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मानविकी एवं समाजविज्ञान की द्विभाषी शोध-पत्रिका

अंक-78, जनवरी-जून 2020

ISSN 0974-0066 (पूर्व-समीक्षित अर्द्धवार्षिक शोध-पत्रिका)

डॉक्टर हरीसिंह गौर विश्वविद्यालय, सागर (म.प्र.)

UGC Care List, Group-C (Multi disciplinary), Sl.no.-15

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English to World Englishes : The Influence of Indigenous/ Regional Languages on English World-Wide

Bablu Ray

Introduction

English language is no more a colonial language. It has become a global language. It is spoken not only by the native speakers of it but it is also a common mode of communication among the non-native speakers of it around the world. In many countries, it is a second language in schools and it has also acquired the positions of official languages in the countries like India, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Singapore and the other countries. It is also estimated that the number of people speaking English in South Asia is higher than that of the U.S.A. and the U.K. combined (Crystal 2003). Further, "English is often now taught as the primary foreign language in schools in many parts of the world" (Sergeant 2012: 49). In fact, it is very difficult to decide how many people speak English around the world? The rapid increase in the total numbers of world-wide English speakers has forced David Crystal to review his own 1985 article entitled 'How many millions use English?' from giving the details of approximately one billion speakers of English to 1,350 million in his first edition of his book 'English as a Global language' (1997) (Sergeant 2012: 50). English language with its large number of speakers is frequently used in the domain of education, administration, the law and the media. Further, the world-wide spread of English has also led it emerge into different non-native varieties of it and there is no more homogeneity in its use. Even there is a debate with the ownership of English. Widdowson (1994: 385) remarks that: "The very fact that English is an international language means that no nation can have custody over it. ...It is a matter of considerable pride and satisfaction for native speakers of English that their language is an international means of communication. But the point is that it is only international to the extent that it is not their language. It is not a possession which they lease out to others, while still retaining the freehold. Other people actually own it."

Madhya Bharti-78, January-June, 2020, ISSN 0974-0066, pp.222-231
UGC Care List, Group-C (Multi disciplinary), Sl. no.-15

