

ENGLISH IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS:
CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTSАНГЛІЙСЬКА МОВА В МІЖНАРОДНИХ ВІДНОСИНАХ:
ВИКЛИКИ ТА ПЕРСПЕКТИВИ

This article analyzes the role of the English language in the era of globalization, focusing on its function as a key medium of international communication. The study emphasizes how English has transformed into a global lingua franca, supporting cooperation in politics, economics, science, and culture. Historical developments such as British colonialism, the geopolitical rise of the United States, and the influence of global media and technology have all contributed to the widespread adoption of English worldwide. English is not only a communication tool but also an indicator of global integration. The author notes that English language proficiency often correlates with higher levels of openness in society, international labor mobility, and access to technological innovation and educational resources. English has also adapted to global needs by simplifying its grammar and vocabulary, which makes it more accessible for non-native speakers.

At the same time, the article addresses linguistic concerns regarding the uncontrolled spread of English elements into other languages, including Ukrainian. The growing number of Anglicisms can lead to a loss of linguistic identity and cultural uniqueness. This phenomenon affects not just vocabulary but also grammar, phonetics, and style. The article concludes that while English remains essential in global communication and continues to expand its influence, there must be a conscious effort to preserve linguistic and cultural diversity. Promoting multilingualism and respecting national languages are crucial to avoiding the erosion of cultural heritage. In this context, English should act as a tool for dialogue and cooperation, rather than cultural domination. It is a vital component of globalization, but one that should coexist harmoniously with other languages in the global linguistic landscape.

Key words: intercultural communication, English, globalization, cultural relations, international relations.

У статті досліджено місце й значення англійської мови в умовах сучасної глоба-

лізації та розвитку міжнародних відносин. Авторка обґрунтовує, що англійська мова стала провідним засобом міжнародного спілкування, забезпечуючи взаємодію між культурами, народами та державами у політичній, економічній, науковій і культурній сферах. Історичні передумови, розповсюдження англійської мови через засоби масової інформації та цифрові технології – стали основою для формування англійської мови як глобального лінгвістичного інструмента. Англійська мова не лише сприяє міжкультурному обміну, а й виступає індикатором рівня відкритості суспільства до інновацій, міжнародної мобільності, інтеграції до світового інформаційного простору. Володіння англійською значно розширює доступ до високіх технологій, сучасної освіти, науки, міжнародного ринку праці, а також полегшує участь у міждержавній співпраці. Разом із цим відзначається поступова трансформація самої мови: вона спрощується, адаптується до потреб носіїв інших мов, стає зручнішою для використання в глобальному середовищі. Розглянуто питання культури в аспекті проблеми глобалізації. Досліджено основні історичні процеси, що привели до становлення англійської як міжнародної мови. Розглянуто використання англійської мови в різних сферах міжнародної комунікації та її ефективність у зв'язку з поставленими завданнями, які існують перед мовою, що виступає як офіційний комунікативний критерій. У висновках підкреслюється, що англійська мова відіграє ключову роль у процесах глобалізації, однак її поширення має супроводжуватись збереженням мовного розмаїття, повагою до культурної спадщини та свідомим мовним плануванням. Лише за умови збереження принципів багатомовності англійська мова зможе ефективно виконувати функцію моста між культурами, а не інструмента їх уніфікації чи витіснення.

Ключові слова: міжкультурна комунікація, англійська мова, глобалізація, культурні зв'язки, міжнародні відносини.

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Problem statement. Modern integration processes are characterized by the powerful development of the global community, which naturally ensures the expansion of business and cultural contacts between countries and peoples. The main task is the standardization and unification of socio-economic relations in the world, which requires the formation of a common, global language for international communication. Today, English is gaining the status of a language of international communication. It is the language of international business – interbank transactions, trade and economic transactions. Multinational corporations and business giants also offer their services in English. Every sphere of life today tries to involve its employees in actively learning and using English. It's hard to imagine a modern person without

English speaking skills. However, language, as a living organism, is constantly changing, improving and acquiring new characteristics.

Analysis of recent research and publications.

The role of English in the global political and economic continuum has been studied by such linguists as R. Phillipson, F. Green, and T. Ricento. Y. Zatsny studied the ways English is enriched by innovations in the socio-political sphere. A. Metcalfe conducted research on the intensity of new word formation in large U.S. cities. I. Levenson analyzed the influence of mass media on the emergence of new English words, and V. Nardi pointed to the impact of the current environmental state on English word formation.

Identifying previously unresolved parts of the overall problem: This research problem is quite

broadly represented in politics, philosophy, sociolinguistics, culturology, international relations theory, and so on. After all, scholars such as P. Barany, A. Gerard, D. Graddol, O. Jespersen, V. Croft, T. Janson, and others have at various times addressed it and related issues. Nevertheless, a definitive position has yet to be developed in academia regarding the essence of international, world, or global languages, as well as their specific characteristics in politics and international relations, both in retrospect, currently, and in the future.

The aim of this study is to determine the role of English in the process of globalization and intercultural communication.

