ENGLISH AS A TOOL OF GLOBAL DOMINATION

Mirkabilova Diana Alibek qizi,

second-year student at UzSWLU,philology faculty

mirkabilovadiana@gmail.com

Ziyodullayeva Aziza Akmalevna,

Teacher at UzSWLU,philology faculty

Azizaziyad63@gmail.com

Abstract

The term "globalization" is so broad and multifaceted that it can be used to describe almost any case in which members of a particular community attempt to go beyond its boundaries. An example of such an "expansion" is the attempt to impose a language. This article examines the influence and role of the English language in the context of the modern globalization process. Language is considered not just as a system of signs but as a unique way of perceiving the world.

Keywords: globalization; Westernization; language; English language; Anglicization

Human beings have always strived to become part of something greater. People have a need not only for interpersonal relationships but also for building stable social connections. At different times in different countries, this need has manifested itself in various ways: in some cases, people sought unity through iron and blood, while in others, they used more peaceful methods—through a common religion or mutually beneficial economic ties.

Sooner or later, these small societies reached a stage of quantitative and qualitative maturity, ceasing to be prisoners of their environment and transforming into active agents of change. Naturally, the way each society viewed the transformation of the surrounding world varied. These differences led to conflicts of varying degrees of severity—either resulting in the mutual destruction of different communities or laying the foundation for their coexistence.

The term "globalization" is so broad and multifaceted that it can be used to describe almost any case in which members of a particular community attempt to go beyond its boundaries. An example of such an "expansion" is the attempt to learn—or, in some cases, impose—a language. It is worth mentioning that language is the primary means of communication between individuals.

It is also a tool for perceiving the surrounding world and one of the forms of thinking. That is, the influence of language on the development of a particular society cannot be overestimated. It is worth noting that this development does not occur evenly. Within the modern globalization process, countries are grouped based on economic characteristics.

Particular attention should be given to Western countries, or the so-called "Golden Billion." This group includes historically hegemonic European nations such as the United Kingdom, France, and Germany; NAFTA countries (the United States and Canada); and Japan. Among these countries, the UK and the US stand out due to their long-standing economic ties throughout history, their prolonged dominance on the international stage, their shared Anglo-Saxon cultural heritage, and, as a result, their common language. For these countries, the English language is not just a means of communication but also a tool for achieving their long-term strategic goals.

The exact number of native English speakers, as well as speakers of other widely used languages, is difficult to determine due to significant discrepancies in various literary sources and online databases, which differ by tens of percentage points depending on the counting methods used. Most sources rank English as the second

most spoken native language in the world, with Mandarin Chinese firmly in first place by more than double the number of speakers. Estimates of the number of people who speak English as a foreign language also vary widely, ranging from 600 million to 1.2 billion.

For several centuries, the English language has been one of the most widely used languages on the planet, largely due to the colonial policies of Great Britain, especially the colonization of North America, Asia, Australia, and Oceania.

After World War II, the role of the English language changed. The English-language information space—including periodical and non-periodical publications, television, cinema, radio, library collections, the English-language section of the Internet, and other sources—has become unprecedented in terms of volume and content. A vast amount of literary and scientific-technical work is written in English. Technical, technological, and patent documentation, as well as scientific publications, often exist only in English or are translated into a very limited number of languages.

All these factors together make English the most important means of communication in the world, which can be considered one of the major global challenges of our time. As is easy to see, Anglo-Saxon (English-speaking) countries are actively promoting not only their products, cultural elements, and legal systems but also their language itself. In some developing countries (such as Singapore and Taiwan), there is a deliberate long-term policy of Anglicization. The local population is actively encouraged by the government to learn and use English. In such countries, English is often the sole language of communication in schools, universities, workplaces, and business correspondence. In many cases, people can only use their native language in family settings or among friends.

Moreover, these countries attempt to "reformat" local holidays, official events, and elements of everyday life in a Western manner.

The origins of these phenomena can be traced back to the English Kingdom's attempt to "connect the world" through new economic ties—the establishment of a series of

trading companies: the Muscovy Company, Levant Company, Baltic Company, East India Company, West India Company, Guinea Company, and Plymouth Company. As a result of these companies' activities, the countries engaged in trade with them gradually adopted aspects of Anglo-Saxon culture, its traditions and customs, business norms, and, of course, the English language.

However, Anglo-Saxon imperialism truly manifested itself in the 19th century. The primary goal of imperial policy in Asia was to maintain and expand British control over India, considered the most valuable colony and the key to the rest of Asia. The main instrument of this expansion in the first half of the 19th century was the East India Company. It first aligned its forces with the Royal Navy during the Seven Years' War and later participated in military campaigns beyond India, including fighting Napoleon in Egypt (1799), seizing Java from the Dutch (1811), taking control of Singapore (1819) and Malacca (1824), and conquering Burma (1826).

