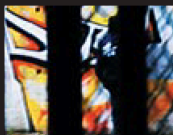
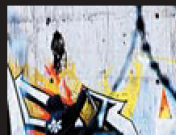


Beyond Babel

English on the World Stage



AN INFORMATION PRODUCTION

Foreword

There has never been a truly global language before, so when one arrives we need to give it our full attention. It is not just a matter of historical interest. The forces which have carried English around the world are still operative, and the effects of this spread are still being experienced - or have yet to be - in many countries.

The series BEYOND BABEL demonstrates the impossibility of simplistic explanations or interpretations of the spread of English. Repeatedly we see people affirming their right to use English to meet their needs, whether political, commercial, artistic, recreational or domestic. These are intelligent people, who would laugh at the view that by using English they have somehow been brainwashed into a neo-colonialist mentality. It is also heart-warming to see the sense of linguistic responsibility which has emerged as a reaction to English, in places as diverse as South Africa, India and California, in a concern for endangered languages.

BEYOND BABEL provides a clear answer to the question, 'Who owns English now?' It belongs to the world. It is the most wide-ranging television treatment of the English language I have ever seen, and it has been a privilege to have been part of it.

Professor David Crystal

Author, Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language

Introduction

BEYOND BABEL was produced in response to an extraordinary phenomenon, the global spread of the English language. As we move into the 21st Century, we find ourselves in a world where up to a quarter of the world's population are now able to communicate in English and where for the first time in recorded history we can legitimately speculate about the possibility of a global language. BEYOND BABEL set out to explore how English has attained this international pre-eminence and to look at the consequences both for native English speakers and the vast majority of the world's population who are not. Our aim in the series was to demonstrate that the engines which have driven the spread of English are not inherent in the language itself but in the complex and historic interaction of trade, culture, politics and technology. These forces, which reside beyond the control of any single nation, have served to create a language of immense richness and subtlety to which many non-native speakers have a profound sense of ownership.

Throughout the programmes, our series consultant, David Crystal, the author of the Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language, and a wide range of international experts and commentators offer their views on the past, present and future of the English language. The phenomenal growth of English has created an often heated global debate touching upon profound issues in many societies and BEYOND BABEL, which was filmed in the USA, Japan, China, South Africa, India and Europe, attempts to reflect some of these issues.

The DVD contains the original television series of four 50 minute programmes together with additional material from various contributors and David Crystal's interview in its entirety. The television programmes are available on the DVD in four other language versions; Spanish, Chinese (Mandarin), Russian and Arabic, with spoken commentary and sub-titled interviews and sequences in each of these languages. English sub-titles are also available. Please make your selection from the "Commentary Language" and "Sub-title" menus for each programme. The additional material is available in English only.

The BEYOND BABEL DVD is split into two discs, each containing two of the television programmes and their corresponding additional material. The television programmes can be played in their entirety or selected sequences may be viewed by using the "Chapter Menu". The additional material is listed by subject headings and Professor David Crystal's interview is accessible through the "Additional Material Menu".

The Programmes

Trade

The first and most important means by which English left its native shores was by the development of international trade. From the expansion of the British Empire to the development of international conglomerates, the programme looks at the way in which English has become the accepted language of international business. At their corporate headquarters in Atlanta, Coca Cola executives mull over the marketing strategy for their Shanghai factories, while specialist international finance broadcaster, Bloomberg Television, reports on the money markets. At the Harvard Business School, students from around the world are versed in the English based language of business culture where nationhood is banished in favour of global branding. While in Delhi and Cape Town new generations struggle with the intricacies of learning English as a passport to the global marketplace.