Presentation of the main material. Throughout the entire period of humanity's cultural and historical development, countries and peoples have needed universal access to advanced knowledge, which requires a language understandable to all. Typically, the language of the most numerous or influential ethnic group became the means of communication in a given territory. In the 20th century, circumstances emerged that propelled the English language to the forefront of the global linguistic process. Firstly, this was made possible by the military-political power and economic potential of English-speaking countries. This, in turn, ensured the active presence of English speakers worldwide.

English became the first international language that was not only essential for communication but also a competitive advantage in the job market and business, as the global economy required a global language. Secondly, the cultural and informational factor became crucial, as media corporations and mass culture made English the key to informational resources and cultural products that were significant worldwide. Thirdly, English is objectively considered a simpler language than its global "competitors". It's the only language used for communication by people for whom it is not their native tongue. Consequently, English has simplified at the phonetic, lexical, grammatical, and stylistic levels, and its linguistic norms have expanded [1, c. 142].

The level of English proficiency among the adult population can practically be seen as an indirect indicator of a society's openness. That is, if adults have learned to communicate in English, they have more opportunities for international labor mobility and more progressive views. In countries where English proficiency is lower, adults are generally more conservative, isolated, and prone to accepting inequalities in rights and incomes. However, this doesn't mean there's a direct cause-and-effect relationship between English proficiency and a society's progressiveness. Most likely, there's a strong probability that increased openness and reduced inequality are driven by the same forces that encourage people to adopt English as a global communication tool. English proficiency,

combined with internet resources, gives people access to worldwide, cutting-edge knowledge and technologies, enables global business operations, and allows them to share their ideas with a broader audience. More than half of the 10 million most visited websites on the internet use English. Advanced research and innovations in technology almost always require some knowledge of the language. Internet resources provide people with more opportunities to express themselves in the English-speaking space.

Global English is a cultural and political reality of the 21st century. According to several researchers, to achieve global status, a language must meet criteria such as a wide geographical application, a significant number of native speakers, the status of a state, official, or regional language, use as a means of communication in areas such as public administration, justice, mass media, education, and a dominant role in the foreign language training of a large number of countries. As a result, in modern sociolinguistics, there is a stable stereotype regarding the role of English as a global verbal "intermediary".

English gained its global status due to factors such as the active colonization of territories that later became independent but chose it as their official language (USA, Canada, Australia); the traditional study of this language by local elites to expand opportunities in former British colonies on various continents (India, Hong Kong, Philippines); and its use by official international organizations, with the headquarters of one of the most influential among them, the UN, located in New York.

Global integration, as a means of uniting states, facilitates the establishment of effective interaction between them at all institutional levels of society's development and is based on their realization of common interests. Part of these global integration processes is the phenomenon of cultural globalization, characterized by the convergence of cultures between different countries and the growth of international communication. There are many peoples in the world. Each of these peoples creates a unique culture, language, symbols, norms, morals, ways of communication and activity, possesses an artistic-sensory reproduction of the world, and so on. However, language emerges as the most significant factor in creating what is human in a person. It is the basis of the universal in the diversity of cultures and, at the same time, always belongs to a specific people. It reflects the processes of culture formation, its social varieties, and international connections [2, c. 238]. Therefore, linguistic material is an indispensable source for studying cultural development.

Culture is a broader concept than language; it's a set of languages for describing physical, social, and economic reality, as well as languages for describing these languages themselves. Culture, like language, functions as a sign system, performing the function of

encoding information for its accumulation, dissemination in space, and transmission to subsequent generations. Therefore, it can be said that globalization from a cultural perspective means the formation of a sign system that would be suitable for describing the realities of all societies involved in this process. Language is the tool through which social life is built. In intercultural communication, language acts as the primary means of transmitting information and achieving mutual understanding between interlocutors.

Language is simultaneously a condition for the development of culture and society, and a product of human culture and the genesis of society. It is also extremely closely intertwined with national culture and national identity, as the history of each language coincides with the history of a specific people and their culture. Any language (except artificial ones) is a national characteristic. Cultural exchange between peoples is an inseparable attribute of the development of human society. No state, even the most powerful from a political and economic standpoint, is capable of satisfying the cultural and aesthetic demands and needs of its citizens without recourse to the world's cultural heritage, the spiritual wealth of other countries and peoples. Undoubtedly, language can be considered a communicative component of culture in the context of globalization. The very nature of globalization has a defined informational and communicative component, which cannot exist outside of a linguistic environment and linguistic means. It is quite natural that in modern conditions, a need for a global language of international communication has arisen [3, c. 102].

It is on the wave of globalization and the development of modern technologies that English conquered the world in a way no other language in human history has. Experts state that about one and a half billion people belong to the English-speaking world. Today, three times more people speak English as a non-native language. The largest English-speaking country is the United States of America, accounting for about 20% of the planet's English-speaking population. English is already a second language for citizens of the European Union, which has a population of almost 500 million.

