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THE HISTORY OF ENGLISH AS AN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE: FROM COLONIALISM TO GLOBALIZATION

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The global status of English today is the result of a complex historical process spanning centuries and shaped by conquest, colonization, cultural influence, and economic power. From its modest origins as the tongue of a small island people, English has become a global lingua franca, spoken, taught, and adapted in almost every corner of the world. Its journey reflects not only the expansion of empires but also the shifting dynamics of global power and communication.

This research aims to explore the historical development of English as an international language and understand the factors contributing to its global dominance. By examining the transition from colonial expansion to modern globalization, this study highlights how English has been shaped by and continues to influence social, political, and economic contexts worldwide. In today's interconnected world, where communication across cultures is essential, understanding the roots and current role of English helps us appreciate its power and

complexity. This topic is particularly relevant in the 21st century, as English plays a key role in education, business, technology, and international relations.

After Mandarin and Spanish, English is the third most widely spoken native language in the world. Around 500 years ago, only about five to seven million people spoke the English language. Today, about 1.8 billion people use English every day. In a number of countries, including the United Kingdom, Ireland, the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and some Caribbean countries, English is spoken as the first language (Dr. Mohammed AbdAlla, 2020).

English is also the official language of nearly 60 sovereign nations. The number of people who can use English daily is around 380 million. Furthermore, some 150-300 million people use English as their second language, and another 100 million to 1 billion people have learned English at some point in their lives and can communicate in English. English is also used as a second and official language by the European Union, the Commonwealth of Nations, and a variety of other organisations (Corradi A., 2017; Silaban W. Y., 2023).

The rise of English began with the expansion of the British Empire in the 16th century. As Britain extended its colonial reach across North America, the Caribbean, Africa, the Indian subcontinent, and parts of Asia and the Pacific, English was introduced as the language of the colonisers. Their main aims were to gain land, wealth, and power. One example is the conquest of the Americas, where gold and the use of indigenous people as enslaved people were very important. The transatlantic slave trade, which began before Columbus reached the Americas, forced millions of Africans into slavery. British colonialism also spread to Asia, where the British East India Company was founded in 1600. Britain ruled India from 1765 to 1947, and English became widely spoken. Today, India has one of the largest English-speaking populations in the world. In addition, Britain established colonies in Australia and New Zealand. Captain James Cook claimed the east coast of Australia in 1770, and many British settlers, including prisoners, were later sent there. Aboriginal people in both Australia and New Zealand were treated very cruelly (Bissinger J., 2019; Dr. Mohammed AbdAlla, 2020).

In many cases, English was imposed on the local population, often at the expense of indigenous languages and cultures. The language became a marker of authority, social status, and access to colonial institutions. It became the official language of administration, law, education, and commerce (Corradi A., 2017).

In education systems set up by colonial powers, English was taught as the primary language of learning, and those who mastered it often gained privileged positions within colonial administrations. In countries such as India, Nigeria, and Kenya, English became a means for a small elite to engage with both colonial power structures and the wider world. This linguistic legacy continued even after independence, as many post-colonial nations retained English as an official or second language, using it to bridge ethnic and linguistic divisions and participate in global discourse (Bissinger J., 2019; Carlos R. González., 2024).

The decline of the British Empire in the 20th century did not diminish the global role of English. On the contrary, it entered a new phase with the emergence of the United States as the world's dominant political, military, and cultural power after the two world wars. American leadership in global institutions, its innovation in science and technology, and its cultural exports – Hollywood films, popular music, television, and later digital platforms – further entrenched English as the language of modernity and international exchange (Dr. Mohammed AbdAlla, 2020).

As globalisation accelerated in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, English became the principal language of international business, diplomacy, aviation, academic publishing, and the internet. It is the primary language of many multinational corporations, global conferences, and online platforms. For millions of people, English is not just a subject to be studied but a vital skill needed for career advancement, international travel, and global citizenship (Silaban W. Y.; 2023).

Many of the most popular social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok, were created by English-speaking people or companies. As a result, the default language on these platforms is usually English, although users can now choose other languages. However, even when the interface is changed, a lot of the everyday language, slang, and online expressions remain in English. Words and

abbreviations like ‘LOL’ (laugh out loud), ‘IDK’(I don’t know), and ‘TMI’ (too much information) are commonly used by people around the world, including those who are not native English speakers. This shows how English continues to influence global communication, especially in the digital world (Carlos R. González., 2024).

At the same time, the spread of English has led to the emergence of different regional varieties – what scholars call ‘World Englishes’. These include distinct forms of English spoken in India, South Africa, the Philippines, Singapore, and elsewhere, each reflecting local linguistic and cultural influences. English has thus moved beyond the control of its native speakers and become a global resource, adapted to local needs and identities.

However, this global dominance is not without its critics. Linguists and cultural studies scholars have pointed to the dangers of linguistic imperialism, where the spread of English contributes to the decline or even extinction of local languages. The privileging of English can reinforce social inequalities, limit access for those who do not speak it fluently, and perpetuate Western-centric worldviews.

Despite these concerns, English remains a powerful force in the modern world – a language of opportunity, access, and global dialogue. It has had a very long journey over the last nearly 500 years to become as important as it is today. Its continued spread reflects the legacy of empire and the realities of interconnected, digital societies. The story of English ultimately reflects human history: a language born of contact and conflict, evolving across borders and continually reshaped by the people who speak it.

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ФОРМУВАННЯ ТА ОСОБЛИВОСТІ ВИКОРИСТАННЯ СКОРОЧЕНИХ ТЕРМІНІВ В АНГЛІЙСЬКІЙ МОВІ

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Сучасний світ характеризується стрімким розвитком технологій та зростанням інформаційних потоків, через це виникає потреба в лаконічному та ефективному способі передавання інформації. Саме тому скорочення, зокрема і скорочені терміни, стали невіддільною частиною англійської мови. Вони забезпечують економію мовних засобів, пришвидшують комунікацію та виконують функцію термінологічної номінації складних понять. Їх формування відбувається за стабільними мовними моделями, а вживання залежить від функціональної сфери.

Скорочені терміни – це мовні одиниці, які утворюються шляхом зменшення повної термінологічної форми без втрати змісту. Згідно з Д. Кристалом, вони сприяють швидкому опрацюванню інформації й відповідають темпу сучасної комунікації (Crystal, 2003).

Існують різні класифікації скорочених слів та термінів. Так, Х. Фельбер (Felber, 1984, р. 178) поділяє скорочення на графічні та лексичні, а ті своєю