

ENGLISH – THE LANGUAGE OF THE MODERN WORLD

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**“Now the whole earth had one language
and a few words.”
(Gen. 11:1)**

Abstract. *The standardization and the universality of a widely spoken language have been achieved in a cyclical way, in the course of centuries. In the Biblical times people used to speak a unique language, but men’s ambitions made the language diversify and become particular for each people or ethnical group. History has clearly demonstrated that the language of the conquerors has always become - for a longer or a shorter period of time - the language of the conquered, but the wish of the people has since ever been the same: everybody to speak the same language for a better communication and understanding. Consequently, the modern world is more and more rapidly and definitely decided to create a modern unique international language, due to – first – computerization and – second – to the favorable political and economic conditions generated by the con temporary world. Under such circumstances, the long dreamt of wish of mankind is every day closer to be turned to a good account and become reality.*

Words, and implicitly the language, appeared because man appeared and he had to communicate more and more complex ideas and feelings and to share the others the accumulated experience he gathered in the course of his life time.

At the beginning of creation all people spoke the same language because they had the same goals and preoccupations, because they lived in a more or less harmonious environment and because they had no many things to share. Little by little, the more society developed and progressed the more different the people wanted to be (in wealth, power, luxury and even in language); when the social classes appeared, ambitions augmented, secrets connected with the large amounts of riches some people had were indispensable so, a sort of cyphered language was ready to estrange itself from the everyday language everybody used. Besides, people had a tendency to group together in tribes, larger families, clans, etc and create a language of their own as not to be understood by the others and thus keep their own privacy and intimacy and become stronger as compared to the others. The rich gathered riches, goods and, definitely, knowledge, as they could afford to have access to education; so, automatically the language split – within the same ethnical group - into two: the language of the illiterate and the language of the trained and educated. That was the moment when the sole language of the Biblical times started to disintegrate and achieve individual

characteristics according to each group of speakers. Men started to migrate in search of better lands or of more proper living and work conditions, and that was seen in the evolution of the language that became - with every new period - richer, more picturesque and more powerful. It really started to be a means of communication among people and peoples.

Once scattered all over the land, people/men wanted to impose their mentality, ambitions, conceptions, etc to the others they either inherited as slaves or conquered. By using another language than the majority did, the strong could turn everything to their advantage and control everything. This vanity and boastfulness made the people of yore build themselves “a city and a tower with top in the heavens.” (Gen 11:4). This tower of vain human pride was called Babel because “there the Lord confused the languages of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of the earth.” (Gen 11:9)

These facts have to be remembered as, in the beginning, people were obedient, modest, tolerant and co-operative; they were not ambitious, they spoke the same language so that they could understand each other and live in a more harmonious and peaceful world than today.

But, in the course of time, things changed. History is a cyclical phenomenon that repeats itself, sooner or later, at different intervals. Many disputes and wars started because of greed, envy and hatred, as men failed to understand his neighbor and because of his lust for the power that darkened their minds.

Nevertheless the evolution of society recorded major changes (mental, spiritual, material, biological, industrial, technological, economic and political); some were in the benefit of man, some contrary to his aspirations and wishes. The more society developed the richer the informational content, the higher the knowledge and experience and the more rapid progresses were recorded in all domains of activity. Some domains disappeared, making place to others to appear, as a proof of man's preoccupation to better his condition and to invent things useful to man in his continuous challenge with himself. Still all these novelties belonging to all fields of activity brought about amounts of words that became specialized and that already created a new chapter in the history of the language. The rich peoples invested lots of money in creating apparatus, equipments and machineries ready to any time translate the long dreamed hopes of humanity into reality. People's searching minds invented lots of devices whose names were unknown to those who did not live in the country they were produced so, they had to simply adopt the word from the country of origin as there was no correspondent to be found in the language it was imported to. Two centuries ago the language of almost all countries - subscribing to the evolution of technology - mostly used German technical words, as they were part of the indispensable language material that corresponded to tools or devices used in the everyday life, and which were of German provenience.

Nowadays the informatics technology flooded the world and a new version of the American English was born: the computer language, a language with which all those working in the domain can understand without learning to speak, read or write in the vernacular English. Only by the intermediation of the seven notes miraculously combined by the genii of the symphony music, for instance, it means that it became an international means of communication in which the words are missing, leaving room to feelings and imagination.

If dance can express mysterious emotions inviting people to “speak” in their inner ego through harmonious gestures as to make the others understand what they say without words, it means that

dance has long before became an international language.

If painting needs only “a few word-colors” that speak to the one admiring a painting about a whole universe of feeling and sensitivity, making real life utter its troublesome existence in images speaking by themselves, it means that painting has long ago become an international language by which people can communicate, understand each other and co-operate in the best of conditions.

Yet, language does not seem to be sufficiently rich as to express the huge amounts of things we want to say to the others or to particularly correspond to the deepest, the most delicate and exquisite nuances of our imagination, inner feelings or our concrete palpable things that happen to be part of our material life.

The result is that more often than not we resort to words from other known languages as they seem to better and more realistically express what we have on our minds. Consequently, we create our own mini-international vocabulary to make sure we can communicate with a foreigner or even a native without knowing his language, or the specialized language corresponding to one field of activity or another. And this, because sometimes the vocabulary of the language of the natives cannot find a perfect correspondent to a newly introduced “technical” word or because trying to maintain the language and only to explain the word it will either imperfect, too long or even ridiculous.

People have tried to create a “new language” as to make communication easier. It was supposed to include words from various known, important and wide spread languages and make communication among people more comfortable. Conceived by Ludovik Lazarus Zamenhof in 1887 as a global language which would eliminate, or at least reduce, international stress, Esperanto – the newly created language - is now spoken by approximately 10 million people in the world. Nowadays, the idea was given up, as English is more and more replacing all known languages first, because in the time of Queen Elizabeth I of England, when England became a huge colonial empire, English – British English – was the language of almost all continents of the world and second, because of its huge amounts of information thrown into the world. So it was not difficult for the American English to continue conquering the linguistic world, at least. It is a known fact that the language of the conqueror always becomes the official language of the conquered. And, as the American technology and progress in almost all domains is a recognized achievement, there is no wonder that the long desired dream of humanity to again have a unique language is going to become reality.

Computers, for instance, have imposed their “international language,” as computer itself became an international device in the help of man for a more rapid communication, erasing distances and storing incredible information, to say nothing about the advantages of bringing people together through all the programs is offers.

In the course of time there were many disputes according to which of the languages could be considered the most important language to be learnt by people. The number and order differed according to pride, political moment, or economic development. Now, it became almost clear that American English has become the queen language of the globe. Form a globalized language to a universal globalization is but a step more. The problem of an international language seems to be finally solved: the most powerful wins everything. There was a similar period in the history of mankind when Latin became a quite, if not partial-international

language. The Romans conquered almost the whole Europe and Latin – although it was considered a ‘dead’ language is still alive: the core of many Latin languages is still Latin, the church language and writings are still Latin, the doctor’s degrees in many Universities of the world are even today delivered in Latin and the high ‘Honoris Causa’ titles are still awarded in Latin.

Due to the information the computers store, people are more and more dependent on them so, automatically, they shall not only have access to the information as such but they have to understand, read and write in English as it is –without any doubt – not only the language of the future but the language of the present. The problem of those people striving to compose a new language for an international use came to an end and has finally become reality. We are the witnesses of the re-genesis of mankind, and the start was given by English that was considered to satisfy all tastes and ambitions and to be the beginning of a new era.