
English for personal and career development and its importance for better employment opportunities

Fatima Akther^{1*} 

¹Department of Bachelors of ARTs Indra Gandhi National Open University IGNOU, India. fatimabhat067@gmail.com

*Corresponding author

Received: 19 July 2022 | Accepted: 22 July 2022 | Published: 25 July 2022

Abstract: Improved English communication abilities can lead to greater social interactions as well as future work chances. Communication abilities are incredibly important, from job interviews to the professional world itself, and being good in English implies being able to speak simply and effectively. Our jobs and businesses are significantly impacted by the English language. English has taken over as the primary language of the global business community, regardless of regional, social, political, or religious differences. The goal of this research study is to examine the part that English language proficiency plays in an individual's professional development. Beginning with a basic assessment of English's function in emerging nations, this study focuses on four important roles that the language plays there. They are: English as a means of gaining global education; English as a means of obtaining international employment prospects; English as a means of promoting international communication. A thorough explanation of the research findings follows a description of the research report's methodology. A summary and conclusions round out the essay. The study adopted the descriptive cum analytical method to reach on conclusion.

Keywords: Career, English, Importance, Opportunities, Perceptions, Skills

Biographical notes: Fatima Akther is in the Department of Bachelors of ARTs Indra Gandhi National Open University IGNOU, India.

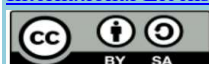
1. Introduction

Our country and the world are currently in the midst of a third industrial revolution, specifically a revolution in communication technology. Our business and workplace have been adversely affected as a result. As a result, English has become the universal language of business in the global marketplace, regardless of geographic, social, political, or religious distinctions. The United Nations has designated it as one of its six official languages. In the past, a person's proficiency in their industry was enough to land them a job, but in today's world, a person's ability to communicate is just (Meenu, 2014) as important. English language proficiency is critical in today's employment market, and job seekers need to focus on developing their skills in order to succeed. For this study, the importance of English in a variety of industries is highlighted in order to meet the demand for employability.

English is a West Germanic Indo-European language that is traditionally spoken and written by hand. Humans participate in society by expressing themselves as members of a social group using this language. As a result of its widespread use in computer programming, worldwide business and higher education, modern English is sometimes regarded to be the universal language. The English language also (Stephn, 2021) serves as the primary means of communication across a wide range of professions, from politics to science to the media to the arts.

The third revolution, often known as the communication revolution, is currently taking place in the countries of the third world, and our country in particular. This language has a significant influence on our businesses as well as our places of employment. English has emerged as the lingua franca of the international business community, and its use is not contingent on factors such as geography, social structure, political affiliation, or religious belief. It is now recognised as one of the six languages that can be spoken at meetings of the United Nations. If an individual is an expert in their field but lacks strong communication skills in English, they will not be able to get work in that field. In the modern world, English is the talent that complements other skills the most. It is impossible to avoid concentrating on the improvement of one's ability to communicate in the English Language is the primary method by which we communicate with one another. It is the method through which we convey to other people our concepts, emotions, viewpoints, and ideas. Language is what sets humans apart from other animals and what gives us our uniquely human qualities. There are many different languages that are spoken in different parts of the world. Every nation has its own

Research Article: This article is published by *Jozac Publishers* in the *Journal of Languages, Linguistics and Literary Studies (JLLS)*. This article is distributed under a Creative Common [Attribution \(CC BY-SA 4.0\) International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/). **Conflict of Interest:** The author/s declared no conflict of interest.



national language, in addition to a wide range of regional languages that are widely spoken and understood by its population. While millions of people are able to communicate in a certain language, only a few thousand do so in another. Given that English is the language that is spoken by most people on the earth, it is impossible to deny or minimise the significance of English in today's interconnected and globalised world. English has emerged as the primary language due to the rise of increasingly sophisticated technological tools.

