

# Engleski jezik kao lingua franca

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**Matić, Nika**

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Sveučilište Jurja Dobrile u Puli  
Filozofski fakultet

# **THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AS A LINGUA FRANCA**

Završni rad

Pula, rujan 2022.

Sveučilište Jurja Dobrile u Puli  
Filozofski fakultet

# THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AS A LINGUA FRANCA

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Student

Nika Matić

U Puli, 29.rujna 2022.



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Za korištenje autorskog djela na gore navedeni način ne potražujem naknadu.

U Puli, 29.rujna 2022.

Nika Matić

## Table of Contents

1. Introduction .....	2
2. Lingua Franca.....	3
2.1. The cultural determinants of language .....	3
2.2. The concept and definition of Lingua Franca .....	4
2.3. The history of Lingua Franca.....	6
3. English as a Lingua Franca .....	9
3.1. The genesis of the English language .....	9
3.2. The influence of Latin on English .....	11
3.3. Kachru's model of concentric circles .....	15
3.4. Expanding circle – English as a Lingua Franca.....	18
4. Conclusion .....	23
Sources .....	24
List of figures.....	26
List of tables .....	27
Summary .....	28

## 1. Introduction

In today's time of advanced technology and digitalization, a strong influence on the culture is done by different nations. Namely, through the Internet it is possible to make contacts with someone from another part of the world, various information about different cultures and different customs are available. The vast amount of available information allow you to get to know the world "outside the box". As a result, globalization strongly affects culture, the world becomes one, information spreads quickly, and as time goes by, there comes the possibility of taking over cultural patterns, one of which is language.

Globalization further strengthens the influence of dominant cultures, which leads to a kind of relativization of national cultural identities. National and cultural identities are particularly influenced by language, which in turn shapes cultural identity. The English language is spreading globally, and its role as a Lingua Franca is gaining more and more importance. English has become the language of communication among a large number of people whose mother tongue is not necessarily the same. Unlike a few decades ago, encounters with different forms of the English language occur daily thanks to the increased mobility.

English as a Lingua Franca ELF is the subject of interest of numerous researchers in the field of linguistics and sociology. The users of English are classified into those who use it as their mother tongue, those who speak it as an official language, and those who use it in everyday communication with people with whom they do not share a common language. Special attention is given to the latter, whereby English is studied as a Lingua Franca, i.e. as a language of communication and understanding.

The paper is structured in four parts, including an introduction and a conclusion. The first part refers to the introduction and introduces the reader to the main topic and explains a short structure of the paper. The second part is about defining the key term Lingua Franca, from its origin to its use today. The third section focuses on the role of English as a Lingua Franca, discussing topics such as the language's origins, how it is used in diverse contexts, and its current status as a global language of communication.

## **2. Lingua Franca**

In this part, language will be described as a determinant of the cultural identity of a nation, with the aim of pointing out the importance of language as a cultural expression. This correlates with globalization which encourages the use of Lingua Franca as a universal means of communication, leading to the creation of new cultural and social patterns.

Then a definition of the term Lingua Franca will be given, as well as a brief historical overview of the origin of the Lingua Franca. At the same time, it is important to emphasize that Lingua Franca in history can be viewed from two aspects. One marks the emergence of Lingua Franca as a result of the conquering and colonizing expansions of the great powers, whereby the conquered peoples accepted the dominant language of the rulers, and the other is a common means of communication among the merchants of the Mediterranean countries.

### **2.1. The cultural determinants of language**

Globalization strongly affects culture. Namely, with globalization the world becomes one, information spreads rapidly as a result of technological development, and with this comes the possibility of taking over the cultural patterns of other cultures. As a result, globalization further strengthens the influence of dominant cultures, which leads to a subtle relativization of national cultural identities in certain parts of the world (Grbić, 2004).

This is particularly done through language, which, as already stated, signifies cultural identity. Language is the carrier of cultural identity. Namely, language has an identity in the linguistic-typological context in such a way that it shows differences in the structural, lexical and pragmatic-informative sense. Languages also differ in terms of how discourses and functional styles are organized (Gvozdanović, 2010). It therefore follows that language expresses the identity of a particular culture.

Language play communicative, social, political, economic and other roles. It denotes a cultural element, and is one of the key factors in the identification process. Therefore, language also represents identity for many peoples (Grbić, 2004). Despite the fact that communication between people and communities takes place in many ways, the basic



means of communication are language and speech, directly or indirectly. As an element of culture language is subject to change. Language is a living organism, which arises, develops and dies. Many languages have died out (Yana and Tunica), while some are growing in dominance every day, because they cover large speaking areas (e.g.English, Spanish)

In relation to functionality, languages can be classified in several ways. Certain languages have been developed through standardization to function as communication instruments at all levels of the contemporary life of an individual community, which makes the language standardized. Certain languages function as vernaculars, while some, as diasystems, are stratified into a larger number of dialects. Considering the geographical area covered by a particular language, it can be local, regional, national and international.

