

Vavulin Oleksandr

Kyiv National University of Technologies and Design (Kyiv, Ukraine)

Language and scientific supervisor – Kugai K., associate professor

THE SPREAD OF ENGLISH IN AFRICA

Introduction. We all know that English is the most widely spoken language in the world, with Mandarin Chinese being the second. But, what we know about English language being spoken in Africa?

In Africa, the English language is the most widespread, which is explained by the long-term rule of England here.

The population of modern Africa consists of a large number of ethnic groups. In total, there are about 2,000 living languages and dialects in Africa. Most of them are illiterate.

During the world wars, Africa was divided and colonized by Europeans. The British and French empires controlled most of Africa, the French in the Northwest and the British in the Southeast and West. Africa was completely decolonized after World War II, during the 1950s and 1970s.

With that information, we know how exactly English language got into the continent. But the «epicenters» of the English language are 4 countries, previously controlled by British West Africa colonies: The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Ghana and Nigeria [2].

The purpose of the study is to analyze some peculiarities of the English language in the continent of Africa.

The question of why and under what circumstances English became the state language in a number of countries has not been sufficiently studied. English is now the most important and widespread language in the world. It is the state language in five countries: Great Britain, Canada, the USA, Australia and New Zealand. In many Asian and African countries people speak English besides their native one. People also speak English in Europe. English is spoken practically all over the world.

This spread of the English language can be explained by historical and economic reasons. In Britain at the end of the 15th and the beginning of the 16th centuries the process of primary capital accumulation began [1]. Intensive economic development contributed to the growth of the power of the British army and, especially, the military and merchant navy, which was of particular importance for the island country. England was one of the first countries in Europe to embark on the path of colonial conquests, during which it imposed the English language in the sphere of its political and economic domination, suppressing the national culture and languages of the conquered peoples.

English language was made an official in Nigeria and even after decolonization, was and still widely spoken there, same as Sierra Leone. In Uganda, English is considered one of the official languages and its use has been increasing since the introduction of universal primary education in Uganda.

There is even such a term as «African English», and its appearance is not accidental, because during the period of colonization, many African lands belonged to Great Britain. African English is, of course, very different in vocabulary and pronunciation from classic British English. For example, for Africans, the difficulty in pronunciation was the combination of ‘*th*’, and it was replaced by easier consonants, such as simply ‘*c*’ or ‘*z*’. The ending ‘*ing*’ was also difficult to pronounce, so it was simplified to the usual *in*.

What is most surprising is how Africans speak English so fluently and grammatically correctly, compared to other nations and countries in Europe and Asia. With the help of the Universal Primary Education (UPE), Uganda has seen a reduction in poverty and an increase in human development.

Conclusion. Having considered the above mentioned, we can conclude that in-depth study of the English language is ensured by introducing it in the first year of primary school education and later using it as a language of instruction throughout the entire educational cycle. Some representatives of other nationalities go to Africa to study in local language schools. There are teachers who specially go to Africa to teach English or other languages and

subjects. They are sure that their mission is to change the world in this way, because the formation of a personality begins with education.

REFERENCES

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