English was once only spoken in England, but as a result of the historical efforts of the British Empire, it is now the primary or secondary language in a number of countries that were formerly part of the British Empire. These countries include the United States of America, Canada, Australia, Sri Lanka, and India, amongst others. The English language is currently the primary language spoken in a large number of nations that are actively impacted by the British empire, as well as in a large number of commercial and cultural areas that are administered by those nations. To put it another way, even outside of countries like the United States and the United Kingdom, there are many people who are able to speak and comprehend the English language. It is also the language used in worldwide banking and business, in addition to being the language used in Hollywood. As a consequence of this, being able to do so is a skill that can be considered even essential. Around one billion individuals may be found around the world using English as their primary or secondary language. 67 countries use English as their official language, and 27 countries use English as their secondary official language. It is found that the people speaking English in the developing world are to be held in high esteem and the chances of exploitation seem to less. In the present times when the women exploitation is at its peak, the phenomena of English can minimise it.

Due to its widespread use, English has evolved into a language of possibilities due to its widespread availability. In today's global employment market, no one can find a job without being able to communicate fluently in English. Gaining proficiency in a second language other than one's native tongue is helpful for job seekers hoping to work for global firms. In today's employment environment, the ability to communicate effectively in English is important. For the most part, companies look for candidates who have a strong command of the English language when interviewing new hires. It's easier to get decent work all over the world if you're good at communicating with global firms. In order to conduct business with all overseas firms, large multinational corporations require employees who are fluent communicators, both verbally and in writing. Company management is always on the lookout for employees with a proven track (Arjun, 2015) record of successfully selling their products to customers and clients while also being able to inspire or persuade other companies and people. In today's world, nearly every student succeeds in getting top grades in university exams, but the vast majority of them struggle when it comes to effectively communicating in English. Candidates will have a better chance of landing a job if they work on their communication and presentation skills. In addition, interviewers are more confidence in hiring candidates who are good communicators. Employees that succeed in oral and writing communication are seen as essential to the long-term success of their companies. All job searchers should work on their English communication skills, as English is the international language used to establish contacts with all businesses throughout the world. The fact that Mandarin is the most widely spoken language in the world doesn't mean that Chinese people aren't learning English in order to develop their enterprises. English communication skills are required even in the medical field, where doctors may need to consult with specialists from other countries or areas before performing a significant treatment. If you're a medical sales representative, you may need these skills in order to help your organisation grow. If you want to be a researcher in any of the above subjects, you need have strong communication skills in both written and spoken form, as well as excellent listening and reading ability. In order to work in the tourism sector, you'll need to be fluent in English. It has become a must to study English in order to get work anywhere in the world.

2. Literature review

We live in a technological age, and that means we have to deal with ever-increasing productivity needs as well as new and evolving obstacles. The demand for qualified people is developing at an ever-increasing rate to meet the ever-increasing demands of industry. Indeed, landing a job requires at least a bachelor's degree. While a degree from a four-year institution is beneficial, it does not guarantee a decent job when the position is based on a person's desire and need. Employers now want employees to be well-educated and well-trained so that they can effectively contribute to the achievement of the organization's goals. The employment market only accepts individuals who are well-trained and have a proven track record of success, while those who lack these qualities experience difficulties finding work and building a successful career. One of the most important qualifications for potential employees is the ability to communicate effectively. When it comes to helping employees take advantage of favourable prospects, effective communication plays a critical role. Career success in the current era of globalisation is largely based on one's ability to communicate effectively in English and other critical professional skills, according to the findings of Rahman (Rahman, 2012). Prospective employees are expected to demonstrate fluency in English as a lingua franca because it is widely spoken. Job seekers over the globe are experiencing setbacks because they lack the ability to communicate effectively in order to meet the needs of today's businesses.

