

THE UPPER HAND OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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Being a country that speaks two different languages, it has been debated whether learners must learn the universal language other than the native, considering that other countries take English as an additional or extra language only. According to Middlebury Language Schools (2020), learning a second language can drastically transform one's career, and many reasons exist.

First, it opens various opportunities to strengthen one's capacity to land a decent job. Globalization has brought up numerous connections and international investments. In this context, foreigners would always want to hire someone who could communicate effectively with them or with the target market. Take, for example, the Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry which became a common destination for college graduates still waiting to have a license. Most of the BPO companies also lean toward English-speaking Filipino workers since the clients are foreigners. Speaking another language opens more significant opportunities to work overseas as well. BPO Centers (2022) says that English fluency at work gets the upper hand and a good impression, making it among the requirements for someone who wants to be part of the industry. These reasons do not apply to the BPO but to different fields where professionalism requires English proficiency.

Learning more than just the native, especially the English language, is a crucial tool to enhance other academic areas of learning. Take, for example, Mathematics and Science, Molina (2012), as cited by Peter (2019), suggested that the former is intertwined with language and that effective learning of the said subject requires comprehension

using English. In the Philippines, although learners are taught Mathematics in their mother tongue during elementary, the medium used changes immediately in the secondary, where English becomes the medium of instruction. It is how important the English language could be since Mathematical vocabulary could be way too challenging to understand, but at least English acts as an aide to this.

Lastly, learning more than one language leads to holistic development, as per Walker (2019). English leads to more active areas, such as emotional and behavioral, wherein students can learn how to express themselves appropriately using the language. Communication skills, confidence where they can speak up on their views regarding practical matters, and social skills wherein the capacity to gain friends is not limited to locals only. Intercultural relations are among the best products of learning the universal language since this is the standard medium spoken even by foreigners. Besides, thousands of Filipinos are being granted scholarships just because of their capacity to market their talents through practical communication skills.

Improving the native language is fun, but incorporating another language, especially English makes it more realistic for learners. The world is not a tiny room where speech is limited but a vast arena where the medium becomes a key to developing different skills and making a career go. As the future leaders of the world and the anticipated internationally competent individuals, students today must invest time and effort in learning the language of progress, the English language.

References:

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