

2017-1 Translation

1- The growth of the use of English as the world's primary language for international communication has obviously been continuing for several decades.

(46) But even as the number of English speakers expands further there are signs that the global predominance of the language may fade within the foreseeable future.

2- Complex international, economic, technological and culture change could start to diminish the leading position of English as the language of the world market, and UK interests which enjoy advantage from the breath of English usage would consequently face new pressures.

Those realistic possibilities are highlighted in the study presented by David Graddol.

(47) His analysis should therefore end any self-contentedness among those who may believe that the global position of English is so stable that the young generation of the United Kingdom do not need additional language capabilities.

3- David Graddol concludes that monoglot English graduates face a bleak economic future as qualified multilingual youngsters from other countries are proving to have a competitive advantage over their British counterparts in global companies and organizations.

Alongside that (48) many countries are introducing English into the primary-school curriculum but British schoolchildren and students do not appear to be gaining greater encouragement to achieve fluency in other languages.

If left to themselves, such trends will diminish the relative strength of the English language in international education markets as the demand for educational resources in languages, such as Spanish, Arabic or Mandarin grows and international business process outsourcing in other language such as Japanese, French and German, spreads.

4- (49) The changes identified by David Graddol all present clear and major challenges to UK's providers of English language teaching to people of other countries and to broader education business sectors.

The English language teaching sector directly earns nearly £1.3 billion for the UK in invisible exports and our other education related exports earn up to £10 billion a year more.

As the international education market expands, the recent slowdown in the number of international students studying in the main English-speaking countries is likely to continue, especially if there are no effective strategic policies to prevent such slippage.

Clearly, the effect of developments in that directions would not be limited to the commercial and educational sectors.

Cultural and civil contacts and understanding would also be diluted.

5- The anticipation of possible shifts in demand provided by this study is significant: (50) It gives a basis to all organization which seek to promote the learning and use of English, a basis for planning to meet the possibilities of what could be a very different operating environment.

That is a necessary and practical approach.

In this as in much else, those who wish to influence the future must prepare for it.