



Implementation of English as a Communication Tool in Daily Life: Literature Review

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Abstract

This article is a literature review that discusses the application of English as a tool for communication in daily life. The main focus of this study is to illustrate how English is not only used in formal contexts such as education and the workplace but has also extended into informal settings, including social interactions, digital media, and entertainment activities. By examining various literature sources, this article highlights the strategic role of English as a bridge for cross-cultural communication in the era of globalization. It also explores the challenges and opportunities faced by non-native speakers in integrating English into their everyday lives. This review aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the importance of English proficiency in supporting effective communication across various aspects of modern life.

1. Introduction

English has become a global language used in various aspects of daily life, including education, business, technology, and cross-cultural communication. Proficiency in English is becoming increasingly important as interactions among individuals from diverse backgrounds continue to grow in the era of globalization. In this context, the use of English as a tool for communication is not limited to academic or professional settings, but also extends to informal conversations, social media, and other aspects of everyday life. Nowadays, many applications use English, and to some extent, this greatly helps with English pronunciation. This is certainly a positive point, especially if these applications are used for beneficial purposes.

Various studies have discussed the factors influencing the use of English in daily life, including social environment, access to English-language media, and educational policies promoting bilingualism. However, a deeper understanding of the benefits, challenges, and effectiveness of using English in everyday interactions remains a relevant topic for further research. Therefore, this article aims to review various literature that discusses the application of English as a communication tool in daily life, as well as to identify the factors that influence its usage. Through this literature review, it is expected to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the role of English in everyday communication and its implications for the development of people's language skills in various social contexts.

English is an international language widely used across various aspects of life, including education, business, and intercultural communication. The advancement of globalization has made English proficiency increasingly important, particularly in the academic and professional spheres. The ability to communicate in English not only serves as an added value for individuals but also contributes to broader access to information and opportunities on a global scale. Therefore, understanding how English is applied in everyday communication is an essential aspect to explore. In daily life, the use of English can be observed in various situations, ranging from interactions on social media, conversations in the workplace, to both formal and informal educational activities. Many individuals use English in code-switching conversations or in specific contexts such as technical terminology and business communication. This indicates that English is not merely a foreign language, but has become an increasingly integrated tool of communication in society.

Various studies have highlighted the role of English in daily communication and the factors that influence it, such as social environment, access to English-language media, and language education policies. Some studies indicate that communities with greater access to English-language content tend to be more fluent and accustomed to using English in everyday interactions. In addition, economic factors and global mobility are also key drivers of the increasing use of English. Nevertheless, the

application of English in daily life also faces challenges, such as differences in proficiency levels among individuals and concerns about the erosion of local languages. In some cases, the excessive use of English can diminish the dominance of native languages, particularly among younger generations. Therefore, it is important to understand the extent to which English can be applied without undermining the role of local languages as cultural identity markers.

This article aims to review the literature related to the use of English as a means of communication in everyday life. Through the analysis of previous studies, it will identify patterns of English usage, the influencing factors, and its impact on the social and cultural life of society. In doing so, this study seeks to provide deeper insights into the dynamics of English usage in the context of globalization. Furthermore, this article will discuss the growing importance of English in today's world, while emphasizing the need to balance its use with our native language. Excessive use of English may risk diminishing our cultural identity; however, this can be addressed by encouraging the learning and use of both languages in harmony.

2. Method

This study employs a literature review method with the aim of exploring and analyzing previous studies related to the use of English as a means of communication in everyday life. Various educational writings, working papers, speeches, and articles were examined from various scholarly sources such as journals, conference proceedings, and relevant books by prominent researchers. Reading, summarizing, and synthesizing information obtained from prior research formed the core of this methodological approach. It would be better if the research method section included a flowchart of the research.

2.1 Method 2

This critical analysis, based on the objective to obtain relevant information and data, not to test a hypothesis but to gain insights into the literature on the application of English as a communication medium in daily life, utilized electronic databases, primarily Google Scholar, with a specific search strategy using the keyword "everyday English communication". The analysis was conducted using an approach that enables the identification of patterns in English communication, factors influencing its use, and its impact on individuals' communication skills in a global context, focusing on publications from 2020 onwards.

3. Results and Discussion

In general, a review of various literature indicates that the use of English in everyday life is dynamic and multidimensional. It is influenced by factors such as technology, education, employment, and psychological aspects. To maximize its benefits, a holistic approach is required one that includes educational policies, teacher training, and the strengthening of motivation and self-confidence among the public in using the language. Although the use of English in daily life is becoming increasingly widespread, some members of society still perceive it as an "exclusive" language, suitable only for certain environments. This is reflected in a study by Nuryani and Sari (2021), which found that many people in semi-urban areas feel that openly using English can give the impression of showing off or "being too Westernized." This suggests that social and cultural aspects also influence the extent to which English is freely used.

