



## Globalization Vs Linguistic Nationalism – Ban & Boon

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**Abstract:** Language is a dress for the thought. Thought process is initiated, nurtured and finds expression naturally in the area of one's own nativity from cradle to grave. As such mother tongues are considered to be sacred and even inviolable. However, exposure and expertise in alien languages are extolled as a virtue so. They are celebrated as polyglots. As such in the contemporary scenario, it has become imperative for any student to be considered above mediocre to acquire and possess at least a strong grip over a language, preferably having International currency. In this context English which is listed as also an Indian language obtains itself a prime place in the curriculum. This has received a further thrust and impetus in the contextuality of onset and jet set advancement of globalization.

**Key words:** advancement, globalization, economic, social, technological

### Introduction

Language certainly acts as the chief bond of union and works as a vehicle of understanding. It is closely associated with patriotism and nationalism. India is a multilingual country, with pluralistic cultures. Globalization is no more recent phenomenon in the world's socio-economic system and it stretches back decades, even centuries for trading. It has manifested in a different form than the existing pattern and the impact and consequences are rather different in kind and degree. The effect of Globalization on Indian society has its origin since 1990s. It has not left any area untouched and naturally it influenced the linguistic aspect also. UNESCO defines Globalization as "a set of economic, social, technological and cultural structures and processes, arising from the changing character of the production, consumption and trade

of goods and assets". The colonial rule is also influenced by the modern Indian language in different contexts in several ways.

Before Independence, English was the language of official communication and judiciary, because the government was still the most important employer, English continued to flourish in education. After Independence English assumed the role of an associated official language of the union. It is a great instrument in the educational institutions in order to keep in touch with the living stream of ever growing knowledge. Charles Darwin wrote about evolution of life form – "It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the ones most responsive to change".

The world is seeing a sea change, thanks to Globalization. It is English



language that could respond to the technological advances. It is spoken by several hundred million people spanning five continents. In India, English is a vehicle of officialdom, a medium of education, as a language for science and technology, business and commerce. It is functioning as a lingua - franca - a language used among people who have no other tongue in common and it is also spoken by people who use more than two or three languages in the course of their daily lives.

Today English in the Indian sub-continent is dominating in many crests and colours. Its glaring proliferation to the remotest corners of the country is covering virtually every segment of the pluralistic society. It deserves the place of honour in our curricula not because of its practical usefulness, but as a means of livelihood also because it has been and still is to a very considerable extent the only lingua - franca for educated class of India. It is the major medium of transnational communication in Asia. In a large culturally diverse country like India, it is used as a common language for communication between different linguistic regions within the country.

In the original scheme of language in education, the prime of place was for the mother tongue, official language of the union and then English. But due to Globalization almost all Indian languages have been cornered to a position of helpless defense, because the shelf is lifted away from them. During the process of globalization every state is competing to introduce English from the earliest stage of education. Previously education is for knowledge.

But now there is a change in the perception also. Today education is considered as a tool for economic development. Now English became epicenter of good education and Information Technology. Further, introduction of computer technology in the administration paved a way to increased use of English. It is the default language of internet and was diffused in the Indian society with a greater speed. Now we are saying that the world is a global village and subsequently English attained the status of global language and it will be the lingua franca of that village. English is accepted as a tool for proper integration of ICT with teaching / learning environment which increases productivity.

- It enabled on-line learning or E - learning.
- It extended the scope of offering educational programmes at a distance.
- Sustainability of a nation depends on the effective use of English language communication.
- It builds competent for employability.
- It provides universal access.
- Its application improves the economy.
- It improves the relevance of learning.
- Its association with technology results in transparency.

Some of the negative consequences are :

- ❖ It promotes inequalities, unrest, conflicts.
- ❖ Education has become a commodity in the market.



❖ More and more corporate institutions entered in the educational system.

❖ Gradually people speaking a regional language dominant in a state, moved towards English.

❖ In the digital society, all Indian languages, plural cultures are endangered and reinforced inequalities among them.

❖ Concerns over educational relevance and expanding educational opportunities to developing countries in general, low income groups, girls and women low skilled workers made most vulnerable by globalization.

❖ It also puts pressure on all groups to equip new tech-savvy communication skills.

❖ Gave productivity dimension to education.

❖ Resulted in Internationalization of Higher Education with more tie-ups and collaborations.

❖ Education became more expensive.

India is a 'young' country in the sense that by 2020, the average Indian will be only 29 year old. This demographic dividend can be converted in to an asset through communication skills along with soft skills. Lifelong learning skills helps the youth to achieve other goals such as taking an active part in civic life, leading a more sustainable lifestyle through learning and adopting to the needed new skills and training. Individuals must acquire a new mindset to become good communicators of knowledge.

The professional English language teaching learning in India has colonial background and it is being redefined in the globalization era headed by

information technology. English is a passport for many lucrative careers. The thirst of the learners most of the times is quenched by the unprecedented, ill equipped and unmotivated educators leading to the human resource minus the much needed English skills. The sensitive facilitator can utilize the modern magic of internet to amplify the study of English language to acquire the skill of oral and written communication.

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