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RESEARCH ARTICLE

THE USE OF ENGLISH IN NON ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRIES: THE CASE OF SENEGAL

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ABSTRACT

The use of English is growing worldwide as a direct consequence of globalization. This affects many sectors: business, military, science, education, the media and culture in general. Many states are taking actions to strengthen their national or local languages, while investing heavily in English language learning. Given its role on the world scene, English is now used as a foreign or second language in non-English speaking countries. It is the case of Senegal which is a former colony of France, where French has long been the language of education, commerce and the Media. However, with the recent development of tourism, Senegalese society is increasingly realizing the benefits of using English language, which is incontestably rated the most powerful language nowadays. This article focuses on the emergence of English in Senegal and seeks to highlight its use in the Senegalese society.

INTRODUCTION

For many years now English have been referred as a global language, as the language of communication and technology. English is first, the most prestigious and the most internationally used language in the world today. According to Crystal (1997), English has succeeded in imposing itself as the world's standard means of communication in areas such as international relations, the press, advertising, broadcasting, cinema, popular music, tourism, etc., to name only a few. In international relations, English is the official language of all the structures of the United Nations it is used by its organs, specialized agencies, regional committees and expert bodies. English is also used in the major international political gatherings and several scientific and sporting organizations. English is also the language of tourism, especially the tourist services. Transportation, accommodation, catering and most attractions everywhere use English. Of course, due to the role played in the world scene, English is today used as a foreign or second language in French speaking countries. This is the case of Senegal where English is winning more and more converts from the Francophone countries which, as claimed by Wardhaugh (1987:175), "are finding it necessary to link themselves to the English-speaking world" where French has long been the language of education, commerce and the Media. In the Senegalese educational field, English is compulsory for it is taught from first form up to the sixth. Even some schools integrate it in the childcare centers and basic schools and some university students continue to pursue English studies. Institutes that propose English courses for all levels happen to be more and more developing.

Professionals and adults are also interested by English particularly those working in international fields like tourism, culture, trade and education. Senegal can be a country of focus when dealing with the use of English in non-English speaking countries, where the language plays a great role in the domains of education, economics and culture. As a developing country, Senegal needs English to get in touch with external organizations to benefit from help and other privileges so as to improve its economic situation.

This article therefore seeks to investigate the use of English outside the English speaking countries by showing the circumstances in which the English language has emerged in Senegal and seeing whether its status reflects the reality of its functions within the community by investigating speakers' attitudes and practices.

ENGLISH OUTSIDE THE ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRIES

Talking about English in English non speaking countries is meaningful. In fact, English is one of the most important languages in the world. Nowadays, English is spoken all around the world even in countries where it has no special status (what linguist Braj Kachru calls the "expanding circle countries"). In addition Randolph Quirk (1985) says that: "It is the language on which the sun does not set, whose users never sleep". That is to say that English has become an international language of which gradual spread is noticeable everywhere and in all sectors. Knowing that English is the most important language that provides a mutual understanding, it is almost used in several countries. If languages are taken in the point of view of their number of speakers, English comes next to Chinese and Hindi. In the domain of communication, English is said to be the most powerful international language.

The socio-political, socio-economical and the socio-cultural factors contributed a lot to the expansion of English as a foreign or second language in the entire planet. English was expanded during the Second World War by the influence in East Asia, and the development in the Middle East of the United States of America. There is also a great role played by the government agencies in the propagation of English as the unofficial foreign language. In fact, the director of the United States Information Agency (U.S.I.A) defined its role as being to 'further the achievement of U.S policy objectives... by influencing public attitudes abroad in support of these objectives... through personal contact, Radio broadcasting, and others'¹ in 1963. Next to the (U.S.I.A), we can mention the Peace Corps, which have been using a large number of volunteers to teach English around the world. There are indeed others governments' agencies that participate a lot to spread the English language. The United Kingdom has also played a great role in the expansion of the language. For example let us take the function played by the British Council. In fact, this agency has offices in 86 countries, has 55 English teaching centres in 32 countries, maintains 116 libraries, recruits specialists for teaching and advisory posts, and organizes a vast number of exchange visits to and from Britain. Music and sport also are not at rest in that propagation of English.