The global status of the English language is determined by external factors related to the significance and influence of its native speakers. Moreover, these concepts are viewed in political, economic, technological, educational, and cultural contexts. It is precisely the combination of these factors, characteristic of the USA, as noted by D. Crystal, a researcher of global English, that made it the lingua franca. D. Crystal states that if one summarizes all the work done by English and American scholars, it becomes evident that between 1750 and 1900, over half of all significant scientific works were written in English.

The spread of English in the modern era was facilitated by the power of another superpower global

player – America. For America, after Germany's defeat in 1918, the path to economic dominance opened up.

No less favorable for the emergence of a global language in the 20th century were other events and trends of a global scale. Firstly, this was the collapse of the colonial system in the late 1960s, when English became the official or semi-official language of many newly independent countries. Secondly, new opportunities for English emerged thanks to globalization. National economies became more integrated into the global economy, and money and labor became significantly more mobile. The process of rapprochement among peoples, which began in the 19th century, was accelerated a thousandfold in the era of globalization by the explosive growth of communication and information networks, leading to the practical "annihilation of space". Never before have so many countries and peoples felt the need to communicate with each other, nor have they desired to travel so extensively worldwide. The increase in technological capabilities proved directly proportional to the need for a global language of international communication.

If global English began with the dominance of two successful empires – the British and the American – it is now the language of yet another empire, whose undeniable reign extends across the entire globe: the Internet. Can you access the intellectual power it offers without English? Obviously not. Researchers prove that 80% of information stored on the world wide web is in this language, and its volume doubles every 18 months. Today, English is the language of the global economy and the global business environment. Even if an international company is located in Sweden or France, its employees communicate in English (or a mix of their native language and English), not to mention written correspondence [4, c. 206].

Thus, English was able to become the language of international communication and surpass languages like German, French, or Spanish in this regard, thanks to its ease of learning, historical preconditions, and the rapid globalization of information. The other side of the mass universalization process is the enormous positive aspect of the English-speaking information space, arising from the relevance and prestige of the English language. Due to English being the most widespread language in the world today, it exerts the greatest influence globally and has become the de facto global standard used in business, cultural, political, and linguistic exchange. It's also worth noting that English is becoming a second "native" language precisely for the most educated and socially active part of the global community. The number of people who know English and for whom it's professionally necessary in a globalized world will continue to grow.

Globalization emerged from trade and marketing and has crossed national borders to unite people. However, it's worth noting that a number of

specialists are concerned about the negative impact of the English language, which dominates the process of linguistic interpenetration in the globalized world. Almost all national languages are seeing an influx of so-called "Anglicisms", meaning words borrowed from English. As for the use of technical terms and those related to information and communication technologies, they are entirely justified because all the most important inventions and developments occurred in English-speaking countries. This cannot be said about everyday life, where, under the influence of global mass culture, speakers of national languages often use words and phrases that are not characteristic of their languages and simply clutter them. The active intrusion of the English language affects Ukrainian, among many other languages of the world. It doesn't just affect specific levels of the language, but its structure as a whole, as not only lexical units are borrowed, but also the general manner of speech, grammatical traditions, and phonetic features. The most Anglophone globalization affects discourses such as the scientific (where the lion's share of modern terminology is formed through borrowings) computer-related, and conversational. Of particular concern among linguists are Anglicisms that have authentic Ukrainian equivalents, but these equivalents are not used. This creates a danger of various cultures losing their identity, leading to the erosion of cultures. In other words, enriching the native language's lexicon with foreign borrowings must be justified by pragmatic needs, by the impossibility of using existing equivalents. Very often, the use of foreign words, grammatical, and phonetic constructions and elements becomes unfounded and excessive. Thus, the authentic language is displaced, and along with it, an element of culture. Thus, the total use of English not only changes the composition and structure of national languages' vocabulary, but over time, it can limit their sphere of functioning. In order to preserve the current linguistic map of the world, scholars believe it is necessary for all participants in globalization processes to adhere to the idea of cultural and linguistic pluralism. Only then will the use of a "global" language be merely a means of establishing contacts between people of a new civilizational era, and not a mechanism for destroying their national identity, cultural originality, and linguistic consciousness. As an example, we can use the English language as a means of international communication to promote our

worldview and spiritual heritage, as well as to popularize cultural and traditional aspects worldwide. In this global world, English is the language of modern business. It is becoming increasingly important for interstate trade and communication. Knowledge of English is very important as countries become globally integrated and connected with each other in all aspects, from culture to economics and trade. Therefore, in today's world of globalizing civilizational transformations that have led to the formation of an information society, intercultural communication is becoming the dominant factor defining the present and future development of humanity [5, c. 98].

Conclusions. Characterizing globalization processes, one must acknowledge their powerful influence on transforming the global space into a single zone where capital, goods, and services move unimpeded, and ideas spread freely; an international legal and cultural-informational infrastructure for interregional and intercultural exchanges is being created. In this sense, the English language has become one of the driving forces of globalization. Thus, it can be concluded that English and globalization are inseparable. English has become the most significant language in intercultural communication in the modern world.

English has permeated all areas of international business, cultural or political information exchange, and communication. As a language of global communication, English gives us the opportunity to work anywhere in the world and communicate with more people.

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