

# English in India today: A Journey from Foreign to Native

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**Abstract**— This paper based on the evidenced arguments about the importance of English as a language in the professional environment in India. India is a multilingual country. However, after independence, the English language has risen to prominence in India's multilingual society. Because of its cultural diversity, Indian society has pushed the communication sphere to the point where it is difficult for anyone to communicate effectively without utilising the English language. Although it is universally acknowledged that an individual's mother tongue can express the best style of communication and social aspiration, the English language, as the window of "socio-economic" development, has compelled every segment of society to learn in order to express global ideas in his day-to-day life. language is a medium through which we convey our ideas, feelings, perspectives, and thoughts. In reality, it allows us to channel our cognitive ideas through the use of sensory organs. However, English has achieved 'global linguistic supremacy' among all world languages. As a result, the world has been compelled to remain a direct or indirect user of the English language. In the fields of linguistics, medicine, gender, academics, and science, English has played a critical role. Without a doubt, the English language plays such a significant role in the globe that it is unavoidable for individuals to completely disregard it. People all across the world are stumbling from pillar to post in their quest to master the English language.

**Keywords**— English as a foreign language, native speakers of English, Indian Professionals.

## 1. BACKGROUND

Globalization is the hallmark of the modern era. The rapid spread of information and communication technologies has blurred international borders, transforming the world into a global village. Keeping this in mind, cultural dissemination is a must of the modern period. Furthermore, India is a multilingual country. However, after independence, the English language has risen to prominence in India's multilingual society. Because of its cultural diversity, Indian society has pushed the communication sphere to the point where it is difficult for anyone to communicate effectively without utilising the English language. Although it is universally acknowledged that an individual's mother

tongue can express the best style of communication and social aspiration, the English language, as the window of "socio-economic" development, has compelled every segment of society to learn in order to express global ideas in his day-to-day life. English is, without a doubt, the language of globalisation, industry, modernity, and liberalism. In terms of Indian languages, all of them have failed to achieve international commercial value; nevertheless, only English has achieved such a status on a global scale...

Knowledge of English is seen as a backbone for socioeconomic prosperity in today's globe. As a result, we see parents from the middle and upper classes constantly attempting to depute their children to educational institutions that offer English-medium instruction. While we recognise the value of English, we must acknowledge that it no longer has the same role in the educational curriculum as it once did. In this regard, the Government of India's Official Language Commission (OLC) has said unequivocally that English plays an important role in our educational system. "Seeing a language as a primary technique of constructing generalised representation is one of the keys to comprehending it.

Wherever English is taught as a second language in India's educational system, children are unable to develop adequate proficiency in it. Furthermore, English is the most widely spoken language on the planet. There are more than 320 English is spoken by millions of people, and another 200 million speak it as a second language. as a result It is the government's responsibility to redesign the curriculum and implement it. Use it in all topic stream dichotomies in India at the same time. If India wants to be a leader in the world, engineering, medicine, technology, science, and education are all examples of development. We must also enhance English language ability in the areas of economy, defence, and culture. Both older and younger children are affected. He is the home of modernity, globalisation, and globalisation. The English language is at the forefront of westernisation and Sanskritization. So it is clear that language is a medium through which we convey our ideas, feelings, perspectives, and thoughts. In reality, it allows us to channel our cognitive ideas through the use of sensory organs. However, English has

achieved 'global linguistic supremacy' among all world languages. As a result, the world has been compelled to remain a direct or indirect user of the English language. In the fields of linguistics, medicine, gender, academics, and science, English has played a critical role. Without a doubt, the English language plays such a significant role in the globe that it is unavoidable for individuals to completely disregard it. People all across the world are stumbling from pillar to post in their quest to master the English language.

## **2. GAP ANALYSIS AND POSITION OF ENGLISH**

The function of learner's language competence in the learning process poses a similar question: what is the role of learner's language proficiency in the learning process? This is due to the fact that the student is also held accountable for the course's success or failure. Without providing any criterion for ranking the relevance of any of these habits and abilities, overall language proficiency means understanding a language and mastering a large number of individual habits and skills. Since independence, India has made the wide range of efforts to gain the English language proficiency in its citizens. But the efforts made by the Government are yet unsatisfactory and are pending in infancy stage. The communications barriers are still existing in the domain of English language. Hence, Allen states that in India "English is not only treated as a foreign language in India, but It has been given the status of a second language, as it is another tool of communication alongside the first language. English becomes a second language when it is used as "lingua franca" between speakers of widely diverse languages as in India."

The gap of English language competence still exists in the communications domain of country. Besides, the dichotomy of different streams is prevailing in the Indian education system. Like some students put themselves in engineering field, some in science and some in humanities. As a result, their basis focus remained towards carrier orientation rather than English Language Proficiency. Keeping in view, the investigator in the presents study intended to explore the level of communication competence and English Language Proficiency among students belong to different dichotomies (Subject streams). (Oza,2019).

