



PARADIGM SHIFT IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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Abstract

English has gained the status of “global language” in the present world. The significance of English language for governance, commerce, economy and all types of administration is undoubtedly vast. Hence, the need for simple English is prerequisite. Language is always changing, evolving and adapting to the convenience of its users. In fact, each and every language undergoes certain changes and that is not a bad thing. Change is inevitable. Change might be gradual or it can be rapid. There are advantages and disadvantages if language undergoes change. There could be many reasons for the change like technology, ease or need of its speaker. If we consider English language in particular it could be categorized into: Old English, Middle English and Modern English. There are changes in vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation in each era. If we take Shakespeare's writings from 16th century the language was very difficult, for that matter, Geoffrey Chaucer's works are even more obscure and trying to read Beowulf will exactly be like reading some other language. So language has definitely undergone a paradigm shift due to multiple reasons.

Keywords: *Global language, Change, Grammar, Pronunciation, Era.*

INTRODUCTION:

Needless to say that English language has encountered change which in fact whacked the world and society in socioeconomic and psychological statuses. It is really supreme to identify the changes English language underwent. Changes in English can be categorized as a mixed bag of banes and boons. The “Invisible hand” is a theory by German linguist Rubi Keller. This thesis says that “No body intends to do it, yet the cumulation of our individual acts of speech (or writing for that matter) creates change”. For instance, let's say you are riding a bike and the person in front of you starts to slow down. As a result, you'll have to slow down too and the person behind you will have to slow down too. It goes without saying that everyone has an equal share in the language change. Ipso facto English is a global language or called as “Globish”. Does gender also play a role in change in language is a fact-finding question, and does language shapes our thoughts is an interesting question to explore. Don't you think we should go ahead and think about English after 100 years? The major aim of this fact-finding research is to identify how language has changed and this paper also expounds what were the factors influencing the changes. English is the third most widespread native language in the world after Mandarin Chinese. It is the most widely learned second language and is the official language in almost 60 sovereign states. English is the most commonly spoken language in the United Kingdom, The United states, Canada, Australia, Ireland, and New Zealand and it is widely spoken in some areas of the Caribbean, Africa, and South Asia. It is the most widely learned second language and the official language of the United Nations, over the course of more than 1400 years.

**Dialects of English language:**

The earliest form of English, a set of Anglo Frisian dialect dropped in Great Britain by Anglo Saxon settlers in the fifth century is called Old English. Middle English began in the 11th century with the Norman Conquest of England and was a period in which the language was influenced by French.

Early modern English began in the late 15th century with the introduction of printing press to London and the King James Bible, and the start of Great Vowel Shift through the world wide influences of the British Empire. Modern English spread around the world from 17th to mid-20th centuries in all types of printed electronic media as well as the emergence of the United States as a global super power. English has become the leading language of international discourse and lingua franca in many regions and in professional context such as navigation and law.

Changes in vocabulary:

Till modernism English language was almost standardized in prospects of vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation. So, major developments have been taking place in order to broaden vocabulary. Vocabulary plays a vital role in our lives, it helps us to express ourselves, our ideas and our feelings to the outer world. Lack of vocabulary results in lack of expression, it deprives us of expressing ourselves. Many wonderful ideas are expressed in the universe with the help of vocabulary, so change and growth in vocabulary took place gradually. Methods/techniques used in the formation of words are onomatopoeia; this is the method used to form words by sound imitation like the hiss of a snake and other method is by adding suffixes and prefixes and so on. The term like house, mother, father, cow, god were in vogue in the Middle English period, words like parliament, crime, marriage, money, art, pleasure were in use and Shakespeare holds the credit for introducing the words like courtship, bedroom, employer and critic. Finally, vocabulary is the vehicle to thought process and cognition. Talking about how English language has an edge over other languages, Barzun says, "English has a great advantage over German, on the one hand, French and the rest of the Romance languages, on the other, in that it possesses two vocabularies, nearly parallel, which carry the respective suggestions of abstract and concrete, formal and vernacular. A writer can say concede or give in; assume or take up; deliver or hand over; insert or put in; retreat or fall back" (Barzun, 1986).