English plays two important functions in outside English speaking countries: firstly, it is in the educational system; secondly, it is more and more used as a means of international communication, especially in trade and affairs. Therefore, the teaching of English as a foreign language becomes compulsory in English speaking or not countries; given that, people feel the necessity to learn it for it's a language of industry and banking and a language of common understanding between people. English plays an important role in the field of music in non-English speaking countries. In fact, young enjoys the English language even if they are illiteracy because of the American sounds and films they listen and watch through radios and videos. Today, in most outside English speaking countries, you can find writers, artists, doctors, physicians, politicians, economists and musicians who express themselves in English and use it in their writings. Of course, Wardhaugh (1987: 173) is not wrong when describing French and English, he states that: English is "the one with the greater external power"². That is to say that English language is gaining more and more followers in French speaking countries. As an illustration, we can take the example of Rwanda which, there is some years now, has chosen two official languages in occurrence French and English and as a result, we note two-digit economic growth. In a nutshell, English in the present time is more widely spread and is the chief language of more countries than other language is or ever has been.

THE EMERGENCE OF ENGLISH IN SENEGAL: The emergence of English in Senegal is said to be since the colonial conquest. In fact, English was being used from 1763 which corresponds to the arrival of British settlers in the isle of Saint-Louis. Twice the British occupied Saint-Louis. Saint-Louis was considered as being important because of its strategic position; who controlled the region had the control of the commerce along the River Senegal. It had been introduced by the sharing of African countries between Portuguese, French and English. The emergence of the English language was facilitated throughout the contact between the English settler and the local people. It was indeed, the British settlers that introduced the English language in Senegal for the needs of colonization. The British domination in Senegal is the most unsaid period in the history of the country due to the fact that two towns attracted the interest of the British: Saint-Louis and Gorée. Senegal was under British domination and this has left some cultural and linguistic consequences. Many English words are now deeply rooted in the Wolof language and nowadays it is taught as a foreign language in the country.

The emerging of Rap music, blues, and jazz, adopted by the Senegalese youth can explain the fact that loan words turn basically around sexuality, music and culture in general. The presence of English has been strengthened by the first appearance of American films, the birth of Rap music and its introduction in Education as a subject. The widespread expansion of English thanks to the economic, political, military and cultural domination of the English speaking world is another example of the introduction of English in Senegal. English language permits a global integration in many domains such as economic, cultural, commercial, and scientific. It is the reason why it had been introduced after the independence in secondary, high schools and universities. The fact that English represents the world's *lingua franca* makes Senegalese people give much more importance to it by learning, studying and following English courses. In fact, it is more and more needed in Senegal. This is due to the fact that most of Senegalese people are multilingual and are willing to learn another international language if the latter is of a great interest for them. Thus, English language Institutes and English language programs are developing. The spread of English in Senegal can help facilitate the economic integration and cooperation with other countries specially the United States. It is what Roger Budd, former Director of the British Council of Dakar early understands when he states in these words: "(There is) a growing need and demand for the English language (in Senegal)"³. All things considered, we can retain that English is being widely used in all spheres in Senegal. But what use is made of it? Here is a question on which we will try to bring answer by the end of the work.

REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

Various works have been conducted so far in the field but we will just select the most important as far as our topic is concerned. The first work that kept our attention is a book by Pierre Goudiaby Atepa entitled *Oser: Douze propositions pour un Sénégal émergent*. In this book, the author invites people to believe in something and to dare express it. It is in this sense that he gives a list of twelve (12) propositions he thinks that Senegal must adopt to emerge. Among these twelve propositions, the most important and central for this study is the proposition in which he sees the promotion of English as the second Senegalese Official language. As he puts in: "*Oser l'anglais comme deuxième langue officielle*"⁴. Of course, here Atepa invites Senegalese government to dare modify his language policy by promoting English as the second Official language. He continues by enumerating the advantages of such a choice. In other terms, English can't be ignored for developing countries for it the passport of development. Pierre Goudiaby Atepa goes further by saying that English has to be the language unifying United Nations of Africa. As an illustration, he states: "*Je vois personnellement l'anglais comme le future ciment des Etats-Unis d'Afrique*"⁵. To him, English can be the future cement of the United States of Africa. He then, views English as the key of political and economical integration of the African continent. He finishes his proposal appreciating the use of English in Senegalese media: "Je me réjouis d'ailleurs de ce que la Radiodiffusion Télévision Sénégalaise (RTS) ait une très bonne émission en anglais au titre évocateur: « *English lovers* »".