Language fulfills different social needs, it functions differently in relation to genesis and typology. Languages are spoken by different groups of speakers and have unequal social power (Grbić, 2004). The awareness of linguistic diversity is deeply present in the human communication practice. This also applies to the diversity between two or more languages, as well as to the diversity within one language that is divided into dialects.

Languages are incommensurable, so in theory there is no superior language, but there are those that denote prestige (Grbić, 2004). Namely, in social relations it is noticeable that in the case of interaction at a high political and economic level where several national or ethnic communities participate, the dominant language becomes the one whose speakers are dominant on the political, economic or spatial level. When it comes to situations like this, the language of prestige becomes dominant because it assumes that the speakers of other languages will be able to position themselves and promote themselves more easily on the social scale by using it (Grbić, 2004).

## **2.2. The concept and definition of Lingua Franca**

Lingua Franca is a term used in linguistics to denote a special type of contact language used by speakers of different mother tongues for the purpose of communication. Etymologically, the term Lingua Franca comes from the Italian language where the word "Lingua" means language and "Franca" means Frankish.

Lingua Franca is a language used in limited communication situations, most often

for business, scientific or educational purposes. In a way, Lingua Franca is a "universal" language that helps a large number of people to communicate and has been used throughout the human history for commercial, religious and diplomatic purposes.

Today, Lingua Franca describes language as a means of communication, used by people belonging to two or more language groups, most often for economic reasons. In general, the given term means any language that is used in international communication in a particular part of the world.

Lingua Franca exists in different forms around the world. However, each form of Lingua Franca has some characteristics in common with the other ones. Its main feature is functionality. Besides, its use is not limited only in a certain geographical area, nor in a certain cultural community, nor among native speakers (Chepkemoi, 2017).

Another very important characteristic of Lingua Franca is that it is used for removing language barriers, thus, connecting different cultures which would remain disconnected without this communication tool.

A Lingua Franca (or Mediterranean lingua franca) refers to a language based on Italian that was spoken along the coastline of the Mediterranean Sea in the 16th century. It was used among merchants, prisoners and diplomats (Minervini, 2010). The first to study Lingua Franca was Hugo Schuchardt (1909), who gathered some evidence of the former use of the Romance 'language of mediation' in the port cities of North Africa. Schuchardt described a LF as a "language of necessity" with limited communication functions, a simplified grammatical structure and a lexicon of heterogeneous origin. He also describes it as being sparse on words and of significant semantic fluidity. Lingua Franca thus denoted a kind of auxiliary language, which was used orally by speakers of different languages for the purpose of communication (Minervini, 2010).

Since Lingua Franca was also used by speakers of other language groups, which resulted in its distortion, it can be said that Lingua Franca is actually a pidgin, and that is how Schuchardt described it. Namely, the elements that create Lingua Franca are mainly based on the Roman languages, but with the grammatical and lexical traces of Turkish and Arabic influences. Interestingly, such a language was used by Europeans, because it nevertheless served as a means of communication in frequent trade relations with the local Turkish and Arab population of the North African coast. The genesis of Lingua Franca is the main issue in the next chapter.

### 2.3. The history of Lingua Franca

The history of Lingua Franca can be viewed from two aspects. In both cases, Lingua Franca denotes the dominant language, while the difference lies in the manner in which it became dominant. One aspect starts from the fact that Lingua Franca is a means of communication in trade, while the other aspect starts from the fact that the dominant language was expanded by conquest and colonization efforts.

The term Franco in the Greco-Byzantine and Arab-Islamic world denoted those coming from Western Europe. From that starting point, Lingua Franca denoted the language used by Europeans, and it is mentioned as such in Greek and Arabic documents of the Middle Ages (Minervini, 2010). Lingua Franca was thus perceived as a unique language of communication, but not in a way that referred to a new language. As a consequence, Lingua Franca did not develop into a structured language, and was not even written down (Minervini, 2010), but, as mentioned earlier, was used only in speech. It can be said that Lingua Franca was considered as an occasional contact language.

The origin of Lingua Franca is most often associated with trade in the Mediterranean, dating back to the Middle Ages. In order for traders from different speaking areas to understand each other, they used one language as a means of communication. Lingua Franca is then a trade language, with which European and Arab traders in the Mediterranean communicated successfully.

Scaglione (2017) states that Lingua Franca consists of a basic Italo-Romance lexifier<sup>1</sup> language and a (weak) Arabic substrate language. Therefore, Lingua Franca unites the elements of the different languages of the "Mare nostrum", and being linguistic specificity it also signifies a cultural specificity.

The first known lingua franca was used in the Mediterranean ports during the Middle Ages, and is based on the Roman languages (especially Italian), as well as Greek, Arabic and Turkish. "Lingua Franca" denoted the term describing the language or jargon used by merchants and crusaders in the Mediterranean, and was intensively spoken in the given region during the Renaissance until the beginning of the 18th century (Chepkemoi, 2017).