In addition, their lack of proficiency in English prevents them from claiming decent wage packages and other benefits (Bleakly & Chin, 2004). In order to meet the demands of the business world, personnel must be prepared to do their best and be prepared to succeed (Tainer, 1988). Only those who are fluent in English are considered for high-paying positions, while those who are unable to comprehend or speak the language are unable to contribute to their employers. They have little choice but to accept lower-paying jobs that don't fulfil them b it's how those who lack fluency in the English language miss out on possibilities that could lead to a higher standard of living. In addition, (Dustmann & Fabbr, 2003; Leslie & Lindley, 2001). While it was once believed that those seeking employment with multinational corporations needed to be fluent in English speakers, more and more local businesses are now welcoming

applicants who can speak the language fluently. This is because technical issues can only be resolved by someone who is fluent in English. To sort out the most recent study and expertise, you'll need to know the language. Understanding a problem necessitates critical thinking, which can only be honed through fluency in the English language.

English has a significant impact on working circumstances in today's digitally altered world, and this is not an exaggeration (Debrah & Smith, 2002). Improved employment opportunities can be linked to the use of the target language and its effects (Orbeta, 2002). These two factors work together to connect people around the world (Sassen, 2004). Many people, especially immigrants, encounter difficulties in communicating because of their varied linguistic origins. This not only causes embarrassment, but also prevents them from joining the global networking system.

2.1. English in the developing world

Learning and teaching English as a foreign language in many underdeveloped nations has been plagued by difficulties related to students' perceptions of the language. They've been oblivious to their own long-term goals, focusing solely on mastering the English language in order to pass exams. It's not uncommon for students to acquire the material they need to know in their native tongue or a language they're already fluent in while disregarding or depriving them of English. However, in today's world, being able to communicate effectively in English has become a need for both professional and personal advancement. Development can be viewed in a variety of ways by people in different countries and (Gichohi, 2021) cultures. Human rights, universal freedom, and self-worth are all seen as intertwined when poverty is eradicated, according to popular belief. This includes economic, physical, social, and psychological well-being for the individual. The field of education as a whole makes a significant contribution, both to the growth of individuals and of nations. There is a significant part for every subject covered in the academic curriculum, including English, in the execution of this procedure. Because of the multilingual nature of their cultures and communities, many undeveloped countries use English as a communication tool. This view can be exemplified by the fact that the goal objectives of the Millennium Development Goals (United Nations, 2010) are underdeveloped countries. It has been established that the English language plays a significant part in assisting countries in their efforts to connect with and accomplish the Millennium Development Goals.

Most scientific papers, advertising for well-known businesses, online communications, and international legislation are all written in English today (Graddol, 2000). Science, technology, and economics (STEM) are all conducted in English (Seidlhofer, 2003). According to studies by Grin (2001), having a good command of the English language increases one's salary. Migrant workers are increasingly encouraged by current globalisation trends to seek better-paying jobs in English-speaking countries including the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Canada. Workers in underdeveloped countries who are hired by multinational corporations because of the low cost of labour are required to speak some English. Because of this, Hasman (2004) argues that the use of English by governments, corporations, and international organisations is critical in the 21st century. According to Coleman (2010), English plays a number of important roles in development, including enhancing employability, fostering international collaboration, facilitating access to research and information, serving as an impartial language, and facilitating the international mobility of people such as students, tourists, and workers.

3. Research methodology

Descriptive and analytical research is both applicable to the current Study. As a result, the research is conducted using a historical approach. The research relies on both primary and secondary sources. A qualitative approach has been used to analyse the secondary data that has been gathered from reputable sources such as books and websites on the internet and newspaper articles, as well as various international journals and magazines.

3.1. Research objectives

The objective of this study is to explore the role of soft skills in effective communication, the position of English in job scenario and English as a medium for achieving global education.