Another important work is that led by Maweja Mbaya, entitled *Pratiques et Attitudes Linguistiques dans l'Afrique d'Aujourd'hui: Le Cas du Sénégal*. In this book, Mbaya talks about language use in Africa and in Senegal in particular. He first views the presence of many foreign words in the speech of educated youth. In so doing, he gives the example of three young conversations (p.19). He secondly, puts the stress on the coexistence between foreign and local languages. As far as the foreign languages are concerned, Mbaya emphasizes on the French language (the official one) and English which comes to be the most important foreign language in Senegal after French. As he puts in:

¹Phillipson, Robert. *Linguistic Imperialism*. Oxford University Press, 1992 p158.

²Wardhaugh (1987:173) cited by Mbaya in *Pratiques et Attitudes Linguistiques dans l'Afrique d'Aujourd'hui : Le cas du Sénégal*, 2005.p95

³Roger Budd. *The British Council*. Dakar: n.d

⁴Pierre Goudiaby Atepa. 2012. *Oser: Douze propositions pour un Sénégal émergent*. Dakar: L'Harmattan-Sénégal. 2012. p 83

⁵Pierre Goudiaby Atepa. 2012. *Opcit*. p.89

“L’anglais (ANG) exerce 2 fonctions dans ce pays francophone: d’abord, il figure aux programmes d’enseignement secondaire, supérieur et universitaire (m); ensuite, il est de plus en plus utilisé comme moyen de communication internationale, notamment dans le commerce et les affaires (I)⁶”.

That is to say that English has two functions in Senegal: firstly, it is used in all level of the Senegalese educational system, and secondly, it is increasingly used as a means of international communication, particularly in trade and business. What is more, Mbaya dealt also with languages in contact by putting the stress on language conflict. Here, we will just recall the most interesting for this study which is the conflict between French and English. As an illustration, he states:

“Cette popularité croissante de l’anglais surtout dans les pays francophones est une des raisons de peur pour la communauté française dont les responsables en appellent à une action concertée des francophones du monde (Cheddadi 1996 : 35)” : ‘Il convient d’élaborer la meilleure réponse possible aux dangers actuelles d’uniformisation, d’envahissement et d’étouffement des autres langues par l’anglais.’⁷” This means that English is gaining more and more power in French speaking countries, hence the importance of this study.

The relatedness of English and Senegalese local languages is something real. In fact, comparative studies between English and Senegalese national languages have been dealt with. In the journal called “*Bridges*”, an article by Ndiassé Thiam depicts the contact between Wolof and English - “contact wolof-anglais et identification urbaine au Senegal⁸.” Thiam affirms that in Wolof there are many loan words from English, as a witness of a relationship that does exist between the two languages. Nevertheless, they are not at all easy to detect. The examples given are:

- “*Nebedaa*”/nebedaj/, which is a name of a tree and comes from “never die”/nevədai/
- “*Nadamaayin*” from never mind
- “*Bineegar*” from vinegar

He continues by saying that some words have totally lost their English origin, the word “*Pacax*”/patfax/, which comes from “Pretty”/preti/, can be a good illustration. He also gives a list of incontestable English words that are used today by many Wolof speakers, and mostly by the youth. The presence of these words in the Wolof language is due to the contact between the English settlers and the local people during colonial times. Many English words are used in Senegalese local languages (without talking about that of Gambia); the next three words are among the 1500 words that are most frequent in Wolof: *futbal* “football” *fifin* “fifteen” *gel* “girl”. We can also notice that the Anglo-American has let an impact in the Wolof spoken in Dakar (since the Second World War) and that, the “*franglais*” and other effects of the Anglo-Americano can be mentioned in Senegal. In the linguistics field, many English words are today deeply rooted in the Wolof language, and many are the native speakers who ignore their English origin.