During the Middle Ages, and the intensification of political and economic

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<sup>1</sup> the dominant language of a pidgin or creole that serves as the basis for most of its vocabulary

cooperation, trade in the Mediterranean Sea was in full swing. Trade relations along the Mediterranean coast contributed to the international circulation of languages that were already reputed to be prestigious. These are Arabic, French, Greek, and some Italian languages such as Genoese, Venetian and Tuscan, while to a lesser extent Catalan and Provençal.

In different spheres of social life, these languages were used differently. Therefore, it can be stated that, depending on the social status of the individual, especially at the lower levels of the social scale, pidginized and reduced versions of the language were used. Minervini (2010) further states that there is a transition of the Greek and Arabic lexemes into the Roman languages and vice versa, thus, creating an early variant of Lingua Franca, in a maritime context.

The first documentation of Lingua Franca is found in the records of Diego de Haeda in 1612, which lists various examples of this mixed speech by Turkish and Arabic speakers. From these examples, it is evident that several languages are used, including Italian, Turkish and Arabic. The speech was characterized by expressions in the infinitive form, without the use of verb tenses, and Minervini (2010) cites sources from the 17th century in which this language is called "bastard" or Piccolo Franco. Similar observations about this language are found in the records of numerous European travellers and diplomats when visiting "barbarian" countries.

Given that the Italian speakers were the leading traders in the regional and maritime trade in the Ottoman Empire, words and phrases from the Italian language were the most prevalent. Other contributing languages included Old French, Occitan, Arabic, Greek, Turkish, and Portuguese. The earliest record proving the existence of the term Lingua Franca dates back to 1632, and is known "Bastard Spanish" (Chepkemoui, 2017).

In addition to trade in the Mediterranean, Lingua Franca is surely associated with the colonial expansions of the great powers, which also contributed to population migrations. As a result, languages were transferred from continent to continent. The reason for this is the expansion of authority of certain powers over several countries throughout the world.

Latin represented Lingua Franca within the entire Roman Empire, i.e. in the Mediterranean and a large part of Europe, and influenced not only the development of the Roman languages, but also that of the Germanic languages (especially English). The dominance of the Arabic language was created due to the spread of Islam towards

the countries of the Middle East and North Africa. The situation was the same with the spread of the Russian and Chinese languages in the conquered territories. The European languages spread in the same way, especially Spanish, Portuguese, French and English throughout the colonization of the newly discovered continents (North and South America, and Australia) and Africa (Grbić, 2004).

### **3. English as a Lingua Franca**

The English language is increasingly becoming a universal language used by more and more people who are not native speakers of English. English is the lingua franca that people of different areas use to communicate. Thus, English becomes, in a sense, the official language, or the language of communication in almost all aspects of life. This is also so much evident in research communities, thus in different discussions on science.

This chapter provides a brief overview of the historical development of the English language and its use. Also, the influence of Latin on English will be presented, given that English contains a significant number of Latinisms. Then Kachru's model of concentric circles will be presented and defined in relation to the English-speaking areas, with a special emphasis on the expanding circle. The last part of the chapter is about the global English dominance.

#### **3.1. The genesis of the English language**

The English language originated in the British Isles and is the dominant language in the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, the Caribbean islands and the Pacific Ocean (Crystal, 2022). English is the official language in many countries, among others in India, Singapore and the Philippines, in the countries of sub-Saharan Africa and in South Africa. English is so widespread that it is taught in school as the first foreign language in most countries of the world. It is estimated that English is spoken by two billion people in the world, or a third of the world's population (Crystal, 2022).

The English language as it is spoken today has gone through many centuries of development. Namely, during the long English history, the English language was affected by historical political and social events. One such event is the Roman Christianization of the British in the sixth century, when England was brought into contact with the Latin language and the Latin civilization in general, which influenced the vocabulary of the English language.

In a similar way, the impact on the English language is also noted as a result of the Scandinavian invasion, which resulted in the mixing of peoples, and thus languages. The Norman conquest left its mark on everyday speech so that the lower classes

continued using English, while the nobles tended to use French (Baugh, Cable, 2002). In the eleventh century, the English language was developed and onwards gradually began to be used by the entire population. This language is characterized by major vocabulary changes. Numerous notable historical events influenced the evolution of the language. Among them the rise of the middle class, the Hundred Years' War, the Renaissance, the development of science and literature, the naval power, the growth of trade and industry, and the growing power of the British Empire (Baugh, Cable, 2002).

Crystal (2022), confirms that the English language belongs to the group of West Germanic languages of the Indo-European language family, and is closely related to the Frisian, German and Dutch languages. Since it belongs to the Indo-European language family, it is related to many languages of Europe and Asia. Proto-Indo-European or mother language, 5000 years old, was the language of the nomads who crossed the plains of South-Eastern Europe. The Germanic language group originates from this language, which scientists divide into three regional groups:

- Eastern (Burgundian, Vandal and Gothic, all of which have died out),
- Northern (Icelandic, Faroese, Norwegian, Swedish and Danish),
- Western (German, Dutch and Flemish, Frisian and English).