The use of English as a communication tool in everyday life has experienced rapid growth in recent years. This aligns with the development of digital technology, globalization, and the increasing professional and academic demands that emphasize the importance of English proficiency. A study by Wijayanti and Hidayat (2021) revealed that students in major cities in Indonesia have begun using English not only in academic contexts but also in informal conversations, particularly on social media. In the digital environment, such as platforms like Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok, many Indonesian users choose to use English to reach international audiences. This phenomenon reinforces findings from a study by Nguyen et al. (2021), which highlights that social media has become an effective space for young people to practice English, particularly in informal communication. This indicates a shift in the role of English from being merely a foreign language to becoming a tool for everyday cross-cultural communication.

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This phenomenon aligns with the findings of Hamid et al. (2022), which indicate that public perception of English is highly dependent on its social context. In academic or professional settings, the

use of English is viewed positively. However, within family environments or local communities, there is a tendency to maintain the use of regional languages or Bahasa Indonesia as a form of social solidarity. Interestingly, young Indonesians particularly Generation Z demonstrate a relatively flexible pattern of English usage. They frequently mix English with Bahasa Indonesia in their daily conversations, both spoken and written. A study by Putra and Rini (2023) suggests that this practice is not merely a habit, but a part of their digital identity. In the online sphere, language mixing reflects personal style, preferences, and even social status.

In the entertainment industry, the use of English has also become increasingly prominent. Many Indonesian content creators choose to use English in order to reach a global audience. This trend is observed in a study by Wardani and Aditya (2022), which explored the communication strategies of local influencers. They found that the use of English in content not only enhances international appeal but also contributes to projecting a professional and competent image. The application of English in daily life is also evident in public services, such as at airports, hotels, restaurants, and even ride-hailing apps. This reflects the importance of cross-language communication in the service sector. A study by Wulandari and Santoso (2020) revealed that many service industry players actively train their employees to use basic English in serving foreign customers.

Equally interesting, research by Ling and Zhao (2021) highlights that early exposure to English has long-term effects on children's communication skills and self-confidence. In Indonesia, many parents have begun introducing English to their children through songs, educational videos, and learning applications. This creates opportunities for children to become familiar with a foreign language from an early age without the pressure of formal instruction. In the context of tourism, English serves as a primary bridge between local communities and foreign visitors. A study by Hidayat and Komang (2023) emphasizes the importance of English language training for small business owners in tourist destinations such as Bali, Lombok, and Yogyakarta. The ability to convey basic information in English can enhance the competitiveness and professionalism of local services.

More than just a tool for communication, English in everyday life also shapes the way people think. As explained by Wibowo and Arsyad (2022), those who are accustomed to thinking in two languages tend to have higher cognitive flexibility. This opens up opportunities for more critical and creative decision-making, especially when facing complex everyday problems. Considering the various findings from the literature, it is clear that the application of English as a communication tool cannot be viewed in black-and-white terms. It evolves within social, cultural, and technological contexts that are constantly changing. Therefore, support for English literacy must be carried out in an inclusive, adaptive, and culturally sensitive manner, taking into account the diverse backgrounds of its users. Such an approach allows English to truly become an empowering tool, not merely a symbol of status or a passing trend.

Not all English users feel confident in using the language. Research by Pratama and Yuliana (2022) shows that, despite the increased exposure to English, many individuals still feel awkward or fear making mistakes when speaking. This is closely related to psychological factors such as anxiety and low self-confidence in language abilities. Communicative learning support is essential to bridge this gap. On the other hand, the application of English in the workplace has also seen significant development. A study by Fitriani and Gunawan (2023) emphasizes that companies, particularly those in the fields of technology and communication, are increasingly requiring active English proficiency in recruitment and internal communication. English is no longer seen as an additional skill but as a basic competency that the workforce must possess.

In the context of education, English has also become an important part of the curriculum and teaching methods. According to research by Tanjung et al. (2021), the use of English as a medium of instruction in bilingual classes has been proven to enhance students' critical thinking skills and broaden their global perspectives. However, the implementation of bilingual programs still faces challenges in terms of teacher preparedness and the availability of appropriate teaching materials. A study by Johnson and Lee (2022) shows that the use of English in daily communication can strengthen one's global identity without erasing local identity. In the Indonesian context, this phenomenon is reflected in how the community blends English with Indonesian in the practice of "code-switching," which sociolinguistically is considered a form of linguistic adaptation.