As early as the 1730s, the company was developing a profitable opium export trade from its base in India to China. The opium trade, declared illegal by the Qing dynasty in 1729, helped eliminate Britain's foreign trade deficit, which had been causing an outflow of silver from the British Empire to China. In 1839, Chinese authorities in Canton confiscated 20,000 chests of opium. In response, Britain launched the First Opium War, which resulted in the British seizure of Hong Kong—at the time, a relatively insignificant settlement—and an unprecedented increase in drug addiction across China.

After the 1857 revolt of Indian sepoy soldiers against British commanders, the British government imposed direct rule in India ("British Raj"), integrating colonial authorities, led by a governor-general, into the traditional feudal hierarchy. Queen Victoria was proclaimed Empress of India. Following this, the East India Company was dissolved in 1858.

Today, the United Kingdom retains significant international political and economic influence, with the **British Commonwealth of Nations** serving as its main instrument. The UK maintains sovereignty over 14 former colonies outside the

British Isles. The Commonwealth can be seen as a tool of neo-colonial policy used by the British business elite.

Decades, and in some cases centuries, of British expansion have left a lasting mark on many now-independent states around the world. British-drawn political borders did not always reflect actual ethnic settlement patterns, leading to numerous conflicts in Kashmir, Palestine, Sudan, Nigeria, and Sri Lanka. The British parliamentary system became the model for government organization in many former colonies and other states, while the Anglo-Saxon legal system formed the foundation of their judicial frameworks. The British Supreme Court of Appeal remains the highest legal authority for several former colonies in the Caribbean and the Pacific Ocean.

English is the native language of 400 million people, and up to 1 billion speak it as a foreign language—though its spread is also heavily linked to the cultural influence of the United States.

The role of the **Anglican Church** is also worth mentioning. As a branch of Protestant Christianity, this church conducts religious services, prayers, and masses in the national language of the English people—English. The primary religious texts are also written in English, further embedding the language in cultural and religious life.

Thus, a person who practices Anglicanism, to some extent, knows the English language. British missionaries spread the Anglican Church across all continents, and the Anglican community today numbers up to 77 million members.

Millions of colonists left the British Isles, settling in settler colonies such as the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. The modern populations of these countries largely consist of descendants of settlers from Britain and Ireland.

Protestants of British descent also make up the majority of the population in Northern Ireland and, along with the Boers, form one of the two main white ethnic groups in South Africa.

The mastery of the English language, along with other European languages, is an integral part of the political elite's life when aiming to modernize their state and lay

the foundation for an industrial market economy. Essentially, modernization involves borrowing cultural elements and material-technological advancements from leading Western nations. Therefore, this process is better described by the term **"Westernization."**

Today, Westernization is a phenomenon with deep historical roots and a significant impact on the modern world. The products of Westernization can range from individual cultural elements and technological innovations to comprehensive social transformations. To some extent, this applies to the following countries:

Small and medium-sized European states. Due to their geographical proximity and historical ties with dominant European nations, these countries have almost completely integrated classical Western models of political, economic, and cultural interaction.

Latin American countries. Their populations are originally of European descent (migrants), their official languages originate from continental European countries, and their social structures largely replicate those of Western nations.

Turkey. This country is more Western than Eastern. After the collapse of the Ottoman Empire in the early 20th century, modernization processes began, effectively transforming the leading Muslim state into a middling European country with specific cultural elements.

Japan and South Korea. Although these countries are located in Southeast Asia, modernization and Westernization have fundamentally reshaped their societal structures to the extent that any typical European would feel comfortable in these societies, as life there would be familiar and understandable.

South Africa. This country has experienced enormous Western cultural influence—on one hand, due to apartheid (where typical white Europeans ruled an African state), and on the other, due to its integration into international economic relations. It can be stated that South Africa is now developing into a democratic, Western-style legal state.

Language, as a tool of linguistic policy, plays a significant role in shaping the

worldview, preserving, and transmitting both indigenous ideologies and myths, as well as those adopted from external sources.

That is why one of the main goals of Western countries' language policies toward other nations is **Westernization**.

In the field of language, the concept of *Westernization* includes changes in writing systems, restructuring of traditional forms of politeness, and—in the area of vocabulary—the development of a system of lexical units that can be translated into "prestigious" languages. At the same time, as Schweitzer notes, *Westernization* is deliberately presented as an inevitable and logical process of language development and modernization in developing countries, excluding the possibility of their evolution independently of Western European languages.

The vast majority of experts attribute the spread of the English language to **British colonization and American culture**. They also convince us that English dominates today because the golden age of the British Empire was followed by the **superpower status of America** after World War II. The influence of this cultural giant—the United States—was evident in **medical research, the film industry, innovative developments**, and more.

It is worth emphasizing again that:

In the 17th and 18th centuries, **English was the language of the world's leading colonial power—Britain**.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, **English was the language of the Industrial Revolution, again led by Britain**.

At the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries, **English became the language of the world's leading economic power—the United States of America**.

