



English As A Global Language And Intercultural Behaviour In Pakistan: A Case Study

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Abstract: English language in Pakistan has been the official language and it has to face a lot of resistance in implementing in the diversity of culture of native English speakers and Pakistani culture. The emergence of the new global words and trends has aroused many issues in adoption of global values and global trends. The current study is administered to know the behaviour of people of Pakistan about English language as this language is turning its status from foreign to global language which requires special attention to meet with the global development. For measuring behaviour and attitude, a questionnaire consisting of different questions is prepared and 224 students of upcoming professionals are interviewed in this regard. Obtained data is processed in MS Excel for numerical descriptions of the results. The obtained results are shown in table and figures. The results of the survey study reveals that 70% to 75% people recognize the global status of English language and they are willing to adopt the global trends in diversity of culture. Remaining 25 % to 30% have not been convinced very well about the global trends so they have no choice to accept English as a global language

Key Words: Globalization, Intercultural Communication, Culture, Behaviour, English as a Global Language

Introduction

Pakistan the old colonial part of British Raj emerged as an independent state on the global map on August 14, 1947. The region where the country is located has been ruled by British colonials for about hundreds of years. The customs and the laws including the basics of constitutional legacy has been accepted and applied in the country even after the independence from the Raj. English language firstly came into the region with the arrival of British traders after handling them the charter of trade by Queen Elizabeth in December

4677 | **Muhammad Rashid** English As A Global Language And Intercultural Behaviour In Pakistan: A Case Study

1600. The traders of East India Company established their monopoly in the green region subcontinent (Crystal: 2003). During Raj from 1765 to 1947 English language kept holding its position as the medium of public administration and educational process. The most popular turning point was the acceptance of Lord William Bentinck's minute in 1835 proposed by Macaulay propounded the preamble of the English educational system in the colonial subcontinent. English became primarily the new medium of instructions in region. It was guaranteed the growth of country for the upcoming time (Crystal: 2003).

In Pakistan English is taken as an official language after the independence. English language, the colonials' language, has no status as official language in the other countries of region but being official language it is used as a universal medium of the communication. This language is recognized by young people as the language of modernity (Crystal: 2003). "English language has been demanded very much by the students (Rahman: 2010, 2014). " Pakistan has already linguistic diversity in its areas. Urdu has been the national language of Pakistan since the emergence of the country but it is used by the minority of nation; almost 8% of the people. And Urdu language has been the mother language of same minority (Rahman: 2010, 2014).

English language has not perceived in Pakistan with the positive attitude because of the British language but with the emergence of new global values the significance and adoption of English language is kept necessary. The transformation of EFL in EGL is the maintenance of significance of English language. "In Pakistan the promotion of language is dependent on the dominance of political powered groups (Zakaria: 2014)."

Purpose of the Study

- To understand the status of English as a Global language in Pakistan.
- To investigate the role of English language in intercultural phenomenon in Pakistan.
- To know how global language learning is affected in intercultural domains in Pakistan.

Significance of the Study

The study is helpful in understanding the attitude of Pakistani society in diversity of culture and situations. This particular study is of great significance because it is going to help not only to tell about the global impact of English language but also is going to help in understanding the influence of English language on Pakistani culture. As Pakistani culture has diversity with English culture so the study describes the attitude of Pakistani society for English language learning. The study is also with aim to address the role of English language in different fields of Pakistani culture and institutions i.e. education, media and professional skills.

Limitation of the Study

For convenience 224 participants having the prescribed qualification are selected from three different institutes of District Multan as a sample of the study. The list of these institutes is as under:

1. Bahawadin-Zakarya University Multan (Located beside Boson Road Multan)
2. Govt. Technical Training Institute Multan (Located at Chowk Qazafi Khanewal Road Multan)
3. Multan Post Graduate College Multan (situated at Goal Bagh near HBL BISE Branch Multan)

LITERATURE REVIEW

Cultural Theory

Howson and Dubber (2014, p. 4) clarify that culture produce the gaps between existing of the group and the living standards possessed by the group in a society towards a standards of the world. It gives uniqueness to our ways of thinking to ourselves and the region where we have to inhabitant to spend our time of loving. The way of thinking and perceiving is also because of the culture. The cultural policy is stated by two factors, firstly the connection and the relationship of state the nature of culture and secondly the framework for social and economic development by the government.

