

Attitudes towards English in China and South Africa

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As a universal language, English has significant differences in its status and attitudes in different regions. This article will examine attitudes towards English in China and South Africa and explore how these attitudes influence the status of the language in each country. Based on information from Chapters 11-15 of Kachru & Cecil (2011) as well as other supplementary sources, this article focuses on education, government, and daily life and compares the impact of these attitudes in the two settings.

China's attitude towards English:

English began to spread throughout China in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in the Republic of China. In 1949, due to historical events, the status of English declined, but since the reform and opening up of the People's Republic of China, the importance of English has risen again.

current attitude

In modern China, English is regarded as an important tool for economic development and a necessary skill for international communication. English education begins in primary school and plays an important role at the secondary school and university levels. Many Chinese families and students view English proficiency as an important indicator of success, an attitude that drives a strong emphasis on English education. Impact on education, government and daily life

On the education front, English is a compulsory subject in the Advanced Level Examination and many of the Higher-Level Examinations, and schools and parents invest a lot of resources in English learning. Although English is not an official language, it is widely used in diplomacy, business negotiations and technical fields. In everyday life, English is popularized by the general public, partly thanks to school education, and everyone can speak a few words, especially in big cities and more internationalized areas, but even so, the influence of English is still limited, and there are not many people who can speak it in remote rural areas. The world's first "English Proficiency Indicator Report" was released by a leading education group. The report shows that Chinese people spend 30 billion yuan on English training every year, but the actual results are still poor. China ranks among 44 countries and regions whose native language is not English. English proficiency ranks only 29th, ranking second to last in Asia, only higher than Thailand. In daily life, especially in big cities and more cosmopolitan areas, the influence of English is gradually increasing.

Working environment

Many multinational and foreign companies require their employees to have good English skills. As a result, English has become an important requirement for career advancement and obtaining well-paid positions.

How English Impacts Business

The impact of English on business is really huge. First of all, English, as a global language, allows companies from different countries to communicate and collaborate more easily. Without language barriers, cross-border business becomes smoother. In summary, English plays a crucial role in modern business, helping companies better integrate into the global economy and boost their competitiveness. On top of that, English is key to accessing the latest technology and business knowledge. Many cutting-edge science and technology,

management theories and business practices are spread in English. Knowing English can help companies obtain this information and stay ahead of the curve. English also plays an important role in branding and customer service. Communicating in English can enhance a company's international image, especially in countries where English is the mother tongue or commonly used language. Good English communication can increase customers' trust. In addition, many international business courses and training programs are conducted in English. Knowing English allows employees to obtain better education and training and improve their professional skills. Finally, when it comes to laws and contracts, many international business documents are written in English. Knowing English can help companies accurately understand these documents and reduce legal risks. To sum up, English does play a very important role in modern business, helping companies better integrate into the global economy and improve their competitiveness.

Tourism and Services :

with China becoming a top tourist spot and a major source of outbound travelers, English is becoming more common in the tourism and service industries. In South Africa, English has been influenced by its colonial history, apartheid, and modernization. Today, it' s the main language taught in many schools and universities, from elementary levels up to higher education. This shows just how important English has become as a global language in society.

In conclusion China' s attitude towards English is a comprehensive reflection of high importance and careful balance. The English language has gained worldwide attention as an important tool for international communication and economic development, but we also need to protect our cultural development at the same time

South Africa's attitude towards English is complex and multi-layered, reflecting its unique historical background, cultural diversity and social realities. The status and role of English in South Africa has been deeply influenced by the colonial history, apartheid and the modernization process. In South Africa, English is the main language of instruction in many schools and universities. From elementary school to tertiary education, English courses occupy an important place. This situation reflects the importance that society attaches to English as a global lingua franca.

Quality of Education: Proficiency in English is often seen as a key to quality education. Many parents and students believe that mastering English opens up better educational and career opportunities, making English language education highly valued in South Africa. Additionally, a large portion of TV, radio, newspaper, and online content is in English, underscoring its importance in everyday life. In daily Life English is the main language of communication in South Africa's cities and business centers. It is widely used in business, the media and everyday communication and serves as a bridge between different language groups.

Challenges and Issues

Language equality: While English is clearly important in South Africa, there's a pressing social issue around promoting English while also ensuring that the other official languages are treated equally. Historical and socio-economic factors have led to uneven distribution of educational resources, contributing to these disparities. Some regions and groups struggle to access quality English education, leading to issues of equity in education.

Overall, both China and South Africa attach great importance to the importance of English in education and social life. China pays more attention to improving international competitiveness and educational standards through English, while South Africa strives to balance multilingual needs and ensure language equality while promoting English. Through balanced development, both countries are using English to drive overall national progress while addressing their unique linguistic and cultural challenges.

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