



ink

english magazine

10

Will **Colombia** be a Bilingual Country?

By Laura López Neira
(undergraduate Tourism and
Hotel Administration student)

English has become so important all over the world, and now people say that in the future it is going to be impossible to get a job if you don't know English. In recent years, there has been a necessity for all colleges, schools and universities to teach English. We can see though that some of them, and particularly private universities, are more demanding and effective in how they teach this subject. There are also the state schools which receive books and materials from the government. People say that if the government commits more to these schools and gives them more financial support, then young people will have a good level of English regardless of their background.

Everyone has to learn to speak English and Colombia can't stay behind, so we should support education institutions in every way to teach English. Can you imagine Colombia having a bilingual future? In the future it has to be like this, but how fast it happens depends on state support for education and on everyone realising how important it is to learn to speak English and to make the effort to do so.

People say that this would represent a great advance for Colombia and would open many doors for its inhabitants. Let's see what happens...



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Welcome to a very special issue of Ink, the Externado University's English magazine.

Editorial team
Phil Stoneman, Jill Fortune, Maite Mariño, Niamh Harnett

As we celebrate reaching our tenth issue, we are sad to reflect on the passing of our rector, Fernando Hinestrosa. He will be greatly missed, and we dedicate this issue to his memory.

Contributors come from a variety of different faculties and English levels Natalia Álvarez Romero, Juanita Calderon Parra, Ana María Carillo Escandan, Sebastian Corredor, Daniela Gálvez Bermúdez, María Camila Gómez Tenorio, Lorena Gutiérrez Castro, Juliana Hernández Vanegas, Laura López Neira, Murielle Ossohov Akissi, Juan David Pérez, Sergio Pérez, Claudia Milena Ramírez Montenegro

We would like to extend a huge thank you to all contributors past and present who have helped to make the magazine so successful! To celebrate, the topic of this issue is the importance of English in today's world and we have a range of articles including reflections on English as a key part of globalisation and even some studying tips. Please remember that contributions to the next Ink are welcome.

The idea of Ink is to display pieces of writing, in English, by members of the Externado community. As the idea is to maintain authors' originality as far as possible, you may find some minor mistakes in the articles. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Externado University.

Enjoy!
Phil Stoneman (INK coordinator)
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Cartoon

By Ana María Carillo Escandan
(undergraduate Tourism and
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What do you think?

'English is an "everyone knows it" language, which shares many roots with Latin words. Latin is the same source of our native language, Spanish, which shares its alphabet and roots with English.'

Juanita Calderon Parra
(undergraduate FIGRI student)

'English is the language of the Internet; it is in first place of the languages used on the Internet with 536.6 million users, followed by Chinese and Spanish with 449.9 and 153.3 users respectively. So, if you want to stay in touch and communicate with the rest of the world through the Internet, you should know English.'

Lorena Gutiérrez Castro
(undergraduate FIGRI student)

'English is the most studied and learned language all around the world. Besides, it influences a lot of languages, and this phenomenon gives birth to "Spanglish" and "Franglish", for example.'

Murielle Ossohov Akissi
(undergraduate FIGRI student)

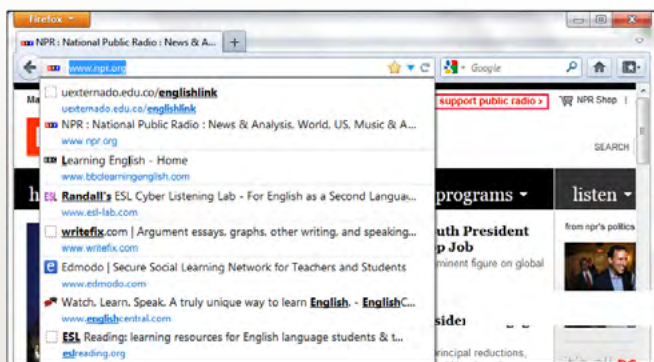
The use of **technology** as a **method of learning**

By Sebastian Corredor (undergraduate FIGRI student)

In the past, learning a foreign language was quite complicated for most people and meant that you needed a lot of money if you wanted to do it. As a result, only rich people could access this type of education.

Nowadays, learning English, or any other language, is so easy. It is not necessary to hire a teacher to learn everything he knows about a language, because tools like the Internet help us to learn vocabulary at the same time as we connect with people from other parts of the world. We can listen to broadcasts around the world online and watch movies at the same time we are listening to practice. The fact is that today the only problem you can have learning English is that you do not like it; however, in the 21st century, it is necessary to manage more than one language if you want to get ahead.

