

## **The Importance of Learning English as a Foreign Language Nowadays**

**Elmirzayeva Maftuna Do'smurod Qizi**

Teacher at the International Innovative University of Philology and teaching language  
department

**Suyunova Zamira Nodirjon Qizi**

Student at the International Innovative University of Philology and teaching language  
department

### **Abstract**

The significance of English in today's global society cannot be understated or disregarded because it is the most widely used language on earth. It takes perseverance and consistent practice to learn English. Students often have the mindset that it is impossible to become fluent in or proficient in the English language. Students that have this propensity are unable to learn English. Since the majority of students approach English learning from an exam perspective, they are unable to generate even a single sentence free of grammatical errors. Additionally, kids do not receive enough practice in order to acquire a language. If someone wishes to advance in their career, they must be literate in English. It is the principal window of the contemporary era.

**Keywords:** English, greatest common language, major window of the modern world.

A language is a tool used to communicate with each other, so there is an understanding between the parties involved. The language itself can make it easier for us to channel ideas, ideas, feelings and many other things. In this world, many languages are used, even one country can have up to 2 languages. And in this modern world, many languages are also used by many people. Those languages used by many people is known as the English language. In a recent study conducted by Education First (EF) on the English proficiency index, Indonesia's 2017 ranking fell from the previous year's order of 32 (Intermediate Proficiency level) to 39 (Low Proficiency level). Based on data from the study, the Asian country's average English proficiency score was 53.60. Now, as a comparison, the average score of English proficiency in Indonesia is 52.15, still below the average number of English proficiency in the Asian region. From this data, we can conclude that understanding b, English in Indonesia is yet said low. Even though English today is used for many things. We were starting from education, business, politics, to technology. The importance of learning English in today's times cannot be underestimated or ignored seeing English as the language spoken in most parts of the world. English does not only play a role as a communication tool but can also make it easier for us to adapt to the environment and work in the present and future. From this, we can think about how important is learning English for everyday life?

Problem statement

1. Why should we learn English nowadays?
2. What are the difficulties in learning English?

3. What methods can be used to learn English?
4. How important literature help us learn English?
5. What kind of skill can we get if we study English?
6. How English effect in young generation?
7. How English advance our country nowadays?

#### The Purpose of Writing

1. We know the reason why we learn English nowadays.
2. We are identifying the difficulties in learning English.
3. Knowing what is the best method to learn English.
4. We are identifying the importance of literature where can help us in learning English.
5. Knowing the skill, we can get from learning English
6. Identifying how English effect in the young generation
7. Identifying how English to advance in our country

Reason to learn English nowadays First of all, English is the International Common Tongue. English is the most wellknown unknown dialect. This implies that two individuals who come from various nations (for instance, a Mexican and a Sri Lankan) generally utilise English as an ordinary language to convey. That is the reason everybody needs to get familiar with the language to connect on an international level. Talking it will assist you with speaking with individuals from nations everywhere in the world. Not only English-speaking ones. The British Council extends that by 2020 two billion individuals on the planet will consider English. Learning English is significant as it empowers you to communicate effectively with your kindred worldwide residents. (Nishanthi, 2018) The emergence of English as a World language is now indisputable. Crystal (2000) and Nunan (2001), as well as British Council (2013), argued that the spread of English provided unlimited access to the modern world of science, information and communications technology (ICT), money, power, international communication, and intercultural understanding as well as entertainment and many more fields. English has been said to have official status in 60 countries as the second language and has a prime place in 20 more TEFLON International Conference 2, pp. 253-260, 2015, Udayana University, Bali Page 254 countries as the primary foreign language (Yang, 2001). It is widely recognised that English is the native language of five countries: the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. (Ratna Rintaningrum, 2015) Besides that, English also increases intelligence, why like this ?. Is because we learn a language that is not our native language, which is the growth of our brain intelligence, especially for children. For children, this is an excellent stimulus for them to learn English as a foreign language in its golden age (HAKIM & CHIANYI, 2019) In addition to educating the brain, learning English also makes it easier for us to have relationships because we can easily communicate with strangers. And also English makes it easier for us to understand technology so that we can continue our education to a higher level easily. Difficulties in learning English In learning English, we often have difficulty. This difficulty has been acknowledged by many countries, especially if we only know about it as adults. Some of the reasons or factors from the English language itself are, first, there is an exception from the rules that should be. The three pronunciation of words is sometimes strange and different. The fourth is that many words sound the same but have different meanings. The sixth is synonyms, which are synonyms that cannot always replace other synonyms in a sentence. And the last one is Idiom. The Idiom itself is a unique saying that is sometimes difficult to understand. Apart from the English language factor itself, other factors influence us to learn English. The factors causing difficulty in learning English are declining health condition or illness, lack of training to improve English listening whether with their classmates or with a native speaker and the last thing is the motivation they had to be advance in learning English.

(Dewi Kurniawati, 2016) Methods can be used to learn English Many methods can be used to learn English. The first is we can use English in activities at home. While we are learning our pronunciation, we can also know the language that is commonly used in everyday life. Second, we can learn English through English songs and watch English films, by paying attention to the pronunciation of words and meanings, we can know a lot of accent and new words in English. And finally, we can do literacy using literature that is on the internet and around us. From the methods described above, it can be said that reading, listening and speaking are essential factors in speaking English. Because by paying attention to these fundamental basics, we can understand English with many variations. And of course, we can add to our insight about anything related to aspects of understanding the English language. Literacy can be an effective and easy method to do because this method covers the essential elements of learning English In Indonesian, literacy is more popular with the term 'literacy' or literacy in English, namely the ability to read and write. However, in various references, the definition of literacy can vary, referring only to reading ability, sometimes involving reading and writing skills, and less often referred to as reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills.(R. Rintaningrum, 2019). From the definition above we can conclude that literacy is one of the best methods for learning English How literature helps us learn English Literature is beneficial in learning English. It can be proven that when we get a new English vocabulary, we will look for the meaning of the vocabulary either from book literature or the internet. Another example, such as when we start learning grammar, we don't understand what the rules are, so we must look for sources of literacy that we can support to make it easier for us to understand them. From the example above, we can conclude that literature helps us to learn English because the source of understanding that we are looking for often comes from literature. Because of the fact why when we know English, it is crucial to be accompanied by some existing literary literature. In today's globalized world, being able to speak a foreign language has become more important than ever before. With businesses expanding across borders and international travel becoming more accessible, the ability to communicate with people from different cultures and backgrounds has become a key skill for success. In this article, we will explore the importance of learning foreign languages and why it should be a priority for professionals.