Hassi and Storti (2012) describe the two ways of cultural definitions. Firstly they say that the culture is the set of the specific values, the customs in society and attitude which is naturally acquired by individuals of a society. So the culture cultivates the identity of the society. Secondly culture as a sociologically can be defined as the production of individuals art as a group representative and the production of forefathers and cultural ingredients.

Culture and Language

Language the integral part of culture and norms, the source of ideas sharing is dependant and is generated by the stakeholders of the society. "The culture can only be survived due to the common conduct language through which the particular context can be explored (Ali,Kazemian& Mahar: 2015)."

According to Sapir (1884-1939) and Whorf (1897-1941) (as cited in Mahadi & Jafri, 2012, p.231) language makes the mind and determine the perceptions of the things and thoughts of concepts of a speaker. The language cannot exist itself freely without culture and tendencies. Gao (2013, p.1433) in the study prescribes the results that language cannot

be study without culture. It cannot be separated from society. Isolation from rest of the world in the age of globalization cannot be adopted because of the need of communication and life necessities. Language learner must be aware to those factors of society which may occur as the hurdle in the linguistics competency. Social pragmatics is the essential rules on whom a learner has to come over. While in the cross cultural communication the role of teacher is of much significance so that the hurdles in learning are eradicated.

Language and Identity

The language adopted by the individual causes the ethnic identity as well as the international identity. The speaker of particular language when is imagined it comes the geographical region where to the person belongs to. The Urdu speaker in common scenario is taking as the Indo-Pak geographical inhabitants. The identities are dependent on the historical and socio-biological evolution because the language and the identity develop through the affects of history and the changes takes place in the time of evolution. The actions performed by the individuals are displaying the linguistics evolution in the historical contexts. The cultural group of the individual prescribes the stylistic and the vocabulary adoption scenario through which he/she has been belongs to. The culture and the integral part the language lead to the structure of society and the constructions of actions of individuals which cannot be studied separately (Language and identity.n.d).

Cultural Diversity and Foreign Language

Language adoption and language use are dependant of the circumstances developed in the area from it comes or where it is used. Foreign language use needs basically sketched and brought panorama seen in history. "Language causes suppression for native languages. Native languages must be applied in higher disciplines of the state (Nizamuddin. n.d)." "For English language learning there is utmost need of motivation by parents, family background and environment (Tariq, Bilal, Sandhu, and Iqbal& Hayat: 2013)." Foreign language learning involves many challenges in its skills development. Four skills of foreign language need to be developed through knowing the cultural meaning of the region. "The negative impact of diversity causes complexities among communicators (Shachaf, 2008)"

Vocabulary of one place varies to other so in UK and USA the words "bar, bear and casino" etc are very popular for refreshment among youngsters but same words have status of anger and ugliness in eastern societies especially in Pakistan. So the vocabulary of native language mostly refers to native region for understanding. The titles of books and the literature etc are also cultural based so the culture can play different role in adopting and understanding the foreign language. "So the background knowledge of the language and lexis must be kept by the teacher of EFL for concept development of students. (Choudhary: 2014)"

English as a Global Language

Need of Global Language

Crystal (2003, p11-13) in his book “English as a Global Language” describe the many reasons of having global language for different purposes in the world. The purposes and the needs are as follows:

- Need of Translators and Interaction
- Lingua Franca/ Common Language
- Political and Geographical Needs
- Emergence of UNO and International Organizations.
- International Academics
- Business Communities
- Mobile Technology and Communicational Needs
- Trends of Development

Role of English Language in Non-Native Context

Nesterneko, Vychuzhanaina & Milovanova (2015, p.606) “Global language: will the sun ever set on the Empire of the English language” says that English has become dominant language in many eastern countries. In non native context English language is the symbol of specialty and grooming. English language is shifting the regional languages but the voice of defend is also increasing in the Eastern countries to preserve the identity and culture and the social institutes also support the idea of defending in non-native English speaking countries before English language. It has approved its global status and the language of technology among people. So as it is threat to the culture and identity but because of the global status of English language it is needed to accept its significance as the global language. The new trends of urbanization and the new form of communication have led English language status to the global value as well. Many geographical English language varieties have flourished and the future of the English language is going to be dependent of the global status of English language.