The internet's arrival has greatly aided the promotion of education across all verticals. But it is important that in the current context of the newly developed term of 'Inclusivity,' the concept of equity and equality must be reconsidered. English is widely regarded as a window through which the entire world civilization can

communicate intellectually. Indeed, the English language and culture serve as a portal to the twentieth century. It is the language of trade, industry, commerce, diplomacy, and government, and is known for its richness, flexibility, beauty, and dignity. English is a literary language that is sometimes known as the "lingua franca." English is used to print about 65 percent of the world's knowledge. It serves as a connecting language and a unifying force among the nations. The number of individuals who speak English is estimated to be around 350 million, second only to Chinese speakers. "A traveller who can speak English will find someone who can understand him everywhere he goes," says F.G. French. Anyone who can read English can communicate with people all around the world without ever leaving their home. It is the language that provides opportunities for employment both at home and abroad, as well as methods of cultural communication with people from different countries." However, English has established itself as the 'Lingua-Franca' in India. Higher education, lower education, and secondary education all use it. In this regard, J. P. Naik (1952) said in Times of India that "the number of individuals who know English in India is believed to be 11 million, and it is perhaps the most important second language in India today." Not only that, but as we've watched history unfold, we've discovered that many committees and commissions have advocated a well-known space for English. Accordingly, the Indian Education System, under the chairmanship of D. S. Kothari (1964-66), recommended that "the regional language should be tested as a medium of intrusion at pre-primary and primary, the study of two languages (regional language and English or Hindi) from Class V to VII, and three languages (regional language, English, and Hindi) from VIII to X and any language of the student's choice) from VIII to X and any language of the student's choice) from.

## **3. NEED AND VALUE OF ENGLISH**

From time to time, lower education stakeholders emphasise the need for and value of English language learning in the context of schooling. Official recommendations from the National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT) argue as follows: "The three-language formula has been recognised as a national policy. After ten years of schooling, a child should be proficient in the first language, understand and express himself in the second language, and comprehend the third language in its regular printed form. The mother tongue should usually be spoken first. Where Hindi is not the mother tongue, it should be the second language. The third language should normally be English, although it might be any other foreign language. Sanskrit or Persian could be

taught as part of the first or second language, or as a separate fourth subject.” ..... NCRT.

Business is increasingly conducted across boundaries in today's global world, and English is frequently employed as an international language of communication. Helping your company succeed, building trust with colleagues and clients, building and improving international relationships, enhancing your skill set and commanding a higher salary, and enhancing international relationships through cultural understanding are just a few of the advantages of being able to use English in the workplace.

Many firms and organisations, especially those that do not use English as their official language, value the ability to communicate in English. Companies that do business worldwide are more likely to interact with people who speak English as a first or second language on a regular basis, making the ability to communicate in English a highly important talent.

The excellent command of the English language enables you to interact successfully with international clients, allowing them to trust you and your company, resulting in long-term commercial ties. People who use English for work on a regular basis must be able to communicate effectively in a number of contexts, including meetings and negotiations, management, making reports, giving presentations, and social interactions. Being able to communicate and bargain well with English-speaking clients makes your skill set more appealing to organisations that do business abroad, which means English-speaking employees may often command better compensation.

Over half of all internet pages are thought to be published in English, implying that persons who can read English have access to more online information. Even if you don't work with English-speaking colleagues or clients, having access to so much more information can make a significant impact in your professional life. You might find that material from an English-language website can assist you better comprehend a project or provide important information for a report. If you can confidently speak English, there's a strong likelihood you've studied or experienced English culture to some degree. Employers who want to cooperate with or sell to English-speaking countries can benefit from this cultural awareness.

Many researchers have taken up this dynamic aspect of English and professional benefits. The findings show that Indian English is gaining legitimacy in the general

perception, and that there is a growing sense of ownership of a supra-local or pan-dialectal 'Indian English.' There is a strong desire for Indian English to continue to grow and be recognised as one of India's official languages. While some participants retained a certain level of 'nostalgia' for British English, Indian English looks to be emerging as a real carrier of Indian identity. (Olga Maxwell, 2021).

One of the primary impediments to India's economy's sustained expansion is a lack of skilled labour. This employer survey aims to fill in the gaps in knowledge by asking three questions: (i) When employing new engineering graduates, what skills do firms look for? (ii) How satisfied are employers with engineering graduates' abilities? and (iii) Where do engineers fall short in terms of critical skills? The findings support widespread unhappiness with current graduates: 64% of businesses hiring fresh engineering graduates are either somewhat happy or worse with the quality of the new workers. Employers consider Soft Talents (Core Employability Skills and Communication Skills) to be particularly significant, according to the authors, who categorise all skills using factor analysis. (Saeki, Blom, 2011).

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