

SECTION 3. LINGUISTICS

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3.1 English language is the key to information resources and cultural products

During the entire period of cultural and historical development of mankind, the countries and peoples of the world have needed the universal access to the most advanced knowledge, and for this purpose, a language that is understandable to everybody is necessary. As a rule, the language of the most numerous or influential ethnic group became the means of communication in a certain territory. In the 20th century, the circumstances that brought English to the forefront of the global linguistic process were formed.

Firstly, it was made possible by the military and political power and economic strength of English-speaking countries. This provided the active efforts of native English speakers around the world. English became the first international language that was not only necessary for communication, but also a competitive advantage in the labour market and business, as the global economy required a global language.

Secondly, the cultural and information factor became important, as the media corporations and mass culture made English the key to the information resources and cultural products that were significant all over the world.

Lastly, English is objectively considered an easier language than its global “competitors”. It is the only language spoken by people who are not native speakers. Accordingly, English has simplified at the phonetic, lexical, grammatical and stylistic levels, and its linguistic norms have expanded [126].

English is the language of globalisation: international business, politics and diplomacy. It is the language of computers and the Internet. You will see it on the billboards in Côte d'Ivoire, hear it in pop songs and read official documents in English in the most remote corners of the world. Deutsche Welle broadcasts in English. French business schools teach in English. It is the language of communication at government meetings in Bolivia. The language, which, according to Robert Gloucester, was the language of the so-called “poor people” in England back in the 1300s, has come a long

way. And now it is a global language. One billion people in the world learn English, and about a third of them speak it. “About 375,000,000 people speak English as the first Language. More than 500,000,000 people speak English as the second language. About 1,000,000,000 people study English around the world. About 500,000 people take examinations (British or American) in English as a foreign language every year. About 1,000,000 people go to Britain or America to study English every year”. It is expected that by 2050, half of the world will be proficient in it [127].

In today’s globalised world, there is a strong tendency to use English as a universal language of communication. Starting from the end of the last century and up to now, a significant number of linguistic concepts and relevant terms related to the status of English as a polycentric language, the system of its forms and models in social communication have been collected in the language: World English, International English, Global English, World Englishes, English as a lingua franca [128].

According to a number of the researchers, the development trends of Global English are determined not by one factor but by a combination of factors and trends. Modern English is reflected in a number of national and regional forms, which sometimes function in parallel with the languages of the local population. At the same time, the norms of native English speakers are gradually losing their role as a standard for the users outside the English-speaking countries [129].

Global English is a cultural and political reality of the 21st century. According to some researchers, to achieve the global status, a language must meet such criteria as a wide geography of use, a significant number of its native speakers, the status of a state, official or regional language, use as a means of communication in such areas as government, legislation, media, education, and a dominant role in the foreign language training of a large number of the countries [130, p. 422]. As a result, in modern sociolinguistics, there is a strong stereotype about the role of English as a global verbal “interagent” [131, p. 206].

Nowadays, English is considered to be a means of internal multiethnic communication that has become global and extrapolated across the world continuum. Within the multicultural ethnic communities of India, South Africa, and Singapore, the

English language has the status of an official language and interacts closely with both immigrant languages and numerous local languages. Such linguistic relationships have developed historically as a result of colonial expansion and the language policy of the metropolis [132].

The English language has gained global status due to such factors as the active colonisation of the territories that later became independent but chose it as the official language; the traditional learning of this language by local elites to empower themselves in former British colonies on different continents; and the use of this language by official international organisations, with the headquarters of one of the most influential of them, the United Nations, located in New York.

The global status of the English language is determined by the external factors that relate to the importance and influence of the people who speak it. In addition, these concepts are considered in political, economic, technological, educational, and cultural contexts [133, p. 426].

According to D. Crystal, the researcher of global English, the combination of these factors made it the language of lingua franca (a language voluntarily adopted as a means of communication in science, commerce, etc., or as a language-ineragent between the communicators within a nation where none of the communicators is a native speaker. In the Middle Ages, the term "lingua franca" was used to define a highly professional trade lexicon with a limited set of the words and phrases based on Latin, Arabic, and Italian. Later lingua franca began to be used to store and exchange scientific and political information) [134].

