dialogue.

The dominance of English is particularly visible in education and science. The majority of academic journals, scientific databases, and research publications are produced in English. Students and researchers from non-English-speaking countries must therefore acquire English proficiency to participate fully in global academic discourse [3]. International examinations such as IELTS and TOEFL are widely recognized indicators of academic language competence.

From a pedagogical perspective, English language teaching has evolved significantly in recent decades. Modern methodologies emphasize communicative competence, learner autonomy, critical thinking, and digital literacy. Technology-

assisted language learning environments, online platforms, and artificial intelligence tools have transformed traditional educational practices and increased access to English language instruction worldwide.

Furthermore, English plays a crucial role in technology and digital communication. Most programming languages, software systems, scientific terminology, and online resources are English-based. Major international companies including Google, Microsoft, Apple, and Meta operate primarily in English. As a result, English proficiency provides broader access to information, innovation, and employment opportunities.

Despite its global importance, the dominance of English has generated criticism among sociolinguists and cultural theorists. Robert Phillipson introduced the concept of “linguistic imperialism,” arguing that the spread of English may contribute to the marginalization of minority languages and cultures [4]. In many countries, local languages gradually lose prestige as English becomes associated with academic success and social mobility.

Comparative linguistic studies demonstrate that multilingual societies often experience tension between global integration and national identity preservation. While English facilitates international communication, excessive dependence on one global language may threaten linguistic diversity and cultural heritage. Therefore, language policy and educational systems must maintain a balance between learning English and preserving national languages.

Another important aspect is the economic value of English. In multinational corporations, tourism, aviation, medicine, and information technology sectors, English is often considered a mandatory professional skill. Employees who possess advanced English proficiency generally have greater career opportunities and higher salaries [5]. Consequently, many governments invest heavily in English language education to strengthen national competitiveness in the global economy.

At the same time, inequality exists between native and non-native speakers of English. Non-native speakers frequently invest considerable financial and intellectual resources to achieve academic and professional success in English-speaking environments. This creates challenges related to linguistic fairness and equal access to opportunities. Nevertheless, English continues to function as an effective bridge for intercultural understanding and global cooperation.

Conclusion

In conclusion, English has become the leading global language of the modern world and continues to influence international communication, education, science, technology, and economics. Its worldwide significance provides individuals with broader educational, professional, and cultural opportunities. At the same time, the global expansion of English raises important sociolinguistic and pedagogical questions related to language preservation, multilingualism, and linguistic equality.

The practical significance of this research lies in its contribution to understanding the role of English in contemporary globalization processes and educational systems. The findings demonstrate that effective English language education should combine communicative competence with intercultural awareness and respect for linguistic diversity. Ultimately, English will remain an essential instrument of global interaction while national languages continue to represent cultural identity and historical heritage.

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