Effects of Global Language

English as Global Language and Global Economy

English language has vastly provided the labour and the intelligent ideas after the covering from international market from one place to other. The expanding capital interest and open access to the global and international market The expanding media and the ads in the world in which the dominant use of language is of English so the role of English language in providing information about the international good and transportation is vital. The advanced media is from US based and UK based and the language which is used is

obviously is English language so English language providing wide range of help in interpretation and accessing the things as the ads and news are proposed in English language as international media.

English as Global Language and Educational Policies

After the Raj and Broken British Empire the expansion of technology kept the significance and the importance for rest of the world because the international market and the language of technology has been possessed by the English speakers so many countries have to adopt English language as an official language or as the need of the era. In Pakistan English language has carried the status of official language according the constitution of 1973 (Rehman: 1998, p.2). Most of the capital has been consumed in development of English language in the country so the language dilemma has been remained alive since many decades about the official language. English language learning is compulsory from the primary education up to graduate level.

English Language and Global Politics

English being the language of technology is also acceptable before all the stake holders but it is also considered as the language of imperialism and the language of colonials. English still plays important role in merging and occupying the values of others countries. This language has a huge amount of literature which a good learner has to read. Xue & Zuo (2013) says that English language is dominant language in the world. There are three reasons of the dominance of English language. Firstly English language is the language of dominant in power countries. As the current scenario is of American super power so the culture expansion of USA is compulsory. Second reason of the dominance of English language is that the status which English language has achieved cannot be replaced in short time and the resistance forces against the expansion of English language are very weak. Thirdly English language is now the language of globalization so the concept of global economy, politics, education and communication are developing in the countries and through this language the expansion of the cultures of dominant people cannot be resisted in short time.

Global Trends and Language Use

Graddol (2000) in the book "Future of English language" tells that the global trends play important role in adopting language especially English language in future. Graddol says that the ratio of English speakers is going to be change by time and new trends of globalization are having affect the language use and language users in the world. The people who migrate towards urbanization are going to merge in a hybrid sort of thought so the English language is affected because of the speakers change from upper to middle class.

Graddol (p.30) claims that the relationship and the link between English language and the computer are dependent on the monopoly of English language. The expansion of global trends of regional and cultural flows is going to effect and unfold the significance of English language for technology. Graddol says that the term globalization generates the new and hybrid culture is not only associated with the British or first English language speakers. The cultural flows and the store of knowledge in English language affect the use of English language among the societies. Graddol claims that globalization and the expanding inequalities on international level are going to produce the new thoughts of development and regional association in the world. The claim of dominancy of English language is perceived (p.33).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is quantitative in nature and data is collected with paper-based survey. The questionnaire is put before the participants and the data is interpreted also on tables.

Research Questions

The study is descriptive and is of survey in its nature. A scale is used for like and dislike by selecting agree, disagree and undefined. The questions of current study are as follows:

- What is the status of English as a Global language in Pakistan?
- What is the role of English language in intercultural phenomenon in Pakistan?
- How is global language learning affected in intercultural domains in Pakistan?

Participants

The participants before whom the questionnaire is put forward are completing their education in well reputed institutes of Multan division. As a sample 224 participants are selected and the participants answered the questions which are asked to them. The participants are graduates and under graduates because such people have to join some department to provide the services.

Discussion of the Results

The obtained data by questionnaire reveals that people of Multan have positive attitude in learning English in globally changing scenario. The results of the questionnaire also reveal that globalization is perceived as a positive change before Pakistanis. The discussion of the results has been described separately according to the questions as follows.

