

Analysis and Exploration of the Main Causes and/or Consequences of the Rise of English in the Chinese Context

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Abstract

This paper sets a specific context in Chinese and analyzes the reasons for the development of English in China, the process of development and the status of English in China. Then, according to these analyses, it expounds the consequences of English rising to the present status and the influence of English on China. Finally, this paper evaluates and analyzes its advantages and limitations. Through this article, readers can understand the development history of English in China, and some thinking about the next development of English in China.

Keywords

English; Chinese; Spread of English.

1. Introduction

In a recorded history, the current global spread and use of English is unparalleled (Smith and Nelson, 2019). According to Alatis and Straehle (1997), the United States Information Agency (USIA) estimates that there are 700 million native and non-native English speakers, and English is the "most widely used language at international conferences." Due to the trading function, English as an international communication medium. English has almost become the first choice for communication between countries. This also promotes countries to communicate with countries with different mother tongues regarding English as a second language. Meanwhile, Kachru (2005) believed that it is certain that the number of people using English in the Outer Circle and the Expanding Circle exceeds that in the Inner Circle. When people from non-English speaking countries communicate with each other, they choose English as the communication language. China is one of the Expanding Circle countries. With the advance of history, China gradually accepted English, making English develop continuously in the Chinese context. However, compared with other countries of the same language family, the development of English in China has obvious characteristics. English reversely incorporates many Chinese language and culture, resulting in pidgin English and Chinese English. This paper analyzes the reasons for the development of English in China from the aspects of politics, economy, and education and the stages of English development, as well as the status of English in China at different stages. In addition, this paper evaluates the consequences of the current development of English in China, analyzes the positive impact of English on China and its limitations in China. Through the research and analysis in these aspects, this paper hopes to provide positive help for the further development of English in China.

2. The Reasons for the Development of English in China

2.1. Politics

China's attitude towards English is due to the reasons of political, economic, and cultural (Bolton, 2003). The different attitudes of the Chinese government lead to the different development of English in China. The tendency of political policy in China has played an important role in the development of English in China. Before the Opium War, China's foreign

policy was closed-door. China has fewer trade and cultural exchanges with foreign countries. Like all "foreign devils", the Chinese at that time kept a respectful distance from the British, unwilling to learn the colonists' language (Hall, 1966). English has always been in a state of low development in China. Until the Opium War, the British opened the door to China with weapons. The Chinese government has found the gap between China and the UK that was engaged in the Industrial Revolution. The government has changed its foreign policy and encouraged the Chinese people to learn English and realized self-strengthening (Pan, 2014). At this time, English officially began to develop in China.

Later, China changed its attitude towards the Soviet Union and the United States, which affected China's attitude towards English. In the Soviet period, China wanted to adopt the development experience of the Soviet Union to learn from the Soviet Union in all aspects. China's policy was close to the Soviet Union, learning from all aspects of the Soviet Union. During this period, Russian became the most important language. At the same time, because of the conflict between China and the United States, the relationship between China and the United States deteriorated or even cut off diplomatic relations, and China stopped promoting English. Therefore, in this stage of education, China abandoned English and chose to develop Russian. The influence of these two aspects has led to the almost complete replacement of English. During this period, the development of English in China was basically suspended or even regressed. This is also the most obvious repression and rejection since English entered China. But in the early 1960s, with the development of China and the gradual disintegration of the Soviet Union, the relationship between China and the Soviet Union deteriorated. China found that the situation of the Soviet Union was not enough to meet the needs of China's development. The fatal blow to the relationship between China and the Soviet Union is that China and the Soviet Union have different national ideology and political ideas. Meanwhile, relations between China and English-speaking countries have begun to improve. China has found that its new situation makes it necessary to cultivate more English talents to meet the needs of increasing contacts with western countries. Therefore, China's foreign language policy has to undergo fundamental changes and must take some measures. It is necessary to change the situation that science and technology are lagging behind Western countries. During this period, China began to increase investment in English, from all aspects to promote the development of English. So, English has developed rapidly in China. The status of English in China has also been improved.