Impact of English language on Culture:

It is difficult to pen down the impact of English language "solely" on culture because language, society, culture are interrelated, and this relation is studied by sociolinguistics (Holmes, 1991). Society is defined as a group of people living together and language is defined as what people speak and culture is something which people in society follow traditionally as a practice, so society, language, culture are related to each other. Kachru defined culture as "the way of life for an entire society", and includes codes of manners, dressing, language, religion and rituals. Language is the medium of cultural invasion and English language played crucial role in influencing cultural life of Indian (Kachru, 1986) Hence, English language impacts culture and thought processing. The way we talk, the way we behave with friends and other individuals is dictated by English language. As language is



going through changes, accordingly it is also influencing our daily lives. Change in English language results in change in culture and etiquettes. Well, there might be positive changes and negative changes which are secondary but our lives are clearly dictated gradually as changes happen. The way we dress, codes of manner, religion and rituals are all influenced by English language.

Language shapes our thoughts:

“The limits of my language are the limits of my mind”. Without words we are imprisoned said philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein. It is undoubtedly a fact that most of us do not remember our first word that we had learnt, but Helen Keller lived up to the time of the illness that deprived her sight and hearing.

The most important day of her life is the one on which her teacher “Anne Mansfield Sullivan” came to her. She was filled with wonder.

Economic changes:

It is considered ipso facto that changes in English language has resulted in changes in economic status. English is studied as a foreign language and employed by the majority of internet users. According to Barley, English involves in both positive and negative economic development, exploitation of political ideas and institutions, enrichment of English and possibly this is at the cost of indigenous language (Bailey, 1991). Around 163 countries consider English as their official language. The easiest way to calculate economic influence of a language may be to add up gross domestic products of all nations where it is spoken. In this modern world learning English language plays a vital role in everyone's personal life. People can find a way to get employed easily throughout the world. English was considered as prestigious and powerful as it has come to represent modernization and development of countries in economical perspective.

Changes in internet by English language

One of the fascinating engines of language change is human invention and the example I'd like to discuss here is that of the internet. English has become the main language of online communication, of course, there are millions of languages –but some linguists predict that within 10years English will dominate the internet. The new users of English brought their own dialects in the internet such as Spanish +English=Spanglish, Hindi+English=Hinglish. Hinglish is a blend of Punjabi, Urdu, English and Hindi and it is widely spread in India so much so that it's being taught to diplomats.

Perception is an organized process by which we interpret meaning to anything, so keeping this in mind banes and boons can be outlined. Social media is considered as a disaster, trap and litter by some whereas others considersocial media as a step towards progress, enrichment of lives and umpteen aspects. What to believe? If we say that social media is “Evil” then its reverse is “Live”. Now blame your point of view, but why do we have to discuss social media as a factor effecting language change, it means people are contributing the change, abbreviations have become a part of our conversations like LOL, ROLF and many more. Abbreviations are widely and actively used in Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram,



Snapchat, etc. There are many drawbacks on how social media effects language. Examples in abbreviations: BRB- be right back, TBD-to be discussed, F2F-face to face, JK-just kidding, CTN-can't talk now, TTYL-talk to you later, NP-no problem – show how English language has been changed to suit the moderners' needs.

English and computer, since decades, appeared to go together. Computer and technology act as vital factors in change of the language and with the increase in accessibility of the internet and computers, people are aware of the changes English language underwent. English at present is the global language and the official language for many countries, it very essential to have a very brief idea about the changes in English language. There are changes in society, in culture and in country.

When we talk about change, there are two types of people: Prescriptivists and Descriptivists. Prescriptivism is a set of established rules and according to these people rule breaking is a mistake, whereas descriptivism says content is more important than form, and language belongs to the people and according to these people rule breaking is a process.

Impact of English language on gender:

Do you really think that gender plays a role in change of language? Yes. According to the research done by Carol Scates, exclamation points are typically reported to be used by females significantly more than males, it has been said that exclamation refers to the excitability but there is no proper evidence to say so, said Scates. Survey of English dialects (1950-61) was launched to preserve all the endangered words before they get extinct. Today we are the spectators, witnessing the de-standardization of English language.

CONCLUSION:

Therefore, it can be concluded that there has been a paradigm shift in English language in its various forms-written as well as spoken. There are multiple factors and the consequences also are complex. However, with all the transitions it still holds its position as the master-language of the world. In the 21st century, its adoption by speakers is only increasing and we can safely claim its unrivalled dominance in the future too.

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