As far as dissertations are concerned, Cherif Moulaye Ly worked on “A Study of the Emergence of English in Senegal: A case of study”. In his dissertation, Ly deals by showing the impact of English on the country. He pursues by keeping our attention on the contact between English and local languages, the most important of which is Wolof but also its contact with foreign languages such as French. Ly then talks about the importance of the language in the official sector by emphasizing on English as a key in employment requirements and talking about the teaching of English in Senegal; he states that “the principal place where people learn English remains the schools”⁹. He finishes his work doing an analysis of English and the Senegalese

society characterized by his findings in the field work. As one can see, this dissertation proved to be very informative in relation with ours. The importance of English is unquestionable today even in former French colonies. However, we can stress that actually Ly didn’t deal with differences in language usage in a French speaking country but also didn’t emphasize on the domains of use of English language. He didn’t put the stress on speaker’s attitudes and practices toward the language. And there in lays the differences between his work and ours. An early dissertation produced in 1995 by Astou Diop deals with “Wolof Borrowings from English: A Phonetic and Semantic Analysis”. In her work, Diop sets up a list of forty Wolof words that have an English origin as she explains. Historical background of Wolof and English and their description and comparison, followed by a phonetic and semantic analysis of the borrowings was mainly her work. She emphasized on the use of English terms by Wolof speakers. As a result most of loan words have undergone changes because of some socio-linguistic incompatibilities. All things considered, we have from the studies above learnt much about the spread of English throughout the world. One of the most important consequences is its contact with Senegalese local languages and Wolof in particular. What makes our topic an original and interesting one is that none of the works dealt with it. This work is meant to provide a better understanding of the use of English in Senegal by analysing the obtained answers.

THE USE OF ENGLISH IN THE SENEGALESE SOCIETY

About data collection: The data analysed in this article were collected as a result of the field work which was carried out in two phases. The first is a library research that permitted to review the emergence of English in Senegal. The second phase corresponds to the collection of data; this was done through questionnaires and short interviews with young people, and old persons (men and women) who have a fairly good knowledge of the use of English in Senegal. 33 people were involved in this study. The data were collected in the town of Dakar and Saint Louis (Senegal), and the informants were selected among people working in Enterprises (whether public or private), people in Language Institutes, people from the informal sector (antique dealers, tourist guides, and receptionists), people evolving in culture, and people from the media. Accessibility was the main criterion for the choice of the informants and most of them were interviewed in Wolof. The respondents had to react on the following questions:

- Do you speak English?
- Where have you learnt it?
- Do you use English in your work environment?
- How often do you use English?
- What are the domains of use of the English language?

Report and interpretation of the findings

Description of foreign languages used by the respondents: To the first question: What are the foreign languages used in your close circle? The majority of the people interviewed answered French, English, Spanish, and Arabiceven if some of them added languages such as Bambara, Dutch, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Chinese, Creole, Haoussa and Lingala. The chart below illustrates the point.

Table 1. The foreign languages used by the informants

Answer	Number	Percentage %
French	30	35.29
English	21	24.70
Spanish	13	15.29
Arabic	6	7.05
Bambara	3	3.52
Dutch	3	3.52
Italian	2	2.35
Portuguese	2	2.35
Russian	1	1.17
Chinese	1	1.17
Creole	1	1.17
Haoussa	1	1.17
Lingala	1	1.17
Total	85	99.92

⁶Maweja Mbaya. *Pratiques et Attitudes Linguistiques dans l’Afrique d’Aujourd’hui : Le cas du Sénégal*. 2005. p41

⁷Cheddadi (1996:35) cited by Mbaya in *Pratiques et Attitudes Linguistiques dans l’Afrique d’Aujourd’hui : Le cas du Sénégal*, 2005.p97

⁸English: Wolof-English contact and urban identification in Senegal.

⁹Cherif Moulaye Ly. “A study of the emergence of English in Senegal: A case of Study”. Mémoire de maîtrise, Saint-Louis: UGB. 2002. p30.

