

A Study of College Students in Iran: Attitudes and Perceptions toward English

Negar Kiavar^{1,}*

MA in TEFL, kiavar.negar@gmail.com, Yazd University

Abstract

In its history, English is a language which has undergone lengthy processes from colonialism to globalization which triggers off a wave of various relationships between English language and the community in which English is spoken. This reflects the considerable significance of the current studies directed towards perceptions of English in Iran. Data were collected from a random sample of 140 college students from universities in Iran. In addition, the attitudes of participants were examined in terms of effect of proficiency level. Reflecting data gathering instruments, concurrent embedded strategy of mixed methods design (questionnaire and interview) were employed in this study. Nvivo software was utilized for qualitative data while descriptive statistics and Mixed between within ANOVA were employed for quantitative analysis. The research findings revealed that majority of the college students put a high value on the leading role of English in their life. In addition, English was accepted as an international language which is not peculiar to any specific country or culture. Moreover, there was a tendency for the participants to be taught both standard varieties of English (American English and British English) and out circle varieties of English (World Englishes). Finally, it was deemed to exist a harmonious relationship between English and their Iranian identity.

Key words: colonialism, globalization, attitudes

1. INTRODUCTION

The English language has been rippled around the world as an extensively accepted means of international communication. Alongside with this status, English language has been exceeded its authority by British or American and prevailed all over the globe. It has been emerged with various varieties such as Chinese English, Japanese English, Asian English, Indian English, Malaysia English, and American English etc. Within being internationalized language, English is no more for American or Britain as we see nonnative English speakers far surpass native English speakers. The majority of the researchers strongly criticize that native speakers should not have prerogative to provide norms and nonnative speakers should not be seen incompetent if their performance don't match with native speakers' norms [19].

Tremendously rapid spread of English in global arena resulted in that many scholars posit genetically modified version of Kachru's three circle model (1985) (henceforth referred to 3CM). One of the recently given models is proposed by [13] [14]. He suggested a model named English as an International Language. This model is composed of