Culture

English culture, once characterised by the twin pillars of the language, The Bible and Shakespeare, is now a global phenomenon of immense proportions. Music, radio, global television networks and movies export the language 24 hours a day. The Bible, Once preached mainly from the pulpit, is now harnessed to the power of satellite television

Future

With over 70% of the world's scientific research now recorded in English, science accounts for the fastest growing area of the already immense English vocabulary. English has facilitated the development of an international scientific community which reaches across cultural boundaries. From the internationally renowned research centre, Xerox PARC in California's Silicon Valley to Electronics City in Bangalore, technology and English have become inextricably linked. New media and the Internet have cemented this bond between English and research, but is it a marriage with a future, or will the development of translation machines enable us to bypass traditional means of communication? And in the meantime, as the world continues to learn English and becomes multilingual, will the monolingual English speakers be left behind?

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Television Programme 1 – Trade

Chapter 1 - EX-PATRIOTS

The long tradition of native English speakers travelling and working around the world has now experienced a cultural shift as a new generation of ex-patriots who have English as a second language increases.

Chapter 2 - LEARNING ENGLISH

In South Africa, the Open Learning Systems Education Trust (OLSET) has been developing ways of teaching English in a vast, diverse country with 11 official languages.

Chapter 3 - BUSINESS & TRADE

The former might of the British Empire and the continued power and influence of the American dollar has meant that English is now recognised as the international language of business.

Chapter 4 - AIR TRAVEL

International air travel created a need for a language that crosses all boundaries and, at the National Air Traffic Services' College, students learn the technical English required to guide planes safely through the skies.

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Chapter 5 - TEACHING ENGLISH

Teaching English is now big business. Courses range from basic skills to teaching the nuances of the different ways English is spoken and used in various parts of the world

Chapter 6 - SPORT & ENGLISH

Sport has a universal language without words but in South Africa, with its wealth of languages, young sportsmen find that English is still beneficial in furthering their blossoming careers.

Television Programme 2 - Culture

Chapter 1 - SHAKESPEARE

Shakespeare contributed to the dramatic turn in the fortunes of the English language in the 16th Century and, at The Globe Theatre in London, his legacy lives on.

Chapter 2 - THE BIBLE

The King James Bible has carried the English language throughout the world and televangelists continue to spread the Word via satellite transmissions. In South Africa, churches weave English into their services to unite the many languages spoken by their congregations.

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Chapter 3 - BLACK AMERICAN ENGLISH

Out of the horrors of the slave trade, a language has developed among the black population of the United States and this language is now influencing mainstream culture of America.

Chapter 4 - SOUTH AFRICAN THEATRE

The Market Theatre in Johannesburg has a reputation for challenging common perceptions and John Kani, the theatre's managing trustee, explains his own unique way of interpreting Shakespeare's Othello.

Chapter 5 - INDIAN ENGLISH

The English language has a long history in India and has now become part of the fabric of the country. At Delhi University, students study the intricacies of Byron while youth television adapts English in new and innovative ways. Even in the hallowed territory of Bollywood films, English is creeping in.

Chapter 6 - POP CULTURE, JAPAN

English is only just starting to make in-roads in Japan but it is still possible to see its influence in the fashion, film and pop music industries.

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Additional Material - Part 1

1. ENGLISH MAGAZINE IN JAPAN

Scottish ex-patriot, Mark Devlin, set up an English magazine to help other ex-patriots living in Japan and since then it is becoming more popular with young, Japanese readers.

2. JOURNALISTS' TRAINING COURSE

The Thomson Foundation has been running courses for broadcast journalists for many years and at their base in Cardiff, Wales, they attract journalists from all around the world.

3. ENGLISH TEACHING IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Open Learning Systems Education Trust (OLSET) expands on its innovative programme of English language teaching.

4. NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM, LONDON

Robert Blyth of the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich explains how trade drove the English language into the rest of the world and how the United States has continued to spread the language after the demise of the British Empire.

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5. AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS' SCHOOL

Air Traffic Controllers go through extensive training to learn the formalised English language of the skies and at the National Air Traffic Services' College in the UK, students are put through their paces.

6. DATA PROCESSING CENTRE IN INDIA

Many international companies are setting up offices in India to take advantage of the high level of education and English language fluency of its population, and World Network Services was among the first.

7. ENGLISH IN CHINA

The Chinese government are taking steps to introduce the English language to as many people as possible in China.

