THE INFLUENCE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES ON THE EVOLUTION OF ENGLISH AS A GLOBAL LINGUA FRANCA IN THE TECHNICAL DOMAIN

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The rapid advancement of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) has significantly transformed global communication, particularly within the technical field, where English has increasingly become the predominant language. As ICTs facilitate instantaneous and widespread exchange of information across borders, they have inadvertently contributed to the evolution of English as a universal means of communication. This phenomenon is particularly evident in technical disciplines, where the precision, clarity, and universality of English terminology have become essential for effective collaboration and innovation. Despite the benefits of this linguistic convergence, it also raises important questions regarding linguistic diversity, accessibility, and the potential marginalization of non-English-speaking professionals.

The central problem addressed in this study is the dual-edged impact of ICTs on the development of English as a global lingua franca, particularly in technical contexts. This problem is intimately connected to the broader scientific and practical challenges of ensuring equitable access to technological advancements and fostering inclusive global communication. The increasing dominance of English in technical fields may lead to a homogenization of knowledge dissemination, which could impede the contribution of diverse linguistic perspectives. Thus, this study seeks to explore the implications of ICT-driven linguistic trends on both the advancement of technical disciplines and the broader socio-cultural landscape.

Recent research has significantly advanced our understanding of the role of English as a Lingua Franca (ELF) in the context of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), particularly within technical fields. For example, the edited volume by Pineda and Bosso (2023) delves into the dynamics of virtual English as a Lingua Franca, exploring how ICTs shape intercultural communication in digital environments [1]. This research highlights the nuanced discourse practices that emerge in online technical communication, emphasizing the role of technology in transforming English into a more accessible and pragmatic tool for global collaboration.

Another critical contribution comes from the study of intelligibility in ELF interactions, which has been a focal point of recent investigations. Researchers like Mauranen (2024) have explored how English's role as the academic lingua franca affects communication in technical fields, particularly concerning the accessibility of complex information to non-native speakers [2]. The WrELFA corpus, developed at the University of Helsinki, provides extensive data on how non-native English speakers navigate and contribute to technical discussions in written form, underscoring the challenges and opportunities that ICT-mediated communication presents [3].

However, these studies also reveal gaps that this article aims to address. While existing research has laid a solid foundation for understanding the broad implications of ICTs on ELF, there is a need for more targeted studies that explore how these trends affect specific technical subfields, particularly those involving high-stakes decision-making. Additionally, the marginalization of non-native speakers in these contexts remains an underexplored area, calling for further investigation into how ICTs can be leveraged to promote more inclusive and equitable technical communication globally. This article seeks to fill these gaps by focusing on the intersection of ICTs, technical communication, and linguistic diversity, contributing to the ongoing discourse on the global evolution of English in technical domains.

The study examines the role of ICTs in reinforcing English as the predominant language in technical fields, with particular attention to how digital tools and platforms shape communication practices [4]. For instance, the proliferation of virtual collaboration tools like GitHub, widely used in software development, has necessitated a common linguistic medium, often defaulting to English. This is evident in the widespread adoption of English for technical documentation, coding comments, and issue tracking, which enables seamless collaboration among international teams.

The study also highlights challenges, such as the potential exclusion of non-native English speakers who may struggle with the nuances of technical jargon [5]. This exclusion can affect their ability to fully engage in global technical discourse. To address these challenges, the work proposes the development of more inclusive ICT tools that support multilingual communication, allowing for greater participation from diverse linguistic backgrounds [6]. By focusing on these examples, the study underscores the dual role of ICTs in both promoting English as a global lingua franca and highlighting the need for more inclusive approaches to technical communication.

This dual role of ICTs not only fosters global collaboration by standardizing English as the common language but also highlights the disparities that arise from linguistic barriers. As ICTs continue to evolve, there is a pressing need to develop tools and strategies that balance the widespread use of English with the inclusion of diverse linguistic contributions, ensuring equitable access to global technical communication.

This study concludes that while ICTs have significantly reinforced English as the global lingua franca in technical fields, enabling broader international collaboration, they also pose challenges related to linguistic inclusivity. The need for more inclusive communication tools and practices is critical to ensuring equitable participation from non-native English speakers in global technical discourse.

The study further emphasizes that the dominance of English in ICT-mediated technical communication risks marginalizing valuable contributions from professionals who are not proficient in the language [7]. This marginalization could limit the diversity of perspectives in technical innovation and problem-solving. Therefore, promoting multilingual support within ICT platforms is essential for fostering a more inclusive global technical community, ensuring that all professionals, regardless of their native language, can contribute effectively to their fields.

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