China's attitude towards English has changed dramatically again from 1966 to 1976. In the process of China's development, China has experienced a Cultural Revolution in this decade. In this decade, China's overall development has stagnated. Both the economy and culture have been hit hard. During this period, English was no longer valued, so that it did not develop significantly. Moreover, due to national policies, the status of English in China has also been suppressed. China did not attach importance to the development of English. But with the end of the Cultural Revolution, in order to develop the economy and introduce foreign advanced technology, China carried out the Reform and Opening. This policy has led to increased demand for English. At the same time, China's foreign policy has also changed, and China has begun to establish diplomatic relations with countries around the world. These two policies increase the importance of English, and English has achieved unprecedented rapid development in China. From this period until now, China still attaches great importance to the development of English.

2.2. Economy

Economy has always been one of the important factors affecting the development of English. The first time English entered China was in 1664 when British colonists established their first trading point in Guangzhou. However, as mentioned above, China did not want to accept the language of the colonists. Standard English has not developed in China. For the British, learning Chinese is too difficult. To meet the needs of communication with Chinese people, the British

began to modify their language. Therefore, a common language – Chinese Pidgin English emerged between Chinese and British people in Guangzhou (Pride and Liu, 1988). The language can be roughly classified as a product of economics. Because Chinese is more difficult to learn than English, in order to meet the needs of trade, Chinese learning English has become a solution. This leads Chinese to need to learn English to ensure trade with British businessmen. Therefore, the increasing demand for English in China has promoted the development of English in China. The emergence of Chinese Pidgin English also symbolizes the overlap between money and English in Chinese English. China's economic development began to go hand in hand with English.

Later, the economic reason for the great development of English in China was that China began to trade with countries around the world. China's "Open door" policy gives Chinese people more opportunities to do business with foreigners (Bolton and Graddol, 2012). English has become one of the most important media. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, many English interpreters are needed in international trade and tourism industries. with the rapid spread of English. This has led to a huge increase in the demand for English in China. Thus promoted the development of English in China. China then joined the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001. The move gives China more opportunities to trade with other countries around the world. China pays more attention to the development of English. As China's links with world markets become irreversibly closer, more and more needs arise from more practical considerations. For example, interacting with people from other countries at work and running their own business globally. English learning symbol can have more business opportunities. On this point, China Daily (2011) believes that learning English is one of the important reasons for Chinese people lift themselves out of poverty. Chinese learn English to improve their economic ability to do business with other countries in the world. This is an important reason for China's emphasis on English development.

At present, the most important reason for the development of English in China is the trend of economic globalization. English has become the language of communication between different native speakers (Jenkins,2009). And in many cases, it is the first or even the only language of communication between different native speakers (Seidlhofer, 2011). Therefore, in this environment, China attaches more importance to the development of English. If China wants to keep up with the development of economic globalization, Chinese people need to communicate and cooperate with people from all over the world. So, English development is particularly important.

2.3. Education

There are many reasons why Chinese want to devote time and energy to learning English (Gai, 2004). China has consciously developed English education after it came into contact with English. In the beginning, formal English education was brought to China by missionaries (Bolton,2003). While promoting religion, they also spread English. However, it has not been formed on a large scale. Chinese people's English learning is not systematic, but it is the enlightenment of Chinese people to English. Chinese people began to have the concept of English. Then the Qing government developed English education in order to promote the development of China by learning advanced western technology. In 1862, the first foreign language school in China, Tong Wen Guan School, was established in Beijing (Adamson, 2002). At the same time, China has set up foreign language schools in different cities. China has begun to officially learn English as a foreign language. The Chinese began to be systematically exposed to English learning. This is the reason why English began to develop.