However, the main factor is the rapid spread of the language via the Internet. Considering the complex and gradual evolutionary process, all these factors cannot be interpreted as a simple amount for turning English into a contact language of the globalised society. The researchers are confident that the components have a synergistic effect. Synergy (synergistic effect) is an efficiency increasing of the activity as a result of combining individual parts, elements, factors into a single system due to the so-called systemic effect (emergence) [135]. Emergence is the principal impossibility of reducing the properties of a system to the sum of the properties of its

constituent parts. The principles of synergetics include homeostaticity and hierarchy, nonlinearity, instability, non-closure, dynamic hierarchy, observability of reductionism, and the principle of analogy, so it is difficult to quantify the effect of system synergy [136].

In the past, the English language at the university was studied, as they say, “for reserve”, or young people did not see any perspectives in studying it, but now it is a necessity. Due to the war in Ukraine, many of our students were forced to adapt to different living conditions and English has become a means of studying other languages, getting the access to the information, meeting new people or even helping their parents with everyday issues: filling out forms, finding a job, buying tickets, etc. The war in Ukraine and the future of Ukraine’s membership in the European Union are opening our eyes to the importance of foreign language skills in a new way [137].

On July 20, 2023, the Committee on Humanitarian and Information Policy considered a draft law on the use of English in Ukraine submitted by the President of Ukraine. The document provides for the formalisation of the status of the English language as one of the languages of international communication in Ukraine, defines the categories of the positions for which the candidates are required to speak English, regulates the specifics of the use of English in the work of the government authorities, the authorities of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, local governments, emergency assistance units, when crossing the state border, in the fields of education, culture, transport, healthcare, etc.

The Committee invited the Minister of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine, the representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, the Commissioner for the Protection of the State Language, the representatives of the film industry to discuss this issue. The Committee’s Chairman Mykyta Poturaiev stated that the Committee members had previously held a working meeting during which they reached a draft law consensus. At the meeting on July 20, 2023, the Committee recommended that the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopt the draft Law on the Use of the English Language in Ukraine as a basis with the removal of several regulations. In particular, it is proposed to exclude the mandatory requirement to show English-

language films in cinemas in the original language with Ukrainian subtitles, the amendments to the Law on Cinematography, the amendments to the Law on Ensuring the Functioning of the Ukrainian Language as the State Language regarding cinematography, and the amendments to the Law of Ukraine on Media to reduce the quota of programs in the Ukrainian language [138].

The members of the Committee support the importance of creating favourable conditions for Ukrainian citizens to learn English as a language of international communication in Ukraine. However, in their opinion, the adoption of the draft law should not pose a threat to the full establishment of the Ukrainian language as the only state language in Ukraine, reduce its use in public spheres of public life, or restrict the rights of citizens to receive the information and services in the state language guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of Ukraine.

The Deputy Head of the Committee, Yevhenia Kravchuk, emphasised in her speech that “this draft law is not about cinemas, it is about the opportunities and the investments in people”. “It is obvious that this regulation has caused the greatest debate in society, but in my opinion, the Ministry of Education and Science should make the most efforts. The norms that provide the opportunity from the preschool period (for English to be used by kindergarten teachers) are a very big challenge. And all these issues, how all this will be implemented, need to be discussed in detail with the Ministry”. Yevheniia Kravchuk once again underlined that the regulations on dubbing (mandatory English for screenings of foreign films where English is the original language; quotas for such screenings, as well as quotas for English for television broadcasting) will be eliminated [139].

“By doing so, we are not killing our high-quality Ukrainian dubbing, but preserving the key logic of the draft law, which will help Ukrainian citizens master the English language, intensify the process of Ukrainian integration into the European community, form Ukraine’s subjectivity in globalisation processes and increase its competitiveness. At the same time, we are helping the film industry to develop properly”, said Pavlo Sushko, the Deputy Chairman of the Committee and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Cinematography and Advertising [140].