The German and Frisian languages have the most observable similarities with the English language. German differs in that it is more conservative, and retains a developed system of inflections. Frisian is most closely related to today's English, and is used in the Dutch province of Friesland and on the islands of the west coast of Schleswig. The grammatical structure of the Old English language is the most reminiscent of Icelandic, which is also a living language. English is characterized by the simplicity of inflections, the flexibility of function and the openness of vocabulary (Crystal, 2022).

Baugh and Cable (2002) state that today's English language was developed from the historical dialects spoken by the Germanic tribes who inhabited the territory of England. As mentioned above, English belongs to the West Germanic branch of the Indo-European family. The English evolution lasted 1,500 years and can be divided into three periods.

- the period from 450 to 1150 is known as Old English and is described by as a period characterized by full inflection. Namely, during that time, the suffixes of nouns, adjectives and verbs were more or less preserved
- years from 1150 to 1500 mark the period of the medieval English language (Middle English) which is characterized by the flattening of inflection
- from 1500 onwards, the period of modern English is recorded, also known as the period of lost inflections

As shown, the progressive decay of inflections is one of characteristics that generally marks the evolution of the English language.

Ionta (2016) states that a radical change of the English language is recorded through the given phases. However, there are groups of experts who dispute this division, i.e. when which period begins and ends is still rather unclear to many of them. According to Ionta (2016), the first phase is marked by Old English or Anglo-Saxon, a Germanic language brought by the tribes that began to migrate to the British Isles from Germany in the fifth century BC. Certain words from Old English can still be recognized in English today. The construction of sentences and complex vocabulary - also require special attention. The second phase, Medieval English, is called like this because the Anglo-Saxon rules were broken and contaminated by other influences: the Viking's invasions, the Norman Conquest (1066) and Latin, which was the language of the priests. In this period, the strong influence of Romance languages and changes in sound begins.

Modern English began to be widely used at the beginning of the 16th century. It is characterized by the 'great vowel change', the invention of printing and the development of technology for wider communication (press and, later, radio) - led to the lengthening and marking of vowel sounds, which became part of the standard language (Ionta, 2016).

### **3.2. The influence of Latin on English**

The English and other people whose mother tongue is English, have always had an inquisitive spirit, settled all over the world and traded with many ethnic groups. As a consequence, one of the strongest virtues of the English language has developed. It is about the tendency to appropriate and adapt foreign words to the English language.



However, some disciplines have retained Latin as the "official" and universal language used by everyone in the world to communicate, such as botany, taxonomy, law or chemistry.

As stated earlier, the English language is classified as Germanic. This group of languages includes Dutch, Flemish, German, Danish, Swedish and Norwegian. With the above languages, English shares a similar grammatical structure and many common words (Baugh, Cable, 2002). But despite this, more than half of the English vocabulary is derived from Latin. Some words were directly borrowed, while some are from the French language and some others are from the Latin languages.

Furthermore, English shares a large number of words with European languages derived from Latin, especially French, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese (Baugh, Cable, 2002). Therefore, the English language is generally well-known to the speakers of Romance and Germanic languages. The presence of Latin in English dates back to the time of the Roman Empire and the Roman conquests. Therefore, most of the historical inscriptions in Latin that are present in Britain originate from the official use of Latin, but not necessarily by the population.

Namely, Latin did not replace the Celtic language in Britain, as it did in Gaul (Baugh, Cable, 2002). It is believed to have been used by the upper class Britons and city dwellers. There is material evidence that Latin was also known to the artisan class. The British encountered the Latin language in a commercial and military context, and later on also in a religious and intellectual one. Latin was relevant for centuries and constantly renewed. It is assumed that the use of Latin in Britain began to decline after 410, when the last Roman legions were withdrawn from the British Isles.

The presence of the Latin language in Britain began long before the arrival of the Anglo-Saxons in England, and continued throughout the Old English period. The Germanic tribes, which later became the English, adopted a large number of Latin words through relations with the Romans. Latin words were also adopted after the arrival of Catholic missionaries during the Christianization of the British, i.e. during the introduction of Christianity to the Island. The greatest influence of Latin on Old English took place during the Christianization of Britain from the year 597 (Baugh and Cable, 2002). This year is considered the beginning of a systematic attempt by Rome to convert the British population to Christianity. It was the Catholic missionaries who

contributed to the widespread acceptance and implementation of Latin into English.

Tacitus states that the local inhabitants showed hostility towards the language of the conquerors, but that they also viewed the Romans as a "higher civilization", and that they themselves expressed their willingness to use the Latin language. Latin was the language of a civilization that was highly valued. The poet Marcial, also stated that his works were read in Latin on the island. In general, it is assumed that Latin was used in Britain, but its use was not widespread enough to survive in the same way as Celtic.