In the late 1970s, Soviet sociolinguist **A.D. Schweitzer**, describing the West's goals in linguistic and cultural planning for developing countries, referenced American sociolinguist **Joshua Fishman**, who identified two key trends—**modernization** and **Westernization** of national cultures and languages.

The process of *Westernization* can be viewed from two perspectives:

From the perspective of hegemonic countries, it refers to activities aimed at bringing all of humanity under the influence, control, and exploitation of developed nations.

From the perspective of recipient countries, Westernization means adopting **Anglo-American or Western European standards** in various aspects of public life, such as **education, culture, politics, economy, and daily life**.

In non-linguistic spheres, Joshua Fishman highlights that the **key components of Westernization** include the **promotion of supralocal values** and, ultimately, the **formation of a supralocal identity** among nations subject to linguistic and cultural policies.

Scholars also argue that the **sudden rise of the United States** as a military and technological superpower, along with the **decline of the British Empire**, led the world to adopt the **American variant of English as the global standard**.

From the above, we can conclude that the concepts of **"Westernization" and "globalization"** are closely linked. In essence, **globalization and Westernization represent the expansion of the planet's leading minority**.

The modern world order has been shaped by **Western civilization**. The structure of global civilization is defined by **Western values, economy, ways of life, technologies, and languages**. In reality, **language constructs our worldview and determines how we perceive reality**.

We now live in an era not just of **mass media** but of **mass communication and PR technologies**, where **public opinion is deliberately shaped**, and **thinking is manipulated**.

Language is not just a system of symbols—it is a **unique way of understanding the world**.

Dominant Countries and the Global Influence of the English Language

Dominant countries do not simply seek to influence decision-making in less

developed nations, define their political and economic structures, or merely **standardize (Westernize)** life in these countries. They also aim to **construct a specific worldview** among the population of these states, bring the diversity of opinions within various cultures to a single perspective, erase diversity, replace it with a **comfortable, unified picture of the world**, and regulate the wide range of human reactions to different stimuli.

Language plays a **key role** in this process. When people learn a language, they do not merely acquire a set of **symbols and phonetic constructs**, but they also adopt the **thinking patterns** and **mentality** of the native speakers of that language.

Since countries with **Anglo-Saxon culture**—primarily English-speaking nations—dominate the global community, the English language becomes a tool of **global dominance**, particularly for the **United States of America and other Anglo-Saxon nations**.

References

Arakin, V.D. *History of the English Language*; Moscow: Fizmatlit, 2003.

Belyaev, T.M. *English Beyond England*. Leningrad, 1961, pp. 47-51.

Bogomolov, O.T. *World Economy in the Age of Globalization*, textbook. Moscow: ZAO Publishing House Economy, 2010.

(Accessed on: 04.12.2017).

Crystal, D. *English as a Global Language*. Moscow, 2001.

Dralin, A.I., Mikhneva, S.G. *International Economic Relations*, textbook, 2nd edition, revised and expanded. Penza: Information and Publishing Center PSU, 2009.

Zverev, Y.M. *World Economy and International Economic Relations*, textbook. Kaliningrad: Kaliningrad University, 2009.

Ilish, B.A. *Modern English Language*. Moscow, 2015.

Fox, K. *Watching the English*. Moscow, 2004.

Kochetov, E.G. *Globalistics: Theory, Methodology, Practice*, textbook for universities. Moscow: NORMA, 2010.

Levitsky, A.E., Slavova, L.L. *Comparative Typology of Russian and English Languages: Textbook*. Zhytomyr: ZhDU Publishing House, 2005.

Rotfeld, A.D. *New Philosophy of World Order* // Independent Newspaper, 2002.

Ter-Minasova, S.G. *War and Peace of Languages and Cultures*. Moscow, 2007.

Ter-Minasova, S.G. *Global Problems of the Global Language of Culture* // Materials of the Plenary Session *"Dialogue of Cultures: Values, Meanings, Communications"*, 2013.

Schweitzer, A.D., Nikolsky, L.B. *Introduction to Sociolinguistics: Textbook for Institutes and Faculties of Foreign Languages*. Moscow: Higher School, 1978.

Yatsenko, N.E. *Dictionary of Social Science Terms*. Moscow: Lan, 1999.

Baugh, Albert C.A. *History of the English Language*. New York, 2014.

Fishman, J. *Language Modernization and Planning in Comparison with Other Types of National Modernization and Planning*. In: *Language in Society*, Vol. 2, No. 1. Ed. by J. Fishman. Hague: Mouton, 1974.

History of the English Language / R. Hogg, D. Denison. 2006.

Lloyd, Donald J. & Warfel, Harry R. *American English in Its Cultural Setting*. New York, 2010.

Marshall, P.J. *The Cambridge Illustrated History of the British Empire*, 2006.

N. Dalziel. *The Penguin Historical Atlas...*, 2006.