**Improved Communication** The most obvious benefit of learning a foreign language is the ability to communicate with people from different countries. Speaking the language of your clients or partners can create a strong bond of trust and help establish a better relationship. It also allows you to understand their culture, values, and business practices, which can be critical in today's globalized economy. Furthermore, studies have shown that learning a foreign language can improve your communication skills in your native language. By learning a new language, you become more aware of sentence structure, grammar rules, and vocabulary, which can enhance your writing and speaking abilities in your own language.

**Increased Career Opportunities** Knowing a foreign language can give you a competitive edge in the job market. Many companies are looking for candidates who can communicate with clients or partners from different countries, and having a foreign language on your resume can set you apart from other candidates. In addition, learning a language can open up opportunities to work and live abroad. International experience is highly valued by many employers, and being able to speak the language of the country you are working in can make the transition much easier.

**Cultural Understanding** Learning a foreign language goes beyond just communicating with others. It can also help you understand the culture and history of the country where the language is spoken. This can lead to a greater appreciation and respect for other cultures, which is critical in today's diverse workplace. By understanding the nuances of a different culture, you can avoid cultural misunderstandings and work more effectively with colleagues from different backgrounds. This can also help you to adapt more easily to new environments when traveling or working abroad.

**Improved Cognitive Function** Learning a foreign language has been shown to have cognitive benefits as well. Studies have shown that bilingual individuals have better cognitive function,

including improved memory, attention, and problem-solving abilities. Learning a new language also requires focus and discipline, which can improve your overall mental agility. In addition, learning a new language can provide a sense of accomplishment and boost your confidence. This can help you to take on new challenges and achieve your goals, both personally and professionally, learning a foreign language has become a critical skill in today's globalized world. It can improve communication, increase career opportunities, promote cultural understanding, and even enhance cognitive function. If you are a professional looking to advance your career or simply want to broaden your horizons, consider learning a new language. It may be one of the best investments you can make in yourself.

**Skills we got from learning English** The skills we get when learning English, of course, the first thing we can understand is the English language that is in our environment, and we also gain insight into English. From the process of understanding English, we improve our reading ability. This ability we get because we often read English and understand the vocabulary that is difficult to understand. The next ability, namely the ability to write, this ability is obtained because when we learn grammar, we will undoubtedly find many differences. There and begin to understand it all. In addition to the skills above, there are still more skills that we can get, namely listening skills, this ability we get because of our habit of listening to conversations of people who use English. And the last gift we get is the ability to speak, this ability we get because we often practice pronunciation of English words regularly. From the skills above, this shows that learning English is not an easy thing, but that doesn't mean it's all in vain. These all result in beneficial skills for any generation to compete in the world of work

**The effect of English for young generation** In this era of globalisation, English has been known to many people, from older generation to younger generation. It's makes a lot of changes that occur among the younger generation. Starting like the younger generation who already understand a little bit the meaning of English because of social media mainstreamers, many families make English their second language when talking at home. and the good thing is that the younger generation are starting to speak fluent English even though they are still young. Despite the positive impact as mentioned above, the negative effect of the presence of English in the younger generation is that their understanding of their own mother tongue is Indonesian. It is also starting to fade in asking young people to learn their own local languages because they are too comfortable using English. These are all positive and negative effects of the presence of English in the younger generation today. What is certain is that we must be able to sort out and choose whatever things are bad for our nation and us

**The advance of English in our country** In Indonesia, the use of English is not recognised as the national language, but when we are talking about the international field, English is a reliable option to choose. English itself in Indonesia has been widely applied everywhere. It is starting from the public sphere, education, business, politics and many more. The things that are applied can be in the form of information guides, discussion studies or other items. It's shows the use of English in Indonesia has grown rapidly and already being used for everyday purposes.

Language education is very important in national development. Language can be used as a means to spread and develop knowledge and can be used as a means to get to know the nation's culture. With the existence of language education it will improve the quality of Indonesian education. Not only that, language learning is also one of the media to exchange culture with other nations or countries. Other countries also have their own languages to communicate, with language differences it can be a medium for exchanging culture and knowledge. However, not everyone understands the language of different countries. The United Nations agrees to make English an international language. This is done to facilitate communication between countries.

English is a medium of communicating the international community, especially in the field of education and science. As a developing country we need knowledge from more developed countries. With the exchange of information, it will expand the horizons and improve the development of science and technology. Not only that, English is also used as the main language in products originating from abroad. Many products use English as an explanation in their products. In addition, there are many sources of knowledge such as books and journals that use

English. In order for the science of society to be wider, everyone must have good English language skills. Therefore, national development can develop better.

**Conclusion** At this time, the use of English is very much needed because of the importance of using English in everyday life, starting from education, business, to technology. If the learning uses an effective method, the output of using English will also produce useful soft skills ranging from the ability to write, speak, listen, and read soft skills like these are very much needed in the world of work. Therefore this shows how important the use of English nowadays.

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