The initiative to give the English language a special status is quite logical and appropriate. Nowadays, we communicate a lot with the whole world. We tell our story, talk about cultural needs and the needs of the Armed Forces. In other words, we are now talking about our reality in English: with politicians, diplomats, and educators. There is a number of the studies that consider the English language as an international language. The traditional understanding of English as an international language means that it is used for international and interethnic communication [141].

The draft law on the special status of the English language provides for a gradual introduction. It is not necessary to say that this will be implemented right now. However, it is important that this does not affect the development of the Ukrainian language. As for English, we think its introduction should not be forced, but consistent. It should start with civil service employees and government officials. And then it should be gradually introduced at all the levels.

Since Ukraine has started its innovative economic development, it has modernised all the branches of the economy, including the education sector. The educational institutions that implement the innovative developments in their activities and actively use the scientific achievements are the driving force for promoting the innovative development and the necessary essential transformations in the education system.

The education innovation is considered as an implemented innovation in the content, methods, techniques and forms of educational activities and personal development (such as methods, technologies), in the content and forms of the organisation of the educational system management, as well as in the organisational structure of educational institutions, in the means of education and training and in the approaches to educational social services. This significantly improves the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of the educational process, so the pedagogical innovation in accordance with the peculiarities of the newest processes in the education should cover certain theoretical blocks of concepts and principles, such as: the creation of new things in the system of education and pedagogical science, the adoption of new concepts by the social and pedagogical community, the application of pedagogical

innovations, a system of recommendations for theorists and practitioners on the knowledge and management of innovative educational processes.

The effective organisation of innovations in an educational institution depends on the development of its potential, the professional competence of the teaching staff to work in a search environment, and the creation of scientific, methodological, and logistical support for innovative changes.

The level of English proficiency among the adult population can almost be treated as an indirect indicator of the society's openness, i.e., if the adults have learned to communicate in English, they have more opportunities for international labor mobility and more progressive outlooks. In the countries with lower levels of English proficiency, the adults are usually more conservative, isolated, and tend to accept inequality of rights and income. However, this does not mean that there is a direct cause-and-effect relationship between English language proficiency and a society's progressiveness. It is more likely that increased openness and reduced inequality are determined by the same forces that encourage people to adopt English as a global communication tool [142].

On the wave of globalisation, the English language has conquered the modern world and become the main means of intercultural communication. However, Ukraine is currently in the 40th position out of 112 countries in the world ranking in terms of English language proficiency. And the real figures are even worse. "Transforming the status of the English language should solve this problem. This is Ukraine's strategic policy towards EU membership. The draft law provides for the regulation of the use of English in certain public fields. First of all, it concerns international communications... The draft is a kind of declaration that will fix the state's position regarding the English language and the idea of what should be done in certain plans and programs", the deputy minister said [143].

Expanding the use of English in Ukraine will help to speed up the integration of Ukrainians into the European community within the framework of Ukraine's expected EU membership, to form the state's subjectivity in the world globalisation processes, to increase its competitiveness in the global market, and to increase its investment and

tourist attractiveness. Due to the desire of Ukrainians to integrate into the European community and to break the relations with Russia, the question of a significant expansion of the use of English has arisen. English will be compulsory in certain public spheres where the international communications are available, and its mastery will expand students' access to global economic, social, educational, and cultural opportunities that language proficiency opens up.

In the era of globalisation, English has not only played the role of a communicative intermediary in the context of individual nations and ethnic groups, but has also covered the entire world community, becoming a global, world-wide, multiethnic and multicultural conglomerate. In the process of formation of the world's global languages, English has taken a leading place and is an influential factor in the formation and implementation of geopolitics, global socio-political, socio-economic, cultural, information and educational processes. Despite the different views of scientists on the weakening of the English language's role in the international arena, its place and status will remain unchanged for a long time, provided that the linguistic reconstruction of the language itself is carried out, which will simplify its use among the speakers of other languages in the global communication process.