

In a globalized world communication between different cultures and language speakers is a vital necessity. English is in the present the lingua franca and is understood worldwide. But not all participants of the international community are content with this development.

One of the negative consequences of this situation is, that the number of languages of the world is in steady decrease since the 15<sup>th</sup> century. As the graph of 2006 (Graddol) shows, are only about 3000 different languages left which were once 14 000. The decline is said to be even faster in the next century. This loss of diversity is caused by the eminent role of English in different fields like economy and education. "English itself is seen as a key educational investment", stated Graddol in 2006. The price of this is paid by native cultures which are condemned to perish together with their native languages.

Another problem arises in the English speaking community itself. Speakers of English as a mother language complain that the global spread of English has changed it greatly. Non-native English speakers use expressions and sentence-structures that are incorrect or at least unusual and mutilate the standard language. Maybe one day a new language will develop by this incorrect usage that would be totally different from its standard. Even if this is exaggerated, sometimes communication in international organizations can be hard to be understood by mother-tongue speakers.

On the other hand, there are a lots of benefits: Since English is taught in school as a foreign language in the developed world, it is understood by the educated elite in most parts of the world. As the tart pie (Thurlow et al. 2004: 121) shows, 35,6% of all Internet users are first language speakers of English. That is significant, because more people world wide speak Chinese. Only 12,2% of these native Chinese speakers use the internet. That proves that the English speaking world has a big advantage in education and communication which should be caught up in the future. It might be necessary that all English speakers – native or non-natives – abide to the rules and norms of standard English, which may change over time as any living language does, but not to extensively, that new English daughter languages are created. This can be impeded by an language academy as for instance the Spanish "National Language Academy" does. Its normative prescriptions have reached that Spanish used in Spain and in South America does not differ to much.

All in all the role of English as a global means of communication is beneficial and cannot be replaced by any other language.

## Vocabulary Band 3

### Justification

Vocabulary choices are frequently not satisfactory for the task. Inaccuracies include prepositions (e.g. *participants of the international community, develop by this incorrect usage, abide to the rules*), collocations (e.g. *mutilate the standard language, condemned to perish, prescriptions have reached that*), unidiomatic usage (e.g. *hard to be understood, in steady decrease*) and other lexical errors (e.g. *tart pie, daughter languages*). While these frequent inaccuracies would point towards band 2, some use is made of paraphrasing and synonyms, including low-frequency items (e.g. *a vital necessity, the educated elite, normative prescriptions*), resulting in almost no repetition (cf. band 4). The text is generally appropriate in style and register (exceptions include *lots of benefits*).

NB: This script represents band 3 for vocabulary, but the benchmark score cannot be generalised to other scale criteria.