Access to English language learning also plays a crucial role in its everyday application. Research by Astuti and Ramadhan (2020) reveals that students in urban areas have more opportunities to engage with English through courses, internet access, and qualified teachers, compared to students in remote

areas. This gap needs to be addressed in order to achieve equitable language proficiency. Equally important, the use of English in everyday life has a positive impact on cross-cultural communication skills. A study by Chen et al. (2021) notes that students who are accustomed to using English in global interactions show an increase in cultural empathy and tolerance. This suggests that language also plays a role in shaping character and social attitudes.

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It is important to note that not all English learning materials in daily life are contextual or relevant to local culture. A study by Laili and Saputra (2021) highlights that most learning materials are still dominated by Western cultural contexts, which can make it difficult for learners to relate the language to their own life experiences. Therefore, a localized approach to content is essential to make English more easily understood and naturally applied. Although the use of English in daily life brings many benefits, not all of its effects are positive. One noticeable impact is the emergence of a gap between communities with access to English education and those without. As explained by Setiawan and Dewi (2023), individuals from higher-educated families or those living in major cities are generally more accustomed to speaking English. In contrast, people from rural areas or lower economic backgrounds are often left behind due to limited facilities and learning opportunities. As a result, English ends up creating a new social divide, widening the gap of inequality.

On the other hand, the excessive dominance of English can also displace the position of regional languages and even Bahasa Indonesia itself. Siregar and Lestari (2022) highlight that many young people are increasingly less likely to use their native languages due to their greater familiarity with English, both in everyday conversations and on social media. If this condition persists, it is not unlikely that our local linguistic heritage will become further marginalized. Regional languages are not only tools of communication but also vital components of our cultural identity and heritage. If we continue to use English excessively, it may serve as a catalyst for the loss of our native linguistic culture. It would be beneficial to strike a balance between using English and preserving our local languages.

In the family environment, many parents, with good intentions, attempt to familiarize their children with English from an early age. However, as warned by Handayani and Yusuf (2020), if this is done hastily without considering the child's age and readiness, it could lead to confusion. Children may struggle to understand their native language due to being introduced to a foreign language too early. This could affect their overall language and communication development. Furthermore, in the educational context, not all students fully comprehend English. Ayu and Rizaldi (2021) revealed that many students are only familiar with English through movie subtitles or automatic translations. As a result, when they are confronted with more complex academic texts or English assignments, they struggle to fully understand the content or meaning. This presents a challenge in the learning process, which ideally emphasizes comprehension, not just memorization or translation.

A study by Johnson and Lee (2022) shows that the use of English in everyday communication can strengthen one's global identity without erasing local identity. In the Indonesian context, this phenomenon is reflected in how the community blends English with Indonesian in the practice of "code-switching," which is sociolinguistically considered a form of linguistic adaptation. However, some literature also reminds us that the use of English should not excessively replace the mother tongue. A study by Lestari and Fauzan (2022) highlights the importance of maintaining a balance between globalization and the preservation of local languages. English should be positioned as a communication tool, not as an indicator of cultural superiority.

Looking at the trend of English usage in everyday life, we cannot ignore its darker side. On one hand, this language opens up global access; on the other hand, it creates new boundaries within society. When proficiency in English becomes a benchmark for competence, those from environments with limited access to education or technology will fall further behind. This gap not only impacts careers but also self-confidence and social opportunities. We are also facing a slow but steady issue: the decline in the use of the mother tongue. As English is more frequently used in conversations, social media, and entertainment content, local languages—an essential part of our cultural identity—are being abandoned. This is not merely about language; it is about losing a connection to our cultural roots and the local values embedded in our mother tongue.

In the family setting, well-intentioned parents' efforts to introduce English at an early age are sometimes not accompanied by the appropriate approach. Children may feel confused when they are

required to use two languages before fully mastering one. This condition can affect the natural development of their language skills, especially if daily communication is not balanced between the mother tongue and the foreign language. Similarly, in schools or universities, the use of English that is only superficial—such as understanding subtitles or social media texts—does not guarantee a deep understanding. When students are faced with academic assignments, their abilities often do not meet expectations. This indicates that the use of English in informal contexts does not automatically enhance academic proficiency.