4. Findings and discussions

4.1. English in the developing world

Learning and teaching English as a foreign language in many underdeveloped nations has been plagued by difficulties related to students' perceptions about the language. They've been oblivious to their own long-term goals, focusing solely on mastering the English language in order to pass exams. It's not uncommon for students to acquire the material they need to know in their native tongue (Gichohi, 2022) or a language they're already fluent in while disregarding or depriving them of English. However, in today's world, being able to communicate effectively in English has become a need for both professional and personal advancement. Development can be viewed in a variety of ways by people in different countries and cultures. Human rights, universal freedom, and self-worth are all seen as intertwined when poverty is eradicated, according to popular belief. This includes economic, physical, social, and psychological well-being for the individual. The field of education as a whole makes a significant contribution, both to the growth of individuals and of nations. There is a significant part for every subject covered in the academic curriculum, including English, in the execution of this procedure. Because of the multilingual nature of their cultures and communities, many undeveloped countries use English as a communication tool. This view can be exemplified by the fact that the goal objectives of the Millennium Development Goals (United Nations, 2010) are underdeveloped countries. It has been established that the English language plays a significant part in assisting countries in their efforts to connect with and accomplish the Millennium Development Goals.

Most scientific papers, advertising for well-known businesses, online communications, and international legislation are all written in English today, says Graddol (2000). Science, technology, and economics (STEM) are all conducted in English (Seidlhofer, 2003). According to studies like Grin (2001), having a good command of the English language increases one's salary. Migrant workers are increasingly encouraged by current globalisation trends to seek better-paying jobs in English-speaking countries including the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Canada. Workers in underdeveloped countries who are hired by multinational corporations because of the low cost of labour are required to speak some English. Because of this, Hasman (2004) argues that the use of English by governments, corporations, and international organisations is critical in the 21st century. According to Coleman (2010), English plays a number of important roles in development, including enhancing employability, fostering international collaboration, facilitating access to research and information, serving as an impartial language, and facilitating the international mobility of people such as students, tourists, and workers.

4.2. English for success in academic affairs

The majority of countries around the world use English as their primary language of instruction for a wide range of disciplines, including English as a second language. In addition to passing exams, English's relevance rests in the ability to explore literature and the internet (Graham 1987). Since 90 percent of the data in electronic systems is stored in English, according to Hansman (2004), English is the de facto language of science and technology. There is still a strong preference for English over other languages, Crystal (2006) and Coleman (2010) estimate that roughly 45 percent of students from all over the world are now studying in the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, or Canada as a result of the growing number of students migrating abroad. For many students around the world, English is their most preferred foreign language, even in nations where the majority of the population does not understand the language. For many courses at universities around the world, English is the medium of instruction. This necessitates fluency in English. TOEFL or IELTS scores are required for foreign students to be admitted to these universities. 'Test of English as a Foreign Language' or 'Test of English as a Foreign Language' (International English Language Testing System). Because of this, having a strong command of the English language is now required of students who wish to pursue their higher education at a university located in another country (Aor, 2022). Additionally, having this skill is valued and recognised as a "must have" in the current job market both domestically and internationally.

4.3. English for facilitating international communication

Because of its widespread use as an international language, English is spoken by a wide range of individuals around the world, whether as their mother tongue, their second language, their foreign language, or a combination of all four (ELF). Kachru (1992) divides English usage into three categories: inner, outer, and growing. Those from the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand make up the inner circle. Commonwealth nations that use English as their official language, even when it is a second language for their inhabitants, are included in the outer circle. India, Pakistan, Nigeria, the Philippines, and South Africa are all included in this list. Aside from corporate purposes, English has no official role in the growing circle. This category includes countries like China, Japan, and the rest of the world. Thus, the universal status of English is substantiated.

Only one in five people worldwide can speak English, yet 85 percent of all e-mails are written in English. There are a lot of prominent people who speak different languages who utilise English to communicate with colleagues, according to him. An international language of communication, according to Jenkins (2006), is English. Despite this, the most popular international films, music, and television channels are all in English. These are only a few examples of the various English-language media outlets that exist. As a result, it is apparent that English is the most widely spoken language in the world.

