

The trend of globalization has made English the most common language spoken around the world. According to Graddol, “learning English became seen no longer as an option but as an urgent economic need” (Graddol). Truly, mastering English seems to be the basic requirement for many people, especially those who are working in commercial, political, journalism or tourist fields. In the impact of anglicization, some people even choose English as their language. As for me, speaking English as the first language does have some benefits, but it is not advantageous to only speak English.

Speaking English as the first language offers some benefits. First, and the most importantly, English helps communicate with the rest of the world. In Sung’s article, he mentioned that “more notably, English now serves as a global lingua franca and is increasingly used by both native and non-native speakers as a means of inter-cultural communication” (Sung). With the widespread usage of English, people from Europe can talk with people who come from Asia. English connects people from different parts of the world. Speaking the same language makes people get close to each other without the barrier of misunderstanding. We tend to use our first language better than our second language or foreign language, so to pursue more fluent communication with others, I think it is beneficial to speak English as the first language.

Second, English provides a straightforward thinking pattern, which is easy to learn. At least compared to Chinese, English has more regulated grammar, less difficulty of pronunciation, and easier logic to understand. All of these traits simplify the progress of learning English. If somebody put the same amount of time learning English and Chinese, I claim that he or she can acquire English better than Chinese in general. Therefore, speaking English as first language saves much more time and effort.

Based on the second advantage, the third one is that English is frequently used in published scientific papers. Just like Druckerman argues, “scientific papers have long been published mostly in English; now social movement are Anglophone” (Druckerman). It is easier to understand academic article if English is the first language. I practiced an experiment once. I read a research article which is originally published by English and later translated to Chinese. To my surprise, I understood better of the content in English version, even if my mother tongue is Chinese. For example, if I see the word “perception”, I will realize that it comes from the verb “perceive”, which is readily to understand. However, when I try to explain the word in Chinese, I find it abstract and hard to do so. Therefore, English can be manipulated more conveniently in academic field.

In addition to all the three, English helps shape a positive personality. Linguist Benjamin Lee Whorf (1956) contended that “language itself shapes a [person’s] basic ideas” (Myers & Dewall). People come from the English speaking country or the “inner circle” are confident because they are the majority. They tend to be more forced on self-centered emotions.

Given all the benefits of speaking English as a first language, some may suggest that since learning English has so many merits, then speaking English only is enough. By contrast, I insist that it is fine but not advantageous to speak English only.

Considering the aspect of of communication. Indeed, speaking English may help our communications, but only speaking English is far more insufficient. David Crystal emphasized the concept of world Englishes. He said, “as English goes around the world, becomes global, is that the different countries that have adopted it immediately start to make it their own.” Obstacle still exist because of the regional variation Those who merely speaking English actually can not

get fully understand when they are out of the so-called native speaking comfort zone. Falik, a reader who replied to the Druckerman's article also recognized that it is shortsighted and conservative to be monolingualism. She argued that "the rest of the world isn't gaining on us; it is already ahead in recognizing what we still don't: that monolingualism is the new illiteracy."

Only speaking English make "native speakers lose their competitive edge" (Druckerman). By contrast, bilingualism offers irreplaceable benefits. The increasing competitiveness of bilingual speakers does not only refer to language usage. It's indicated in many other perspectives. Compared to monolingual speakers, according to Falik, "bilingualism improves memory, attention and mental dexterity" (Falik). Psychology also proves that bilingual people have exhibited skill at inhibiting one language while using the other language (Myers & Dewall). Thanks to their well-practiced "executive control" over language, they also more readily inhibit their attention to irrelevant information (Barac et al., 2016; Kroll & Bialystok). They shows superior attentional control when performing attentional tasks. Bilingual children also exhibit enhanced social skill, by being better able to shift to understand another's perspective (Fan et al., 2015). These benefits are difficult to achieve if one only speaks English.

Only speaking English undermines the diversity of languages. Language represents more than spoken words or sentences. It reveals certain kinds of culture, art or society. Only speaking one language confines one to experience diversity. For example, in Chinese, especially in traditional Chinese poems, we usually use figurative words to symbolize some items. Poets in ancient time would juxtapose a gentleman with integrity with a pine tree. However, it will be misunderstood if translated in English. People will think this person as good at bearing coldness during the winter. For another example from Gordon's experience, "A waiter describing the

dinner menu in Sicily can sound almost rhapsodic in his native tongue, but so ordinary in English” (Gordon). Every language in the world has its beauty. Merely speaking one language severely limits us to feel the glamour of a different language, to immerse in a different culture.