The connection between the Latin and English languages can also be proven due to some words that are still used in English in their original form and are so established that there was never any need to adapt them to the modern English language. Table 1 shows the Latin roots used in some English words.

*Table 1 English words of Latin origin*

Aqua	water	Aquatic, Aquarium, Aqua
Audi - o	(I) hear	Audition, Auditory, Audio
Bell - um	war	Belligerent
Bene	well	Benefit, Benevolent
Cent-um	hundred	Century, Percent, Cent
Fin - is	end, limit	Finish, Finite, Define
Ign - is	fire	Ignite, Ignition, Igneous
Liber	Free	Liberate, Liberal, Liberty
Maxim – us	biggest	Maximal, maximize
Minor	smaller, less	Minor, Minority
Man-us	Hand	Manual, Manipulate
Voc-o	(I) call	Vocal, revoke, vocation

Source: [https://www.alphadictionary.com/articles/ling008\\_a.html](https://www.alphadictionary.com/articles/ling008_a.html)

Although the Latin language is considered extinct in modern everyday life, its influence is still evident, so that English is one of the languages that has been influenced by Latin. In its original, derived or modified form, we encounter it everywhere, and even in the current conditions, it proves to be more than useful for communicating with foreigners or in everyday life.

### 3.3. Kachru's model of concentric circles

In the last decades of the twentieth century, the English language became a truly international language, with a number of speakers ranging from about 2 billion people. However, this diffusion has led to some important questions regarding the status of the 'native speaker'. As Ghirarduzzi (2021) states, never before in the history of mankind has there been such a large ratio between native and non-native speakers (1 to 5, according to statistics) of a language. Many scientists are studying the widespread use of English in the sociolinguistic and linguocultural contexts, and it is regarded as a true phenomenon. English has evolved into a global language spoken by a diverse range of people. According to Kachru's model of concentric circles, there are three types of speakers. The inner circle includes speakers whose mother tongue is English, the outer circle includes former colonies, in which English has the status of an official (second) language, while the third circle, the "expanding circle" belongs to the areas where English is taught as a foreign language. This theory was put forward by Kachru in 1985 (Jenkins, 2009).

Ghirarduzzi (2021) states that according to Kachru, the inner circle encompasses speakers from the countries of Great Britain, Ireland, the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. The outer circle includes speakers of countries where English is not the native language but has historically played an important role due to Britain's imperial past, such as India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Malaysia, Tanzania, Kenya, and others. In the third circle are included all of the nations of the world in which English is learnt as the first non-native language.

In academic circles, special attention is paid to the outer circle and the expanding circle, considering the influence and connection that English has as a global language in the process of globalization, and language rights, linguistic imperialism, linguistic ecology, linguistic ideology, minority languages, and others. Accordingly, there are different attitudes in professional literature towards English as a global language, ranging from neutral or positive, to the condemnation of linguistic imperialism (Nedeljković Pravdić, 2013).

Figure 1 depicts three concentric circles according to Kachru's model, which shows the English-speaking countries in all three circles with the estimated number of speakers in each circle.