4.4. English for achieving global education

Personal growth is an important part of development. A positive self-image and self-confidence can be gained through knowledge. It is only via a global education that students may have a better understanding of other cultures, global concerns, universal ideals, and how to lead others (Focho, 2010). According to Roux (2001), it is important for pupils to learn about other cultures and traditions. Tolerance, cooperation, and peace among peoples of different cultures are all made possible via mutual understanding. Truth, honesty, loves, self-sacrifice, and strives for perfection are just a few of the universally applicable human values. These elements aid in the maintenance of social harmony and progress. Students should be taught civic engagement, global citizenship, and social responsibility as part of their education (Merrifield & Kai, 2004). It is possible to acquire the above listed skills in an English lesson at any school or institution. Students' reading, writing, speaking, and listening activities might be enriched by interesting global issues. Activities and subjects such as debates, posters, conversations, and essays could be employed for this aim. To put it succinctly, there are numerous reasons why students should consider learning English. It helps students to succeed in school, acquire a job, and gain an international perspective on the world's pressing concerns.

4.5. English for employability

A large number of words from Indian dialects have made their way into mainstream dictionaries in the current English language. Employees in the private sector are constantly challenged as their organisations grow and compete in a changing global environment. In the end, it comes down to whether or not you're willing to put in the effort and demonstrate your abilities. Being able to communicate effectively in more than one language is an absolute necessity if you want to keep your job. To put it another way, employability is the capacity to keep oneself employed because of

the relevant abilities you possess. The ability to communicate effectively is critical to one's success in the workplace. A successful career relies heavily on the ability to communicate clearly and concisely in both written and conversational form. Because English is the most often used business language, having a working grasp of the language is essential for any job seeker. The ability to speak and write in English is highly sought after in the workplace. The capacity to compose grammatically sound phrases is not the only criterion for proper English. It includes skills like presentation, persuasion, and bargaining, as well as interpersonal skills in the language of choice.

4.6. There are certain sectors, where knowledge of English is absolutely mandatory

In today's world, the ability to speak English is essential for career advancement or securing a job. Even in areas where English is not widely spoken, the ability to communicate in English is increasingly a must. In several nations, such as India, Singapore, and the Philippines, English is a must for most jobs. More and more non-English speaking countries around the world are beginning to speak English as a second or third language. English is no longer only the language of the rich and famous; it is now a need for (Damkor, 2021) those who aspire to a successful professional life.

- a. **Hospitality industry** – “The ability to communicate effectively in English, both written and verbally, is a need for this profession. Today's tourism industry is booming, and English has emerged as the primary means of communication between locals and tourists.
- b. **Aviation or navigation sector** - All aviation and navigation-related work is done in English around the world. Because English is the industry standard language, anyone wishing to work in either of these fields must be fluent in both written and spoken English.
- c. **Business production outsourcing (BPO) sector** - Asian countries are becoming increasingly preferred destinations for BPO services. Because their work requires them to communicate with people who aren't natural English speakers, the professionals out here need to be fluent in the language. Good pronunciation is also important for a successful BPO career.
- d. **Research scholars** - In addition to 80 percent of the research materials saved in worldwide computers, the majority of scientific documents are written in English. The ability to speak and write in English is critical to a student's success in higher education.
- e. **Employees of multi-national companies** - The English language skills of those working in global corporations are the most in demand. Communication between offices around the world is primarily done in English. As a result, fluency in this language is essential.
- f. **Other professions** - In today's globe, it is impossible to say that English is only for a specific group of people. Today, this language is the universal language that all professionals require to advance in their careers.”

Career paths for English graduates

- Writing and research.
- Film, television, and journalism.
- International development.
- Charitable organizations.
- Civil Service.
- Health and social care.
- Business.
- Conservation.
- Education.
- Personnel management.
- Town and country planning.

