

# Globalization, English and the Underprivileged

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The term globalization has been increasingly used since the mid-1980s and especially since the mid-1990s. In 2000, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) identified four basic aspects of globalization: trade and transactions, capital and investment movements, migration and movement of people and the dissemination of knowledge. Further, environmental challenges such as climate change, cross-boundary water, air pollution, and over-fishing of the ocean are linked with globalization. Globalizing processes affect and are affected by business and work organization, economics, socio-cultural resources, and the natural environment. (Wikipedia:2014)

Globalization has become a dominant and driving force that is shaping creative as well as chaotic forms of interconnections among nations, economies, cultures, ideas, and peoples. (Kumaravadivalu, 2013:1) In the context of globalization, English language has become the dominant medium of communication around the world. It has been accepted as a language for business, technology, science, Internet, entertainment and sports. In academia over 50% of all research is published in English. In some science fields virtually all studies are published in English. The example of flexibility and adaptability of English language can be understood by this fact that English is about to acquire its millionth word as per the Global Language Monitor. Example of explosion in general demand for English can be seen in  
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