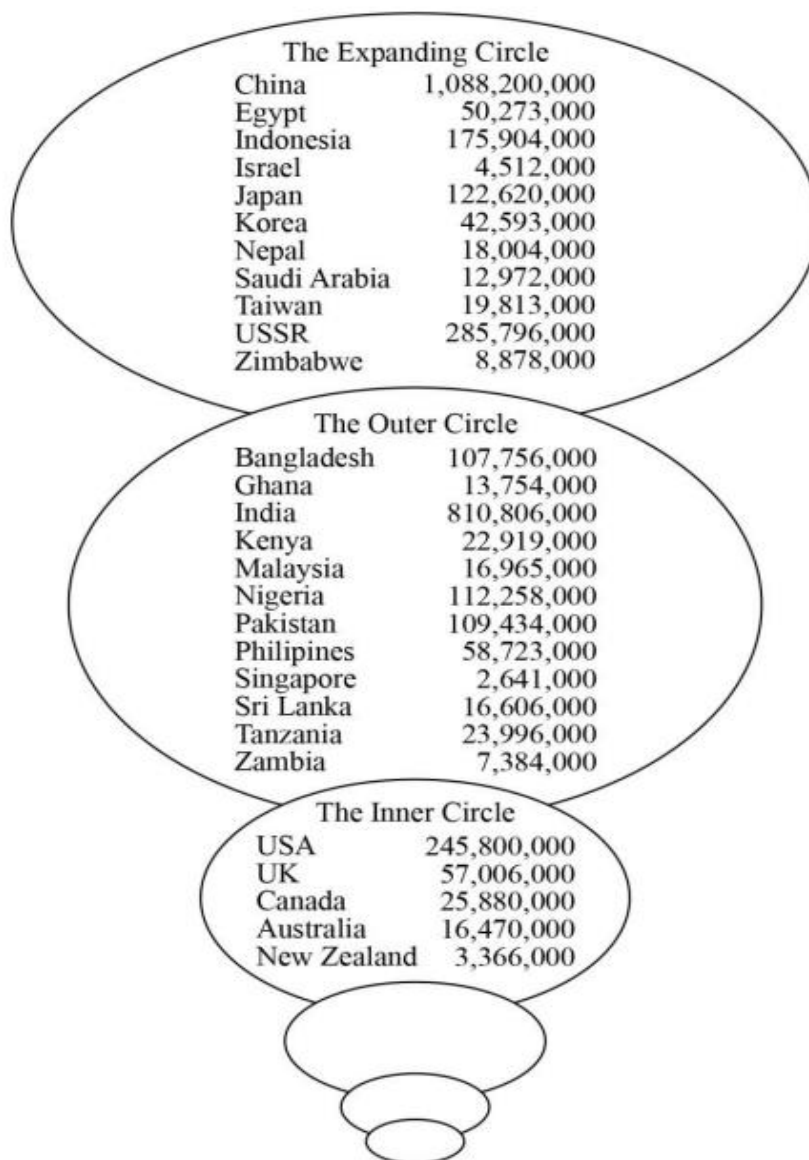


Figure 1 Three concentric circles of English by Kachru

Source: <https://slidetodoc.com/world-englishes-lesson-3-who-speaks-english-today/>

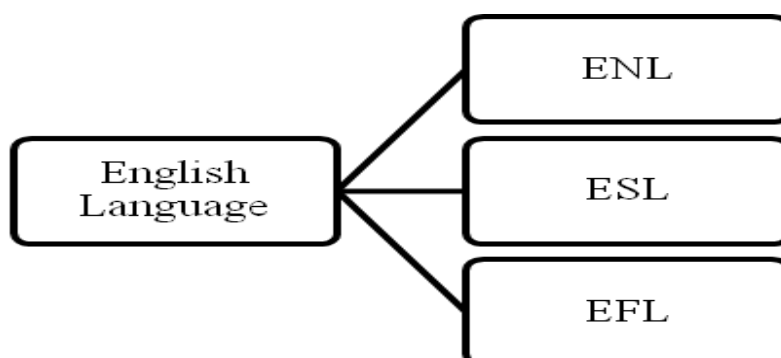
The outer circle was adapted by another diaspora due to the British colonization of various parts of Asia and Africa. One of the most important considerations about this circle is that the various English languages spoken within it are most often in constant contact with other languages. Because of this, varieties of English are influenced by these other languages, and in some cases incorporate some of their characteristics.

This is why the outer circle is normative. The expanding circle was never colonized by the British Empire, and as such English is not a language spoken by a significant number of people in this country (Valpa, 2020).

Smith advocated for the classification of English as an international auxiliary language in 1976 (Kirkpatrick, 2014). At the same time, he did not believe that there must be a single standard of the English language that would be used by everyone, but that each country where English is spoken has left its own unique mark on this language. That alone can be said to have a diverse character. This is supported by the fact that English in Great Britain is different than English in the United States or India.

Kirkpatrick (2014) points out that, according to its usage, the English language is classified by the following terms, also shown on Figure 2:

- English as a Native Language (ENL),
- English as a Second Language (ESL) i
- English as a Foreign Language (EFL).



*Figure 2 Classification of English according to usage*

According to the above classification, ENL is spoken in the countries of native speakers, ESL is spoken in the countries where English has an important intra-national role and most often in the post-colonial countries, while EFL is spoken in the countries where it has no functional application usage, except in teaching, i.e. as a language of communication with foreigners.

The given classification differs from Kachru's model of circles, although they actually seem similar. Kirkpatrick (2014) points out two differences:

- Kachru's model allows for the existence of multiple forms of English
- Kachru claims that they are all equally valid for their contexts.

The distinction among ENL, ESL and EFL on the other hand suggests that there are

only ENL varieties and that they are inherently superior to the others (Kirkpatrick, 2014).

As pointed out by Santipolo (Ghirarduzzi 2021), although this model remains fundamentally valid in its basic structures, in recent decades the power relations between the speakers involved in the three circles have changed significantly. Namely, through globalization processes, even non-native speakers of the 'outer circle' and 'expansion circle' gained the power to change the rules of English and to impose their own models on the rest of the world. That is why today it would be correct to say, as one famous Facebook page does with a touch of irony, 'English Whirled-Wide' instead of 'English World-Wide'.

### **3.4. Expanding circle – English as a Lingua Franca**

The circle that is considerably expanding today is the subject of research by many scientists, and represents the basis of the term *Lingua Franca*, that is, the English language as a Lingua Franca. The concept of English as a Lingua Franca (ELF) starts from the fact that "a better knowledge of ELF leads to informed decision-making, primarily in the field of teaching, learning and evaluation, but also in the wider context of language policy and planning" (Filipović, 2008a, cited in Nedeljković Pravdić, 2013).