A website that I would recommend is www.openenglish.com. Here, you can practice listening and by paying a little you also have access to the unlimited knowledge of international teachers, so this can be seen as a complement to our classes in educational institutions.



There are many websites on the Internet where you can practice your English by watching videos, reading articles, listening to information, or doing many other things. Here are some of our favourites in the English Area. What are your favourite English websites? Let us know at

figri.idiomas@uexternado.edu.co



The link between **English** and **globalisation**



By María Camila Gómez Tenorio (undergraduate FIGRI student)

We could think about many affairs that are currently important worldwide, and immediately we realise that most of them develop in English, or at least that the English language is the most popular way to make the majority of people understand and be part of something. From international politics, economics, international relations between completely different countries, to technology, health and a lot of other topics, there is so much crucial information for our lives. As the world comes closer and closer, English is important to allow us to fit in.

When we talk about the current development of all relations in the world, the word globalisation comes immediately to our minds. The immense influence that it has had on our daily activities and relationships is inarguable. Therefore, the English language goes hand in hand with globalisation, and currently we can see that the language itself has been globalised, because most people around the world can understand what you mean when you say "Do you have a BlackBerry?" The reason for this is that it has become not just a way to understand global situations; it is instead a huge bridge that has helped us to communicate, even if we are thousands of miles apart.

On the other hand, the new generation depends on new inventions, and all these technological creations that have created a revolution in our way of working, studying, being productive, and even having fun. Again, it is absolutely necessary to affirm that English is a huge part of all this, starting with the fact that all the creators and most popular enterprises of the whole technology business are English-speaking, and that this technology often reaches people by using this international "convention".

Thus, we can be sure that English nowadays is one of the most important tools to develop ourselves in a constantly changing world, which moves around technologies and innovations, and which has created a whole scenario of working and communicating based on a common language that allows everyone to participate in it. We cannot be sure whether it was intentional or if it was just a way of meeting the requirements of the world that made English so important, but now we have to use it as a valuable and almost essential skill to take part in modern life.

The Importance of English in Today's World

By Daniela Gálvez Bermúdez (undergraduate FIGRI student)



Nowadays, English has become a powerful tool to comprehend the context in which we are living. Our future as students begins with us being part of a globalised world where most things are organised through a worldwide language, and our challenge is to perform as well as we can in this situation. This is only possible through the learning of this important language.

For those who believe that it's not a big deal, English is the official spoken language of approximately 50 countries, and over 350 million people around the world speak it as their native language¹. Its importance has grown since most of the biggest and most famous artists, writers, inventors and businessmen are British and American, and since they are imposing new standards in matters of technology, research, investments, amongst other areas. The best way to understand these things is through the language in which they are produced.

Therefore, as English is integrated in our daily lives, it is a skill that we necessarily have to develop in order to adapt ourselves to the development of business and the changing world, which consequently require ever more expertise not only in the subject, but also in the domain

of the language. Moreover, we recognise the disadvantages of having a lack of experience with language, as in Colombia we are becoming developed in areas such as engineering, finance and law, but we are missing opportunities because people are not willing to learn the language as well as they should.

In addition, the government has to invest more money in order to let young people participate in courses and research programmes abroad, as they can also learn about the culture, idioms, and interesting features that are part of language, and so have a global comprehension of it.

In conclusion, we are part of a developing country in which opportunities have to be established in order to permit people to be competitive. But we also have to look to ourselves for opportunities by strengthening our English skills, and become part of the culture of a globalised world.

1. Not to mention that there are over a billion non-native English speakers! – Ed.

Why Watch Movies in English?

Usually, we go to the cinema and rent movies to find comfort and to understand easily; that's the reason why most Colombian people choose to watch English language movies dubbed into Spanish. However, this is a terrible mistake, because we are not aware of the benefits that hearing natural English can give us.

One benefit that we can get from watching movies in English is that we can improve our pronunciation in this way. We often don't know how to pronounce a word correctly, and watching movies can help with this.

As well as helping us with our pronunciation, this activity can help to improve our vocabulary and make it easier for us when we are speaking and want to communicate our ideas.

We can improve our fluency and learn the different meanings of similar words, understand intonation better and also have a better idea of the best way to have a conversation with somebody.

One other important thing about watching movies in their original languages is that we can catch the characters' emotions with the real passion that the actors expressed when they made the movie.

So, there are many benefits to watching movies in English!