English has great influence in China. As an international language, English enables individuals to have the skills necessary for university education at home, access to education abroad, career development and employment promotion (Wang, 2008). English occupies a very important

position in Chinese education. The age of Chinese students learning English is declining (younger). Now in primary school, students begin to learn English. English has become one of the compulsory subjects. At the same time, English runs through the entire learning life of Chinese students. Until the university, students are required to learn English no matter what major they study. Learning English is not only for entering university, but also for graduation. Many schools stipulate that students must pass CET-4 to get a diploma. This promotes the necessity of learning English for most students in China. Moreover, many students plan to study in English-speaking countries, especially the United States and Britain. This strengthens the importance of English to some extent. These are important reasons for the continuous development of English in China.

One of the most important reasons for education is that China's education needs keep pace with the world. Many advanced technologies and ideas in the world are published in English. To develop science and technology, China needs to update its own knowledge base, which is consistent with the advanced level of the world. China needs to read relevant literature. As a medium, English is an inevitable part of learning. Therefore, China's emphasis on the development of English education is also based on this reason.

In summary, English can be developed in China for many reasons. Politically, China's policy has changed from learn from the advanced technologies in the West in order to resist the invasion of the Western powers to establishing diplomatic relations between China and the United States and to Economic Reform and open up. Economically, China has increased from a trading point in Guangzhou to international trade, to joining the World Trade Organization and to economic globalization. Educationally, China from the missionary enlightenment to the establishment of schools to the penetration of education at all ages abroad. All these are the reasons for the development of English in China.

3. The Consequences for the Development of English in China

3.1. Special English

The development of English in China has produced English with Chinese characteristics. First of all, the first characteristic English is Chinese Pidgin English. As mentioned above, it emerged when English first came into China. To facilitate the trade between China and Britain. So, English has changed some of its language patterns and added some Chinese language features. Pidgin English has only an oral form. It has no unified written form and many variations. Its grammar does not conform to English habits, and its pronunciation is affected by Chinese. Pidgin English provides a window into the historical development of English in China (Wang, 2020). But as English has grown in China, it has fallen out of use. It is now just a phase product of the development of English in China, to prove the development of English.

Secondly, the special English that is still popular today is Chinese English. Chinese English is a "Chinese varieties of English" from an overseas perspective. Due to the common linguistic background, the English spoken by Chinese people around the world may have some characteristics (Cheng, 1992). This variant of English became a unique form of English to Chinese culture. It mainly refers to the words and phrases peculiar to the Chinese context. On the other hand, this Chinese English is fundamentally different from Chinglish. First of all, it is correct, and secondly Chinese colored (Huang, 1988). This English has adapted to Chinese ideology and civilization, and thus has been enriched. Because Chinese speakers who use English will inevitably have characteristics or features of Chinese that help spread Chinese characteristics. At the same time. Chinese English combines the characteristics of English and American English. This is because in the development of English in China, the UK and the US have affected the development of English in China at different stages. It takes standard English as its core and participates in English communication through transliterations, loan

translations and semantic shifts (Li, 1993). This is a unique English model in China. It is still developing, and in some ways, it reversely affects the standard English.

Besides Chinese English, China also regards English as a communicative language. ELF can help users achieve communication purposes such as information exchange and business transactions. Chinese English emphasizes the stability of language norms, while ELF emphasizes the fluency and flexibility of language as a social practice (Wang, 2020). Many Chinese English learners hope that their English level can be similar to that of native speakers, including pronunciation and choice of words. They use English to communicate with non-native speakers. This is one of the results of the development of English in China.

3.2. Usage

With the continuous development of English in China, China has joined the use of English in various fields. In science and technology, China's initial purpose of learning English is to improve the country's science and technology to increase international comprehensive strength. Let all educated individuals to read at least one foreign language in order to boost China's general ability to learn from other countries (Light, 1978). To improve China's economic capacity and realize the modernization of China's economy, China should learn from advanced countries. English-speaking countries are ahead of other countries in many ways because of the capitalist revolution. As a result, English, the world language, has been viewed as a tool for Chinese scientists and engineers to learn world-leading science and technology. Modern China sent many scientists and engineers abroad to study new technologies. People working in the field of science and technology often use English in academic work, such as reading relevant scientific works and communicating with scholars from different countries. Sometimes, Chinese scholars and foreign scholars conduct cooperative research. Because learning Chinese is too difficult, in this case, usually use English to communicate. Therefore, English plays an important role in China's scientific research and progress.