ELF is a term used to denote a way of spoken communication, that is, communication between speakers of different native languages, and it denotes a means of communication. ELF means the language of contact, that is, the chosen language of communication, which does not exclude the participation of native speakers in ELF interaction. Filipović (2008, cited in Nedeljković Pravdić, 2013) gives a broader definition according to which Lingua Franca is "a means of communication between members of different linguistic and cultural groups for whom the given language is not their mother tongue".

ELF is understood as a language of communication, not identification, so there is no need for non-native English speakers to identify with it. It's characterized by flexibility, functionality, specific status and global distribution (House, 2003, in Nedeljković Pravdić, 2013).

English is the most widely spoken language in the world, especially in the economic and financial fields. Regardless of the origin and ambitions of the speaker, a solid command of English and the ability to use it as a Lingua Franca becomes essential for

accessing various business, educational and other opportunities.

The fact that English is used as a Lingua Franca is much related to the British colonial past, which is why English has automatically become the language used in many areas of the world. Although the colonial era is long gone, English is still the language of choice for most people to communicate around the world, including the developing countries. It is also the language used by companies, both small and local as well as large and multinational, and cooperation between partners located in different countries relies on English. Many institutions and organizations around the world use English as their official language of communication, and some sectors have adopted English as their official language. For example, flight control or aviation in general.

ELF speakers are not necessarily monolingual, therefore they do not strive for a pragmatic and cultural identification with native English speakers. The richness of ELF, lies in the introduction of elements of other languages into the English language system, which makes ELF in a way a hybrid language (House, 2003, in Nedeljković Pravdić, 2013).

Europe is an example of multilingualism where plurilingual competence is one of the main goals of language education policy. In doing so, it is important to point out that the formulated language policy of Europe is manifested on three levels (Nedeljković Pravdić, 2013).

The first level is educational, which implies learning at least two foreign languages in addition to the mother tongue. Therefore, the English only model changes to English plus. The next level is administrative — legal, and it refers to the use of all official languages within the EU, that is, the languages of all member states including Croatian. The protective level implies the application of the Charter on the Protection of Minority and Regional Languages, which has numerous shortcomings such as difficulties with changing the legal status of majority languages, unclear criteria for distinguishing languages from dialects, the exclusion of immigrant languages, and others (Bugarski, 2009 in Nedeljković Pravdić, 2013).

Kirckpatrick (2014) states that the role of the English language is growing exponentially in many countries that fall under the "expanding circle". English is not only used within a particular country, but is also used transnationally, where it simultaneously fulfills intra-societal and trans-societal functions. For example, English is the only official working language of the ten Southeast Asian nations that make up the



Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Some of them are post-colonial "outer circle" countries such as Singapore and Malaysia, while others belong to the "expansion circle" such as Cambodia and Indonesia. In the European Union, although all the languages of the member states are official, English and French are used for communication.

English is considered the most widespread lingua franca in the world, which also applies to Europe. English has become an integral part of the European language oeuvre, and according to Cogo (2012), it represents a very important resource for Europeans. According to the measurements of the European Barometer, (European Commission 2012d) English is the "most widely spoken foreign language", it is the first language learned at school after the mother tongue and is used in formal education and professional, international contacts live and in the virtual space. The European Union tries to emphasize that all official languages are equal, but English is still the most widespread way of communication.

English is increasingly used as a language of communication that does not know geographical or national boundaries – as understood in a traditional way. The development of the Internet also contributed greatly to this, which was mentioned earlier in the paper. The significance of technological progress in the evolution of English as a Lingua Franca should not be underestimated, as this is a point stressed by the vast majority of authors.

This particularly applies to younger generations who communicate via social networks, various applications, Internet blogs, forums and the like. The Internet opens up wide possibilities for the application of international communication from any part of the world. In this global communication, Lingua Franca today represents a common code as a means of communication between people who originally speak different mother tongues.

At the same time, another important determinant of Lingua Franca appears, namely language variations (Cogo, 2010). These variations are more or less standardized, and speakers can belong to the inner, outer, and expanding circle. Accordingly, as stated by Kirckpatrick (2014), several variants of the world English language emerged which are linguistically described. Differences in the lexical, phonological, and grammatical characteristics of individual variants are most often mentioned. There are numerous discussions in scientific circles about the causes of the differences in the syntactic features of the new varieties of the English language.

As such, the question arises whether the mentioned differences can be explained by the influence of the native languages of the users of English as Lingua Franca. Speakers of different varieties of English use non-standard syntactic features, so the question of vernacular universals arises.

Kirkpatrick (2014) states that the compilation of syntactic features counts approximately 46 different varieties of the world English language, and they are found in the World Atlas of Morphosyntactic Variations in the English Language. As an example of a non-canonical form, half of these 46 types of speakers are less likely to mark the third person with '-s'. Grammatical forms that are commonly realized in non-standard ways include pronouns, noun phrases, phrasal verbs (tense verbs, visual verbs, modal verbs), adverbs, negation, agreement, and word order (Kirkpatrick, 2014).

