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ENG506 Assignment 1 Solution

Fall 2026

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ENG506: World Englishes

Assignment No. 1 — Fall 2026 | Total Marks: 20 | Due Date: 15 November 2026

Name: VU Learning Hub

Question

Explain the possible disadvantages of English as a global language. In your answer, discuss how it may give English speakers an unfair advantage, create a lack of interest in learning other languages, and contribute to the loss of linguistic diversity. Limit your answer in ten clear points, using relevant examples where appropriate. (2*10=20)

Answer

1. A person who speaks English from birth has a head start in the job market. Big firms hold interviews in English. A talented engineer from a small town may fail the interview even though she can do the work well. Her English is the only weak point. The job then goes to a native speaker who may know less about the work.

2. Foreign students face an extra wall before they can study abroad. They must clear costly language tests and pay for coaching. This costs money and time that native speakers never spend. A bright student from a poor home may give up her dream only because of the English test.

3. Trade also favours the English speaking world. A firm from London can deal with buyers in Asia and Africa in its own language. A firm from Lahore must hire translators and learn foreign rules. The cost of translation makes its goods costly. It may lose the deal before talks even start.

4. Native speakers of English feel little need to study a second language. In the United States and Britain most pupils leave school with only English. This limits their contact with other peoples. They also lose jobs in world bodies where a second language is a plus.

5. In countries like Pakistan the whole focus of the student is English. Pupils spend long hours on English grammar and leave their own languages aside. The school system also rewards English more than Urdu or Punjabi. In this way the love for other languages slowly fades.

6. Small languages are dying at a fast rate. Parents now talk to their children in English at home. The children grow up with weak skill in the language of their elders. In a few years the language has no young speakers left. With it the songs and jokes of a whole people also end.

7. Much old wisdom lives only in speech. Herbal cures and crop lore pass from old people to the young in the village tongue. When the young stop using that tongue the chain breaks. The wisdom is lost for all time. No record can hold the full life of a spoken language.

8. Science and the web speak mostly English. Nine of ten top journals print papers in English. A doctor in a small city may miss new cures because she cannot read the papers. Her own findings also stay local. The world of knowledge thus stays shut for those who lack English.

9. Schools add to the pressure on local tongues. English medium schools are seen as the road to success. The home language gets one small period a week. Children start to feel shy about their own speech. In time they use it only with old people at home.

10. World forums also work in English. In the United Nations and the World Bank talks run in English. A delegate with weak English cannot press her point with force. Her nation then has less say in the rules that shape its own life. This gap in voice is a real cost of one global tongue.