The Question 1 “I think that English language is more necessary for global development than any other language in Pakistan” and its results of research shown on

table describe that 21.88% people are strongly recommend as a key of global development in the present era. 29.46% people also support the phenomenon of global development. 24.11% people have different idea than keeping English language more significant. 16.52% people are also with strong contradiction that English language is not so much significant than any other language for global development. Almost 8.04% people are remaining neutral. The mean of the results also describe the positive attitude of the people.

The results of the Question 2 “I believe English language is the key to success in Pakistan in the age of globalization” show that 34.82% people in this age of globalization think that English is only the key of success. 22.77% people highly concerns and says that English language is the only source of development in Pakistan. 16.52% people are not in favour to say that English language is the only source of development in Pakistan. 19.20% people also do not consider English language as the language of global development in Pakistan while 6.72% people have no specific idea regarding English language as keeping it the source of great knowledge in Pakistan. the mean values shows that people consider English as key of success in the world.

The results of the Question 3 “I think that English is shifting other languages in Pakistan” that 34.82% people believe that English language is going to replace other languages used in Pakistan. 28.57% people also have the idea that English language is replacing other native languages in Pakistan. 19.64% people do not think that English language shifts other languages in Pakistan. They believe that language exists itself because of its frequent use. 13.39% people have firm belief that English does not shift other languages in Pakistan. 3.57% people do not have any view about language replacing and development. Such people think that English language is used and it is demand of modern age so we would accept it as an expanding phenomenon. the means value describe that people think that English is getting the place of other languages in Pakistan.

The obtained results of the question 4 “I think English language is cultivating global culture in Pakistan” illustrate that 24.55% people of thinks that English language is producing global culture in Pakistan and it is the tool to merge the country into global world for interaction. People can have sense of global harmony and mutuality in the country and outside the country. 41.07% people also think that English language is playing vital role in cultivating the global culture in Pakistan. On the other hand, 19.64% people do not think that English language is cultivating global sense of tradition and harmony in Pakistan. 9.38% people are strongly contradicted with the statement of acceptance of cultivation of global culture through English language. 5.36% people remain unbiased. The obtained meanvalue describe that people think that English language is playing a tool of global culture cultivation in Pakistan.

As in the table and the results of the Question 5 “I believe that English language is creating English culture in Pakistan” tell that 34.38% people think that English language is creating western culture in Pakistan. 21.43% people also strongly agree with the view that English language is cultivating the culture of English people. On the other hand, 25.45% people of Pakistan do not think that English language is cultivating English culture in Pakistan. 15.18% people also completely contradict with the view of foreign invasion on the culture of country and development of English culture in Pakistan. 3.5% people have no specific view regarding English language and cultivation of English culture in Pakistan. The mean value also describe that people think that English is creating English culture in Pakistan.

As the table No.1, and the obtained results of the Question 6 “My parents inspire me to learn English language” show that 31.25% people’s parents motivate their children to acquire English language. 29.46% people pay more concern in the linguistics development of their children. 29.46% people have to face different phenomenon in this regard. 13.84% people also have least inspiration by the parents to develop the English language fluency 5.36% people have no specific idea in parents and inspirational view because such people think of syllabus and have to accomplish the contents of the education.

The results obtained by Question 7 “I am given opportunity to use English in educational institutes” show that 37.50% students believe that there is wide and easy environment in the institute to use English language in the discussion, debates and gossips. 26.79% people strongly support the view. On the other hand, 19.20% people have contradiction that the availability of English language is not much appreciated in the institutes. 12.50% students of the sample also mention that there is less opportunity of English language use in the educational institutes. Just 4.02% people have no specific opinion. The mean value also describe that people are given opportunity to enhance English language competency.

Table No.1 and the Question 8 “My friends also motivate me to use English” show that 30.80% people claims that the religious people of their company are also optimist and are aware to the significance of English language so such people also gain encouragement by the religious friends. 17.41% people also claims that their religious friends motivate them to learn English language. On the other hand, 28.57% people claim that motivation regarding English language by the religious company is not yet done. 16.96% people also have the same claim of less motivation by the religious company of the friends. 6.25% people claim that there is no specific thought in their religious friends. People have motivating companion for English language learning as the mean value tells us.