In education, English enters learning activities in different stages of education. In the primary stage, English is taught as a subject, but during the course of instruction, teachers teach in Chinese. English learning currently is just a preliminary understanding of English knowledge, such as words and some simple sentences. Then, at the intermediate level, the teacher would lead the class using some basic classroom English. At the same time, in-depth language learning in class, such as grammar analysis and so on. And explaining the text within the scope that students can understand. However, this "medium of communication" is limited to English classes. Outside the English classroom, students do not have a lot of contact with English. But in advanced learning, English is widely used as a teaching medium. For junior students, the teaching medium is a mixture of Chinese and English. Chinese plays a transitional role in this process, helping students understand and absorb knowledges. With the increase of their English knowledge, teachers will use more English, and even gradually reduce the use of Chinese in the classroom. For senior students, teachers are encouraged to teach in English as much as possible to improve their English level. In education, therefore, English is not only a teaching subject, but also a medium (Pride and Liu, 1988). Students can learn knowledge of various disciplines through English. As mentioned above, students can read a lot of literature and books directly. Therefore, English is widely used in the field of education.

In terms of communication, China's high-frequency use of English is the first choice for foreign exchange. Firstly, in terms of media, English has become the second language of Chinese media (Pride and Liu, 1988). Media, like education, plays an important role in disseminating ideas, perspectives, and values (Platt and Weber, 1980). Many Chinese official media use English as the second language of publications, such as *China Daily*. At the same time, many radios and television also use English to disseminate ideas. In some news broadcasts or TV shows, English appears below the screen as a subtitle. This is the most obvious result of China's development

of English. Secondly, China's foreign exchanges are reflected in the international tourism. With the development of foreign tourism industry, in order to provide better services to tourists, the tourism department of our country attaches great importance to the language training of personnel. They focus on English training for employees and require speaking English in recruitment conditions. China regards tourism as a means of expanding international communication and exchanges and promoting mutual understanding between the Chinese people and the peoples of other countries (Pride and Liu, 1988). China believes that effective communication can help China to promote national image. But Chinese is difficult, China asks staff to speak English when they communicate with foreign countries to prevent language barriers. Therefore, English plays an important role in China's foreign communication.

In the economic aspect, with the economic development of China, it is getting better and better. Foreign trade is also increasing. When doing business with other countries, English has become the default language of mutual communication. Especially after joining the WTO, foreign commercial orders increased. In this case, many foreign communications first choose English as a communication tool. And now China is proposing a The Belt and Road Initiative economic development model. This model is designed for many countries that use English. So, China ' s demand for English is increasing. In addition, China's current business model includes Sino-foreign joint ventures. As a result, Chinese staff need to use English to communicate in their daily work. Foreign trade personnel's English ability is regarded as the key recruitment condition. Therefore, in this economic system, English is vital to China's economic development.

In summary, the development of English in China has produced obvious results in all aspects. With regard to English itself, it produced at different stages the English model adapted to the society at that time. And in constant development, English abandons and modifies itself to meet the needs of Chinese people. Secondly, English is widely used in all aspects of China. In the development of national strength, English provides a medium for China to absorb and learn foreign advanced science and technology. In education, English permeates learning at all stages. From primary school to university, English accounts for an increasing proportion. In foreign exchanges, English helps China convey ideas and attitudes through different media. Finally, in economic development, China uses English for foreign trade exchanges to promote China ' s economic development. Therefore, English develops and plays an important role in the overall development of China.