We have chosen to begin with the languages used by the informants in their close circle because it can enlighten the place English occupies in the country. As it is shown on this table, the language that comes first in the domain of usage is French with about 35% of the respondents, thereafter comes English with about 25%, Spanish with 15%, Arabic with 7%, and then Bambara and Dutch with 3% each. The other languages do not have a great impact in the language repertoire of the informants. It is obvious that Senegalese people use more French among the foreign languages because of the fact that it represents the official language. That is to say that it is used everywhere in the country. As for the English language, the fact that it is the most taught language (7 years at least) and used in many domains after French explains the reason why it comes in the second position. Concerning Spanish, it is a language used as a discipline in schools and universities but also there are many Senegalese people who emigrated in Spain and the contact with Spanish people make them master the language. As far as Arabic is concerned, it is taught as a facultative subject in Senegalese schools and universities. Arabic is also used in the domain of Islam. It is not only used for Koranic courses but also for preaching. This gives it a loyalty knowing that most of Senegalese people are Muslims even if most of them have any basic knowledge in Arabic. The other languages for their parts do not have a great impact in language use among the respondents even if some of them are taught in schools. It is the case of Dutch, Portuguese, Italian, Russian and Chinese.

Percentage of English' speakers: This question was asked to determine the number of speakers of English among the informants. In fact, it is of a great importance in the results of the study. Here is what we found:

Table 2. The informants who speak English

Answer	Number	Percentage %
YES	21	63.63
NO	12	36.36
Total	33	99.99

The study reveals that about 64% of the informants altogether speak English and that 36% do not. The 64% represents given kinds of English speakers depending on their professions. The majority of the informants master it because they are exposed to the English language. Even if most of them have learnt it at schools (cf. table 3), there are others who master it without being at school. There every day's contact with the language made them master the language. Among them, we can cite artists, traders, foreign exchange dealers, receptionists, and sportsmen. For example, many Senegalese artists use English words in their songs for; singing in English can help them gain international reputation. Indeed, according to Baaba Maal: "Si on veut collaborer avec le reste du monde, il faut apprendre l'anglais"¹⁰.

The cultural dominance of English drives many actors to speak this language. Its use is often motivated by an Americanisation of the actors' lifestyle, which necessarily involves recourse to English, even if its use is reduced to a few codic alternations. As we can see from the words of Mawéja Mbaya: "*La percée de l'anglais au Sénégal se manifeste dans les activités culturelles, spécialement dans le domaine de la musique et de la danse*"¹¹ However, it is important to point out that the English spoken by these people is not used alone and has a particular form of expression. In fact, "Ce qui fait la spécificité du répertoire lexical des artistes c'est le mélange entre les langues, plus particulièrement la présence fréquente de mots anglais dans leurs discours. La présence des mots anglais dans les langues locales, le wolof en premier est de plus en plus conséquente. Ceci est synonyme d'ouverture de la langue wolof à d'autres langues, notamment l'anglais"¹². The 36% represents those who do not speak English at all. Most of them are illiterate, the others early left school.

Some of them do not even speak French. Most of them are workers from the informal sector.

Places of English language study: The majority of the people interviewed say to have learnt English at school; the others learnt it in other circumstances such as the contact with foreigners, during journeys, self-taught, in the streets and in places where it is frequently spoken. As for the rest of the informants, they neither spoke it nor learnt it.

Table 3. The place of study of the English language

Answer	Number	Percentage %
Schools	15	71.42
Others	6	28.57
Total	21	99.99

As it is shown on this table, 71% of the respondents admit to have learnt English at schools. In fact, schools constitute the best mean to spread a language. As far as Senegal is concerned, a great power is given to the language in schools because apart from French it is the only foreign language that is taught at least 7 years. The majority of those who represents the 29% learnt it in other circumstances such as the contact with foreigners, during journeys, self-taught, in the streets and in places where it is frequently spoken.

Enterprises' exposure to the English language: Most of the respondents are exposed to English language in workplaces. This fact is illustrated by the table below.