By **Juliana Hernández Vanegas**
(undergraduate Social Communication student)



English, The best way for Colombia to grow!

By **Natalia Álvarez Romero**
(undergraduate Tourism and Hotel Administration student)

Colombia is a country that at the moment doesn't have great value in international relations and business but I think that we can do different things to change this.

Business between countries means that countries grow, and for this reason, international relations is what we need. But how can we make Colombia have better relations? Everybody knows that English is the most important language and more when we talk about business. So if we want Colombia to be better, we have to be better. Namely, we have to know English, because we need to speak with people from other countries and not everybody speaks Spanish so if we don't know English, we can't express what we want to.

The young people are the future and if we have a better country, we will have better opportunities. We have to start thinking about making our country better because it is our home, and one of the things that can improve Colombia is speaking English because when we have good international relations, people get to know Colombia. This brings money, technology, recognition, investments and other things to Colombia.

Also, it is important for Colombia to have good exports and imports and how can we do this if we don't speak English? It is impossible; why sign the TLC if we aren't going to use it? We have to use all the opportunities that life gives us. Everybody wants Colombia to be a rich country but if we don't do anything, this will never happen.

So everybody should study English because it is the best thing that will make Colombia grow and also make sure that we have more opportunities!





By **Claudia Milena Ramírez Montenegro**
(undergraduate Tourism and Hotel Administration student)

All languages are very important for humanity, because they save our history and our cultural roots. Every person on the planet has a special place for their maternal tongue. Sometimes this is because they feel that their language is easier than others or because everyone that they know speaks this same language. The spread of English through today's world creates some questions which we can ask ourselves.

In Latin America, most countries speak Spanish, and the spread of English represents the globalisation of today's world in economic, social and political aspects. The growth of languages can be difficult, but at this moment you can see that this is happening. English is expanding because it belongs to powerful countries like the United States or the United Kingdom.

One example could be how children learn English in school around the world, whether they want to learn it or not. The positive and negative aspects of this process are not so important for the educational systems; the important thing is the effect of this process.

The conclusion is that the spread of English is a consequence of power: the power of the countries that have a strong economy, where the political management is organised and where people aren't isolated. The spread of English is also a consequence of the mentality of the countries that have allowed this language to be imposed.



Music and the Message

By Sergio Pérez (undergraduate FIGRI student)

The great importance of English stems from the necessity to understand the greatest language in the whole world: music. The vast majority of countries in this world have at least one band writing and singing its songs in English, so it is really essential to learn English. It would be great to learn it in the best way, because sometimes understanding songs' meanings is really difficult.

How could it be possible for us to miss the opportunity to understand and sing lyrics like "Oh, girls just wanna have fun," or "We don't need no education, we don't need no thought control, no dark sarcasm in the classroom. Hey, teacher, leave them kids alone!" It makes me shudder when I think about that.

And of course... English is useful for everything in this life.



ARE YOU A STAR STUDENT?

Prizes are available for star students in each level of English. For more information, ask your teacher!



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www.uexternado.edu.co/englishlink

By Juan David Pérez (undergraduate Accountancy student)

- When many people hear about learning another language, they say “Oh no, it’s impossible!”, but it doesn’t have to be so hard. Here are some easy tips for you to improve your language:
- You can begin by finding basic words in the dictionary, but not English-Spanish because this is not so useful. If you really want to learn, use an English-English dictionary. This will help you to think and speak in English.
- If you want, you can watch some movies or TV programmes, and when you find words that you don’t understand, you can find them in a dictionary and practice writing sentences with them.



- You should always try to give answers in English and practice speaking sometimes. This helps you to create good habits.
- Discipline is important! You should spend some time every day practicing things you know and things you’re not sure about.
- Don’t be afraid of your mistakes. This is a normal part of learning, and if you practice more, you will make fewer mistakes.
- Define your objectives early: what do you want to learn and why?
- Many people mistakenly think that talking with a Spanish accent is bad, but I don’t agree. There are many Hispanic people who speak without errors but don’t sound like a native speaker.
- Most importantly, don’t worry and work hard!

Did you know that the FIGRI English Area has its own website? You can find a variety of different things on the site, such as events and notices, our own podcasts, exercises to improve your English, and even teacher profiles, so it’s a really good idea to be familiar with this tool that’s been made especially for you!



Go to www.uexternado.edu.co/englishlink and have a look around!



Also, join our Facebook group by searching for “Externado University English Area”, and follow us on Twitter: @UExtEnglish