4. The Evaluate for the Development of English in China

4.1. Advantages

The results of English development in China have both positive and limited effects on China's development. In terms of advantages, the use of English helps China develop rapidly in the past century. In its continuous integration and mutual promotion with Chinese native language, China has produced English with Chinese characteristics. This facilitates the learning of native speakers of Chinese all over the world. The concession to Chinese makes English more inclusive, which is beneficial for Chinese to learn and absorb English. In terms of education, China can learn advanced foreign knowledge and ideas, such as Marxism, through more channels. All these knowledge and ideas have helped China's development and progress. Now, English learning is reflected in all stages. This improves the students' knowledge system. Language is a tool that allows students to see the wider world through a tool that is used by most people in the world. Students can learn more knowledge and culture by reading the original English articles, which can improve their personal cultural knowledge level. In the field of scientific development, Chinese scientists have used English as a medium to learn advanced foreign science and technology, thus developing China's national strength. And on the basis of learning, their own innovation and invention, so that China is now in some aspects of the technological

level of the world's leading position. Economically, China is now the world's second largest economy. English helps people from different industries communicate with English-speaking countries. Thus promoted China's economic development. Finally, when China wants to disseminate information abroad, English can meet the needs of the media. With the help of English, China can better build its national image and spread friendly attitudes.

4.2. Limitations

The development of English in China also has certain limitations in some aspects. First of all, according to the historical development, China's English learning has changed according to the change of foreign policy. Even because of the relations between countries, the English learning in China has been completely interrupted. China's foreign language policy should be continuous. With the increasing cooperation between countries, English as an international language, its scope and frequency of use will increase. China's stable English learning time is not long, so in order to meet the needs of national development. China needs a clear, consistent and stable policy on English teaching. In addition, for students studying in school, English is largely used in class and the reason for them to learn English is just to pass exams. Moreover, as far as English teaching is concerned, students are taught together in a large classroom, and they do not receive good language instruction. Their English level will not be significantly improved with the improvement of learning level, especially in university, students are not very patient in English learning. Secondly, the ability of English teachers is often lower than expected. Many English teachers in China are not English majors, and few have studied abroad in English-speaking countries. This leads to the knowledge that students receive may not be accurate, especially in speaking. Therefore, China should increase its investment in English teaching, such as formulating basic teaching policies, evaluating students' English learning, and selecting teachers. On the other hand, China's emphasis on English has led to the marginalization of other foreign languages. In China, the learning of languages other than English is called "minority language Learning", which indicates that there are very few learners of other foreign languages in China. This mode of focusing only on English will lead to China's over-reliance on English for development. Therefore, while developing English, China should also give consideration to the cultivation of other languages.

5. Conclusion

This paper analyzes the causes and results of the development of English in China from the aspects of economy, politics, and education, and evaluates them. From the reasons of the development of English, based on history, China needs English to help the development and strengthening of the country. The learning of English in China is becoming more and more similar to that of standard English. And the most visible aspect of China's English development is in education. China has a wide range of English education. English plays an important role in both domestic personal purposes and international educational migration and learning. China's economic development is inseparable from the help of English. China has gradually become an international country. China's economic needs have made English a driving force. China needs English. Finally, China's attitude towards English depends to the greatest extent on policy formulation. The rise and fall of English in China is due to the influence of Chinese policy on English.

Based on these development reasons, this paper expounds the corresponding development results. China's English model gradually keeps pace with the world. China's English education system is gradually improved, the scope of English learners is more and more wide, the content of English learning also involves many fields. English has also contributed to China's economy. China's economic development is growing. Similarly, Chinese science and technology have

made great progress because of the help of English. At the same time, in personal development, English has also become a power for the improvement of personal ability and quality of life.

In summary, the development of English in China has promoted the overall development of China, making China a major country in line with the world. At the same time, the development of China has also promoted the development of English. China's English learning system has gradually expanded and improved. China's English involves a wider field, and the content of English learning is more accurate. This paper hopes that the development of English in China can emphasize the advantages and pay attention to the modification and adjustment of the limitations.

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