Additional Material - Part 2

1. CHRISTIAN BROADCASTING NETWORK

Pat Robertson of CBN expands on how English has helped him spread the Word of God throughout the world.

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2. ANGLICAN CHURCH IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Archbishop of Cape Town explains how English is used as a common language to draw together all the languages of South Africa and how this process does not need to threaten any of the country's other languages.

3. THE EFFECTS OF ENGLISH IN INDIA

Mark Tully argues that although English has brought many benefits to India, it should not be to the detriment of Hindi.

4. ENGLISH LITERATURE IN INDIA

Professor Harish Trivedi talks about the initial interaction between English and Indian literature but how the scales have now tipped in the balance of English.

5. SOUTH AFRICAN LITERATURE

Nadine Gordimer, Nobel Prize Winner in 1991, comments on how writing in the English language enabled her books to be read by a worldwide audience despite being banned in South Africa during Apartheid.

6. INDIAN FILMS IN ENGLISH

Nagesh Kukunoor, an Indian film director, is making movies in English in the hope of reaching international audiences. He talks about his decision to use English and the advantages and disadvantages of doing so.

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7. ENGLISH IN JAPAN

Mariko Fujiwara of the advertising agency, Hakuhodo Institute of Life & Living, explains how English has started to make in-roads into Japanese life, particularly in product names and music.

8. GAELIC BROADCASTING IN SCOTLAND

Scotland's minority language is fighting to retain its place in everyday life and broadcasting is seen as an important way to keep the language alive.

Additional Material - David Crystal Interview (Part I)

1. GLOBAL LANGUAGE

A language becomes a global language when it is spoken all around the globe and that means by people in every country. It is something much greater than its mother tongue origins, and now for every one native speaker in the world, there are three non-native speakers of English.

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2. THE IMPORTANCE OF TRADE

Trade has always driven language around the world. It was during the 19th Century that the issue of the economic power began to influence the nature of the English language.

3. SHAKESPEARE & THE BIBLE

There were two main influences on the language in the 16th and 17th Centuries. One was Shakespeare and the other was the Authorised Version of the Bible, the King James Bible.

4. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Every significant innovation in the 20th Century, from the development of recorded sound, through film, air transport, the advertising industry, to the Internet, either began in an English speaking country, or was facilitated very rapidly by an English speaking country.

Index - Disc Two

Television Programme 3 – Politics

Chapter 1 - GLOBAL NETWORKS

Chris Cramer of CNN International explains how the first global television broadcast network has grown over the years.

Chapter 2 - ORIGINS OF US ENGLISH

The early English settlers brought their language to the USA and, although it is not the official language of the country, immigrants still work hard to hone their skills in the language.

Chapter 3 - JOURNALISM, SOUTH AFRICA

In a country with 11 official languages, English has an important role to play in news reporting and even F W de Klerk recognised the importance of delivering parts of his keynote speeches in English for the benefit of international audiences.

Chapter 4 - EUROPEAN UNION

The increasing number of European Union members has brought considerable complications to the interpreting and translating of all their languages.

Index - Disc Two

Chapter 5 - US ENGLISH

With the number of immigrants entering the United States continuing to rise, the debate over whether English should be made the official language of the USA becomes more heated.

Chapter 6 - ENDANGERED LANGUAGES

As English continues to dominate as a global language, other languages are faced with decline and possible extinction. As linguists highlight the problems, Native American tribes in California battle to reverse the damage done by past government policies.

Television Programme 4 -The Future

Chapter 1 - SCIENTIFIC ENGLISH

With so many scientific and technological innovations being developed in English speaking countries, the English language has undergone tremendous growth in the last century. But, the growing digital divide is causing increasing concern.

Chapter 2 - LANGUAGE & TECHNOLOGY

India is currently reaping the benefits of having a large English speaking, technologically minded population and, in Japan, the popularity of mobile technology is demanding new ways of thinking. However, the problems of machine translation have yet to be solved.