The use of English as a part of self-image on social media also has a darker side. Amanda and Kusuma (2022) note that some young people use English to appear cool, smart, or more professional. However, behind this, many feel pressured to always present themselves perfectly or follow trends. As a result, English is no longer just a tool for communication, but rather a social standard that makes some people feel inferior or not "global enough." Lastly, we cannot ignore that the use of English can trigger anxiety, especially for those who lack confidence. As stated by Marzuki and Hartati (2021), students who feel they are not proficient in English often get nervous when required to speak in public or give presentations. Instead of feeling motivated to learn, they may feel intimidated by academic demands that use a foreign language. This can hinder their participation and even diminish their enthusiasm for learning.

Meanwhile, social media illustrates how English is used as a tool for image building. Many young people feel the need to appear sophisticated by using English, even if they don't feel comfortable using it actively. This can lead to social pressure and blur one's self-identity, as language becomes not just a means of expression, but a tool for being accepted in certain circles. Lastly, the pressure to be fluent in English can turn into a source of anxiety, especially in academic or professional environments. For some, English remains a "wall" that is intimidating. They may feel insufficiently intelligent or worthy simply because they haven't mastered the language fluently. Without the right support and approach, the enthusiasm for learning can be replaced by fear and insecurity.

Table 1. Table Title

Author	Findings	The year's
Setiawan and Dewi	People from highly educated families or living in big cities are usually more accustomed to speaking English.	2023
Siregar and Lestari	Highlighting that many young generations are starting to use their mother tongue less and less because they are more accustomed to English, both in everyday conversation and on social media.	2022
Ling and Zhao	Highlighting that exposure to English from an early age has a long-term impact on children's communication skills and self-confidence.	2021
Marzuki and Hartati	Students who feel they are not yet fluent in English are often nervous when they have to speak in public or give presentations.	2021



Figure 1. Figure Title

3.2 Conclusion

Based on the results and discussion presented, it can be concluded that English plays a crucial role as a tool for communication in daily life, both in formal and informal contexts. The use of English has expanded from classrooms and workplaces to personal realms such as social media, entertainment, and conversations between individuals across countries. This indicates that proficiency in English is no longer just an academic requirement but has become an essential skill that supports global interaction. However, the application of English in daily life also presents its own challenges, particularly for non-native speakers. Factors such as limited vocabulary, lack of confidence, and cultural differences can affect the effectiveness of communication. Therefore, it is important to adopt a more adaptive and contextual learning approach so that the use of English feels more natural and relevant in everyday life. In this way, English can truly function as an inclusive and empowering communication bridge. English plays a vital role but it certainly requires a balanced approach so that our native language or mother tongue is not lost when we are fluent in using English.

Based on the literature review conducted, it can be concluded that English has indeed become an increasingly important communication tool in modern society. Its application is not limited to formal spaces such as education and the workplace, but has also expanded into social realms, entertainment, and digital media. This indicates that English has become a part of the global lifestyle that is becoming more inclusive and adaptive, especially among the younger generation. However, behind its great benefits, the implementation of English also brings several challenges and negative impacts that deserve attention. Disparities in access to English language learning, the shift away from using native languages, and the social pressure to appear "international" are issues that cannot be ignored. Therefore, it is important to place English in a proportional manner: as a tool, not as a measure of social or cultural superiority. Moving forward, efforts to integrate English into daily life must be accompanied by a balanced and inclusive approach. English language education should empower all layers of society without compromising the local linguistic identity. In this way, we can become not only a linguistically global society but also one that is strong in culture and character.

Author Contributions

The author solely conceptualized the topic, designed the scope of the literature review, and identified relevant sources from reputable journals, books, and academic databases. All stages of data collection, selection of literature, critical analysis, and synthesis of findings were conducted independently by the author to ensure consistency and coherence throughout the review. In addition, the author was responsible for drafting, revising, and finalizing the manuscript. Every argument and interpretation presented in this article reflects the author's own understanding and critical reflection on the reviewed literature. No other individual contributed directly to the writing or editing of this paper.

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Declaration of Conflicting Interests

The author hereby declares that there are no known financial, personal, or professional conflicts of interest that could have influenced the content, analysis, or conclusions presented in this literature review entitled "Implementation of English as a Communication Tool in Daily Life." This declaration includes, but is not limited to, the absence of any financial relationships with commercial entities, academic institutions, or organizations that might benefit from the publication of this work. Furthermore, the author affirms that there is no involvement in consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, or patent applications that may constitute a conflict of interest in the context of this research. The purpose of this review is solely academic, with the intent to contribute to the field of applied linguistics and English language education. All interpretations and evaluations are made independently, based on available scholarly sources and critical analysis.

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