Kortman (2010, in Kirkpatrick, 2014), in his discussion of the possible causes of shared and characteristic features, states that "varietal type — not geography — is of primary importance, at least when looking at large patterns, profiles and encoding strategies in morphosyntax". In speaking of the term "type of variety", Kortman is referring to whether the variety is an inner-circle or outer-circle vernacular, or whether it is a pidgin or a creole. Kortman (2010) concludes that "the influence of geography is expected to be stronger in phonology, in lexis and in phraseology" (Kortmann 2010, in Kirkpatrick, 2014).

Other scholars, including Thomason (2009, cited in Kirkpatrick, 2014), summarize the possible influences of language contact or the presence of vernacular universals on the development of new varieties of the English language. The assumption is that both potential causes play the same role. "Many linguistic changes of both kinds of processes are involved — that is, different processes of contact-induced change and also universal tendencies of various kinds"

However, Cogo (2010) states that it is necessary to take into account that ELF speakers will most likely have different competent knowledge, i.e. different levels of knowledge of the English language, Cogo (2010:299) accordingly states how this can affect the outcome of the meeting, and may "lead to the question of pragmatic fluency and a more appropriate re-conceptualization of 'fluency' in ELF contexts".

Considering the above, House developed the concept of pragmatic fluency as follows (Cogo, 2010:299):

- appropriate use of discourse strategies;
- the ability to start and change topics;

- the ability to "carry weight" in content reversals;
- the ability to demonstrate appropriate download and response behavior, through locking and overlapping;
- appropriate rate of speech, types of filled and unfilled pauses, frequency and function of repairs. (House 1999: 81; House 2002: 262–263, in Cogo, 2010:299)

## 4. Conclusion

Originally the term Lingua Franca referred to the language of communication between traders in the Mediterranean. In order to communicate for everyday commercial purposes, they created a language that would be used for their communication. At first, it was not about a single language, but a mixture of various Mediterranean languages. This language was not written down, but was described as unorganized.

The English language is undoubtedly the LF today which represents the language of commerce and research community, and the means of communication for two billion people. As a result, its use is constantly spreading through the media, especially the Internet. It can be said that so far no language has been as widespread in international communication as English.

From a linguistic point of view, the concept of ELF represents a new field of scientific studies. Namely, one third of the world's population uses English in communication, although for most of them, English is not their mother tongue. Moreover, there are even more non-native English speakers which also represents a certain phenomenon.

Given its political, social and cultural implications, English is also often associated with the values that dominate the contemporary society, with modernity and with globalization.

In an increasingly international reality, English responds to the need for global interdependence at all levels, since it enables communication between people of different nationalities and from different speaking areas. On the other hand, given the cultural value of multilingualism and the richness associated with the contribution of multiple languages and cultures, national languages must also be maintained and the study of other foreign languages alongside English encouraged.

However, this use of English as a Lingua Franca also means additional research not only in the subject of sociology, but also in the field of linguistics.

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## List of figures

<i>Figure 1 Three concentric circles of English by Kachru.....</i>	16
<i>Figure 2 Classification of English according to usage.....</i>	17

## List of tables

<i>Table 1 English words of the Latin origin.....</i>	13
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## Summary

Language is the most common means of interaction between humans. However, while animals have developed methods of interacting with one another, only humans have achieved such a high level of proficiency in the use of language. Humans, like others, use body language, but spoken, written, and signed language are the most efficient means of communication with one another. Using it, we can communicate our ideas, wishes and more. The modern world would not exist if people could not talk to one another.

My aim in writing this undergraduate thesis was to give readers some insight into the status of English as the most important, progressive, and developing languages in the world as well as an international language in many different ways.

English is particularly the world's business, scientific, technological, medical and diplomatic language. Because of its ease of use and clear structure, it has emerged as the standard of the worldwide communication.

## SAŽETAK

Jezik je najčešće sredstvo interakcije među ljudima. Međutim, dok su životinjske vrste razvile metode međusobne interakcije, samo su ljudi postigli tako visoku razinu znanja u korištenju jezika. Ljudi, kao i ostali, koriste neverbalnu komunikaciju, ali verbalni, pisani i znakovni jezik su najučinkovitiji načini međusobnog komuniciranja. Koristeći ga, možemo izražavati i prenositi svoje ideje, želje i ostalo. Moderni svijet ne bi postojao da ljudi ne mogu razgovarati jedni s drugima.

Moj cilj u pisanju ovog završnog rada bio je dati čitateljima uvid u status engleskog kao najvažnijeg jezika, stalno u intenzivnom razvoju, kao i međunarodnog jezika na mnogo različitih načina. Engleski je posebice korporativni, znanstveni, tehnološki, medicinski i diplomatski jezik u svijetu. Zbog svoje jednostavne upotrebe i jasne strukture postao je standard za komunikaciju diljem svijeta.

ključne riječi: engleski jezik, lingua franca, Kachru i njegovi koncentrični krugovi