Index - Disc Two

Chapter 3 - MULTILINGUAL BROADCASTING

Despite setting up their networks using the English language, international broadcasters such as CNN and the BBC World Service are now also broadcasting in other languages and are taking advantage of new technologies.

Chapter 4 - ENGLISH IN JAPAN

The use of the English language in Japan is growing and, with more English schools springing up, the emphasis is now more focused on speaking the language rather than just translating written texts.

Chapter 5 - WELSH

Welsh is held up as a success story in terms of minority languages resisting decline. A combination of government acts and grassroots enthusiasm has contributed to this success.

Chapter 6 - MULTILINGUAL FUTURE

In South Africa, the soap opera *Isidingo* reflects a global trend towards multilingualism.

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Additional Material - Part 3

1. AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The Massachusetts Historical Society has preserved much of the documentation associated with the founding of the United States of America and Bill Fowler explains the importance of the wording of these documents.

2. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT IN THE USA

Professor Bill Kretzschmar of the University of Georgia explores how the English language has changed and developed in the United States.

3. POLITICAL BROADCASTING IN THE USA

Television broadcasting of political events has led to changes in the way English is used. Professor Thomas Patterson of Harvard University examines the effects of some of these changes.

Index - Disc Two

4. ENGLISH IN THE USA

Geoff Nunberg, Principal Scientist at Xerox PARC, analyses the perceptions of bilingualism and questions the possible fragmentation of the English language.

5. NATIONAL BROADCASTING IN JAPAN

NHK, the national broadcaster in Japan, spends considerable time and effort translating news into English for the benefit of its viewers.

6. ENGLISH NEWSPAPER IN INDIA

Reporters at The Hindu newspaper seem to have no trouble switching from Hindi to English when covering stories.

7. LEGAL SYSTEM IN SOUTH AFRICA

The language of the law is often daunting for the uninitiated but can be particularly intimidating if it is not even in your mother tongue. The Legal Resource Centre in Johannesburg recognises the problems and tries to make the system more accessible to everyone in South Africa.

8. AFRIKAANS & ENGLISH

F W de Klerk acknowledges the importance of the English language whilst expressing his concern that it may threaten Afrikaans.

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9. LINGUA FRANCA IN SOUTH AFRICA

Milton Nkosi of the BBC Africa Bureau explains the importance of having a lingua franca in South Africa but points out the difficulties of accurate translations.

Additional Material - Part 4

1. THE INTERNET

More and more people are communicating through the Internet and the development of software that converts Roman characters into other symbols, such as Chinese, means that more languages can be easily represented.

2. SCIENCE IN INDIA

Most scientific journals are published in English, which can cause extra difficulties for scientists, who are not native speakers of English.

3. ENGLISH DICTIONARIES

The Oxford English Dictionary and the Encarta World English Dictionary explain their histories and philosophies.

Index - Disc Two

4. SOUTH AFRICAN ENGLISH

South African English has absorbed so many terms from Afrikaans and African languages that a separate dictionary has been written to include all the words that would not be found in other English dictionaries.

5. INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTERS

CNN and the BBC discuss the importance of using clear, unambiguous English when broadcasting around the world.

Additional Material - David Crystal Interview (Part II)

1. IMMIGRATION

Language is inextricably linked to power and many people now, who have a mother tongue that is not English, are in positions of considerable power, so this could change the fortunes of language in any part of the world.

2. EUROPEAN UNION

The situation in the European Union has brought communities with languages of great power and strength together, and each community wishes its own language to be maintained and to be given the respect of equality.

Index - Disc Two

3. MINORITY LANGUAGES

Minority languages can learn from each other by sharing experiences and Welsh, for example, has learnt from the experience of Catalan in Spain.

4. THE INTERNET

The Internet is the contemporary revolution affecting language as it enables languages to be used and adapted in ways that could not be done before.

5. THE FUTURE

As English grows in different parts of the world it is evolving new identities and new mixed forms of English are being created. The old distinctions between English as a first language, second language and as a foreign language are breaking down.

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