The results concluded by the question 9 “I believe English language learned persons are given more honour in the society” show that 34.38% people of Pakistan says that

mostly teacher pays full attention on grooming of English language skills in students. 22.77% also claim that the teachers whom by they have taught have been giving special concern on the development of language proficiency in the students. In contrast, 21.88% people claim that the proficiency in English language is not considered so important because of the less given attention by the teachers. 10.77% people also support the same idea. 10.27% people have no specific idea. The mean value also illustrate the favouring attitude of the people.

The obtained results of the Question 10 “I advise other persons to be well learned of English language” describe that 30.80% graduates advise other students and people to gain English language and have specific proficiency and attitude in this regard. 31.70% people have such extreme desire. On other side, 19.20% people of Pakistan which are studying in any discipline do not have same view regarding English language and suggestion. 12.95% people have also same view of less suggestion to other for English language leaning. 5.36% people are not in position to have any liking to suggest English language to other or not.

CONCLUSION

Statement of the Question		SA	A	N	DA	SDA	Total	Mean
1. I think that English language is more necessary for global development than any other language in Pakistan.	Frequency	49	66	18	54	37	224	3.16
	Percentage	22%	29%	8%	24%	17%	100%	
2. I believe English language is the key to success in Pakistan in the age of globalization.	Frequency	51	78	15	43	37	224	3.28
	Percentage	23%	35%	6%	19%	17%	100%	
3. I think that English is shifting other languages in Pakistan.	Frequency	64	78	8	44	30	224	3.46
	Percentage	29%	35%	4%	20%	13%	100%	
4. I think English language is cultivating global culture in Pakistan.	Frequency	55	92	12	44	21	224	3.52
	Percentage	25%	41%	5%	20%	9%	100%	
5. I believe that English language is creating English culture in Pakistan.	Frequency	48	77	8	57	34	224	3.21
	Percentage	21%	34%	4%	25%	15%	100%	

	e	%	%		%	%	%	
6. My parents inspire me to learn English language.	Frequency	66	70	12	45	31	224	3.42
	Percentage	29%	31%	5%	20%	14%	100%	
7. I am given opportunity to use English in educational institutes.	Frequency	66	70	12	45	31	224	3.42
	Percentage	29%	31%	5%	20%	14%	100%	
8. My friends also motivate me to use English.	Frequency	39	69	14	64	38	224	3.03
	Percentage	17%	31%	6%	29%	17%	100%	
9. I believe English language learned persons are given more honour in the society.	Frequency	51	77	23	49	24	224	3.37
	Percentage	23%	34%	10%	22%	11%	100%	
10. I advise other persons to be well learned of English language.	Frequency	71	69	12	43	29	224	3.49
	Percentage	32%	31%	5%	19%	13%	100%	

The purpose of the current study was to know the behaviour of people regarding English language and its global status which has been emerged since last decades. The analyzed data and the results describe the positive attitude of people of Pakistan towards English language and are willing to accept the legitimating scenario of English language as a global language. The diversity of culture provides the opportunity to study the culture and the cultural ideas of other nation. But as the status of English language cannot be neglected and it has become quite essential so the implementations of English language according to new global trends is much necessary. The results of the survey study reveals that 70% to 75% people recognize the global status of English language and they are willing to adopt the global trends in diversity of culture. Remaining 25 % to 30% have not been convinced very well about the global trends so they have no choice to accept English as a global language. People of Pakistan know the diversity of English culture but they are willing to adopt the global culture including the global language with the interpretation of cultural based vocabulary in syllabus, media and communication.

Recommendations

The study is taken in the transforming phenomenon of EFL and ESL into EGL so it is recommended that:

- There would be native cultural and global level based vocabulary in texts books and courses of all institutes.
- There would be equal opportunities of English language learning for all in Pakistan.
- English language would be given status of global language in Pakistan.
- A well trained teachers and suitable provision of environment of English language learning can enhance and can be able to meet the global levels of global language proficiency, its use and adoption so it must be adopted.

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