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World communication assumes contacts among representatives of different cultures, and one of these representatives may speak not a mother – tongue. Nowadays, when English is considered to be an international language, the situation with two non-speakers is more widespread. English is now the dominant or official language in over 60 countries and is represented in every continent. According to the fact, it can be understood that the language is a vital means of communication for millions of people around the world. During the twentieth century, numerous technological inventions and developments, such as the telephone, fax, electronic mail, internet have facilitated communication between people from all areas of life and all of these means are functioning in English [1]. The language is often said as a lingua-franca, because such countries as the USA, Canada, Britain, Ireland, Australia, New Zeland, South Africa and several Carribean countries use it as a mother tongue [2, p.9].

- English is currently one of the most widely spoken and written languages worldwide, with some 380 million native speakers. Because a working knowledge of it is required in many fields and occupations, education ministries around the world mandate the teaching of English to at least a basic level. There are the most prominent characteristics: Three-quarters of the world's mail, telexes and cables are in English.

- More than half of the world's technical and scientific periodicals are in English.

- English is the medium for 80% of the information stored in the world's computers.

English is the language of navigation, aviation and of Christianity; it is the ecumenical language of the World Council of Churches.

Five of the largest broadcasting companies in the world (CBS, NBC, ABC, BBC and CBC) broadcast in English, reaching millions and millions of people all over the world.

In general, this article is dedicated to the examination of English as a language of the Internet, or more exactly a vague collection of languages called "English" because there are so many people who use it with their cultural aspects. That national language has spread over the world, and several variants such as American (US) English, Australian English exist. A great number of people whose native language isn't the same know English as a foreign language. They typically use a more or less simplified variant, e.g. excluding most of the idioms of British, American, Australian etc English. Of course, they make mistakes, and sometimes the "English" used by people as a foreign language on the Internet is almost incomprehensible to anyone else. In addition, people who use it as their native language do not know how to spell difficult words, since they basically know English as a spoken language.

Four factors determine the degree to which a given language finds use on the Internet:

1. The number of users of the language;
2. The extent of it's use as an official language;
3. The economic power of the language;
4. The volume of information disseminated in the language [3].

Today, English reigns supreme in all of four aspects. It is studied as a foreign language throughout the world and employed by a majority of Internet users. The biggest part of 163 member nations of the U.N. uses English as their official language.

The importance of the Internet grows rapidly in all fields of human life, including not only research and education but also marketing and trade as well as entertainment and hobbies. This implies that it

becomes more and more important to know how to use Internet services and, as a part of this, to read and write English [4].

Of course, the majority of mankind cannot use the Internet nowadays or in the near future, since they live in countries which lack the necessary economic and technological infrastructure. But the Internet causes polarization in developed countries, too: people are divided into Internet users and Internet illiterates, and as the use of the Internet grows and often replaces traditional methods of communication, the illiterate may find themselves in an awkward position.

In general, it is easy to learn to use Internet services. The worst problems of Internet illiteracy are, in addition to lack of economic resources, of course, wrong attitudes. Elderly people are usually not accustomed to living in a world of continuous and rapid change, and they may not realize the importance of the Internet or the easiness of learning to use it. But although Internet services themselves are, generally speaking, easy to learn and use. But you will find yourself isolated on the Internet if you are not familiar with English. This means that knowledge or lack of knowledge of English is one of the most severe factors that cause polarization. Learning to use a new Internet service or user interface may take a few hours, a few days, or even weeks, but it takes years to learn a language so that you can use it in a fluent and self-confident manner. Of course, when you know some English, you can learn more just by using it on the Internet, but at least currently the general tendency among Internet users is to discourage people in their problems with the English language. Incorrect English causes a few flames much more probably than encouragement and friendly advice [5].

There is no conceivable way in which any authority could define an official language for the Internet. The Internet as a whole is not controlled by anyone or anything, and this could only change if, by miracle, all countries made an agreement on it or if the entire world were taken to the control of one government. But we can improve the quality of the information from the Internet, because many users, who send the information to the Internet don't know it well. This is the reason of many grammatical mistakes [6].

Finally, English has different positions in different countries and cultures. There are countries where English is the native language of the majority, there are countries where English is a widely known as a second language, and there are countries where English has no special position. These differences add to the above-mentioned polarization. Specifically, it is difficult for people in previous colonies of other countries than Great Britain (e.g. France, Spain, the Netherlands) to adapt to the necessity of learning English. Locally, it may be necessary to learn the language of the previous colonial power since it is often an official language and the common language of educated people; globally, English is necessary for living on the Internet. Organizations should spent more money on doing their Web-sites in it. In future it will help them to pay a good reputation. And the more languages you have to learn well, the less time and energy you will have for learning other things.

Literature references

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