Some well-known job titles for English experts

Copywriter, consumer, researcher, public relations/information specialist, corporate, communications specialist, policy and procedures analyst radio/television, researcher educational, sales representative, information abstractor/indexer, journalist (newspaper/magazine/broadcast), project director, creative director, publisher, market researcher, fundraiser, proof-reader, marketing assistant.

5. Conclusion

Teaching pupils everything they can learn about the English language is primarily intended to foster values-centered leadership that includes entrepreneurial spirit, social sensitivity, a global perspective, a professional orientation, and a sense of self-efficacy. The ability to communicate effectively in English has a profound impact on one's personality. The use of English is unavoidable at every level of society, from the classroom to the boardroom. It is imperative that the educational system be changed to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving economy, and that appropriate steps be taken to provide mandated training in communicative English in order to place young people in jobs that pay a living wage. In the long run, this will benefit all parties involved, including business, government, and the economy as a whole, because it will boost productivity and raise the country's GDP.

6. Conflict of interest and Funding

The author state unequivocally that she do not have any known financial conflicts of interest or personal ties that could have given the appearance of influencing the work that is disclosed in this paper.

7. Acknowledgments

Without all of our classmates' assistance and support, this research paper would not have been possible. I truly appreciate the efforts of all the researchers who toiled endlessly to write articles related to the article and who worked to create a plan for efficiently monitoring work. I want to thank each of you personally.

ORCID

Fatima Akther  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7447-8440>

References

- Aor, T. (2021). Phonemic substitutions in the English-Tiv loan phonology. *Journal of Languages, Linguistics and Literary Studies*, 1(1), 1-10.
- Beleta, D. M., & Kebede, S. (2022). Writing Investigating the correlation of EFL students writing apprehension and writing performance: Dire Dawa University in focus, Ethiopia. *Journal of Languages, Linguistics and Literary Studies*, 2(2), 54-62.
- Coleman, H. (2010). The English language in development. *British council*, 1-24.
- Damkor, T. T., & Terna, S. (2021). Investigating into the varieties of language spoken at Benue State University, Makurdi. *Journal of Languages, Linguistics and Literary Studies*, 1(1), 26-32.
- Emery, H. (2012). A global study of primary English teachers' qualifications, training and career development. *ELT research papers*, 12(08).
- Filyasova, Y. A. (2021). English Career Terms Synonymy. *RUDN Journal of Language Studies, Semiotics and Semantics*, 12(3), 669-683.
- Gichohi, S. N., & Subiyanto, A. (2022). A comparative study of Kikuyu Proverbs and its English equivalents on the role and position of women: A Natural Semantic Metalanguage perspective. *Journal of Languages, Linguistics and Literary Studies*, 2(2), 71-79.
- John, S., Guiro, S., & Halepota, J. A. (2021). The Role of English Language Skills in Career Growth: A Study of Perceptions and Strategies Used to Improve English Language Skills by Graduate and Undergraduate Students of Karachi, Pakistan. *Global Social Sciences Review (GSSR)*, 6(1), 346– 35B
- Karunaratne, S. K. (2014). Student perceptions on learning English for personal and career development. *Academic Research Journal*, 2, 250-256.
- Lapan, R. T., Marcotte, A. M., Storey, R., Carbone, P., Loehr-Lapan, S., Guerin, D., & Mahoney, S. (2016). Infusing career development to strengthen middle school English language arts curricula. *The Career Development Quarterly*, 64(2), 126-139.
- Manzoor, B. R. (2022). Women Exploitation in the Contemporary India: Importance of Media to Impede it. *Journal of Women Empowerment and Studies (JWES)*, 2(2), 27-30.
- McKillop, E., & Moorosi, P. (2017). Career development of English female head teachers: influences, decisions and perceptions. *School Leadership & Management*, 37(4), 334-353.
- Pandey, M., & Pandey, P. (2014). Better English for better employment opportunities. *International journal of multidisciplinary approach and studies*, 1(4), 93-100.

