

English as a Lingua Franca

**ELF**

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# INTRODUCTION

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- ✖ English was spread across the world; and the most powerful nations together with their allies had English as the official language, it was only natural that English was adopted as a tool of communication across the world.

# INTRODUCTION

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- ✕ The use of English has developed into various forms, which is English as a lingua franca, English as a second language, English as a Foreign language.



# ENGLISH AS A LINGUA FRANCA

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- ✖ The use of English as a lingua franca refers to the adoption of the English language as a tool of global interaction. English has been embraced as an integral tool of communication between members of the global community.

# ENGLISH AS A LINGUA FRANCA

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- ✗ To native English speakers, there are certain norms that must be adhered to in communication. English as lingua franca does not seem to focus on these norms; but rather the ability to facilitate cross cultural communication.

# ENGLISH AS A LINGUA FRANCA

- ✖ English as a lingua franca is a new phenomenon in today's world. The widespread use of the English language internationally through computer mediated communication, writing and speaking has strengthened the position of English as a lingua franca.



# ENGLISH AS A LINGUA FRANCA

- ✗ Global trade, diplomatic relations and negotiations, exchanges between nations, conflict resolutions, treaties and regional agreements among others are examples of international engagement that largely adopt the use of English as a lingua franca (Kecskes, 15).

# FEATURES OF ENGLISH AS A LINGUA FRANCA

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- ✗ To begin with, the use of English as a lingua franca is depended to on the situation of use. As already highlighted, the business world and geopolitical affairs have been of great influence towards the use of English as a lingua franca.



# FEATURES OF ENGLISH AS A LINGUA FRANCA

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- ✗ Depending on the circumstances of use, English language will conform to such use when integrated as a lingua franca.

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- ✗ Unlike native speakers and the use of English among native speakers; English as a lingua franca tend to focus on the function of language as opposed to the form of language.

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- ✖ The cultural backgrounds of every individual are not considered as a hindrance in the course of communication. Various aspects of their cultural influences can be acceptable, as long as all parties get to communicate, and this may form part of their agreement.



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- ✖ Communication with respect to English as a lingua franca is hybrid in nature, with various aspects of the cultures of the people involved in communication permitted to make the interaction smooth and to enhance the accomplishment of the goals set for such communication.

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- ✗ Delving into the tiny details of communication with English as a lingua franca, there are shifts in the use of articles; unlike the case when English is used as a native language.

# EXAMPLES

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- ✕ The definite article and the indefinite articles a and an are important aspects of English language. However, there are significant shifts in the use of these articles when English is used as a lingua franca.



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- ✖ In most instances, the articles are completely omitted from communication (Björkman 590). As early pointed out, the ultimate goal is communication, hence less effort is given to form.

# EXAMPLE

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- ✖ Question tags are an important part of English, and their correct use is essential in getting the right form of communication. English as a lingua franca seems to favor more the use of invariant question tags..

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- ✖ The popularity of invariant question tags in the use of English as a lingua franca points to the emphasis on communication rather than form.



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- ✗ The use of pronouns is less restrictive whenever English is used as a lingua franca, as opposed to when it is used by native speakers.

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- ✖ Another feature of the use of English as lingua franca in communication is the heightened explicitness noted.

# FREEDOM

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- ✖ Since English as a Lingua franca applies in the context of global communication by parties who appreciate English language as a tool that is meant to enable them advance business activities (Kaur 93), diplomatic ties and such like undertakings, the freedom in communication is vital.



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- ✖ English as a lingua franca has been considered as a culture free tool of communication among non-native speakers by various scholars.

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- ✘ The position has also been opposed, with English as a lingua franca seen as non-neutral due to the heavy influence of the cultural backgrounds of the parties that come together to use English as a lingua franca to advance their agenda.

# CONCLUSION

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- ✖ English language has been globally accepted a tool of communication in various fields, employed as lingua franca to facilitate interactions and the resolution of issues relating to science, technology, economic, and politics. In this way, many people from different cultures have met at a common point in English. This community, where each culture represents itself, has created a great new use of English.



# CONCLUSION

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- ✖ A functional definition is accorded to English as Lingua franca due to the use in multicultural communication context.

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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- ✗ Do you think it is possible to have a productive ELF interaction involving a native Speaker of English, given his/her tendency to not accommodate/change their speaking?
- ✗ Is ELF inclusive or restricted? Is ELF a language variety or not?
- ✗ Is ELF descriptive or prescriptive?
- ✗ What is the importance of the forms of that language in foreign language teaching?
- ✗ If those forms have very important role in foreign language teaching, why is it more flexible in the case of English as a Lingua Franca?

# WORK CITED

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- ✖ Björkman, Beyza. "Pragmatic strategies in English as an academic lingua franca: Ways of achieving communicative effectiveness?." *Journal of Pragmatics* 43.4 (2011): 950-964.
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