Table 4. The use of English in the informants' work environment

Answer	Number	Percentage %
YES	18	54.54
NO	15	45.45
Total	33	99.99

The use of English is widely spread in workplaces. In fact, about 55% of the informants use it at work for diverse purposes. For example in private as well in public enterprises, people use. For example in private as well in public enterprises, people use it as a tool for exploring some documents, exchanging, data processing, publishing and translating. In other sectors, it is mainly used for communication. For instance, English seems to be the language that meets those requirements to day for if you don't know English, you are in danger of being excluded from what's going on in education, at work and particularly in the world of technological advances. To quote Crystal, "it is the language in the right place at the right time"¹³. 45% of the people interviewed do not use it at work, despite of the fact that some of them are able to express themselves in English. They are people from some enterprises, informal sector and people from local press as well.

Frequency of English usage: As far as the frequency of English usage is concern, the study reveals that English is used occasionally by these people. The following table confirms the point.

Table 5. The frequency of use of the English language

Answer	Number	Percentage
Currently	4	12.12
Occasionally	11	33.33
Rarely	6	18.18
Never	12	36.36
Total	33	99.99

As this table shows 36% of the respondents neither speak English nor use it because of not being exposed to the language. As for the 33%, they occasionally use English. This indicates that English is generally used in given occasions. This frequent presence of English among the respondents can be explained by the importance played by the

¹⁰Sud Quotidien. 1998 : 7

¹¹Mawéja Mbaya. Opcit. p97

¹²Daouda Ndiaye. *Pratiques et représentations linguistiques dans le rap, le mbalax, le téléfilm et la lutte dans le Sénégal contemporain*. 2022. p.287

¹³ David Crystal. Opcit. pl 10

language worldwide. Those using it rarely represent the 18%. Let us clarify that the fact that they rarely use English do not mean that do not master it; but it is due to the fact that Senegal is a French speaking country where French is more used. The 12% represents the people who can't help but use English. Most of them are English students and teachers, French and English bilingual schools, rap musician, and international sportsmen. It is their work environment that demands the use of the English language.

Domains of use of English language: Thanks to its status as an international language, English holds an important place in Senegalese national curriculum. In fact, it is used in almost everywhere and in all sectors, as the table below shows:

Table 6. The domains of use of English

Answer	Number	Percentage %
Education and Professional Training	31	15.55
Culture	25	12.56
NTIC	22	11.05
NGO	20	10.05
Scientific Research	18	9.04
Diplomacy	17	8.54
Public and Private Enterprises	16	8.04
Multinational	14	7.03
Finance	11	5.52
Administration	9	4.52
Industry	9	4.52
Informal sector	7	3.51
Total	199	99.93

The investigation of the sectors where English is more used reveals that Education and Professional Training comes first with 16% of the persons interviewed. In fact, it happens to be more important because of the fact that schools, institutes; universities are the places of study of the language. As for Culture which occupies the second place with 13%, it plays an essential role from an international point of view. Of course, the increasing interest manifested towards English at the expense of French in Senegal is mostly encountered in cultural activities such as those involving popular music and other forms of entertainment. In national as well as in international curriculum, these domains represent great moments of appointment where the language is used as a *lingua franca*. The third place is occupied by NTIC. In fact, a country can't be developed without paying attention to communication which is the most important tool to promote oneself. Because English is the language of international communication, it is very used in computer science and Medias. NGO (10%) and Scientific Research (9%) come respectively in the fourth and fifth place on the table. In fact, working for a sustainable development of Africa, Nongovernmental organizations use much the English language. As for Scientific Research, most researchers prefer to write or publish in English now since to them, English represents all that is new and scientific. It is also beneficial to them to write in English to reach as many readers as possible. As far as Diplomacy (9%), Enterprises (8%), and Multinational (7%) are concerned, they represent the next domain where English is present. Being domains that entertain good relations with foreign countries, English is well used during their meetings because of knowing that some of the decisions makers do not speak French. The others domains such as Finance (6%), Administration (5%), Industry (5%), and the Informal sector (4%) are also important sectors where the language is used even though next to the others, they are not up to it. According to Mbaya, "there is a need for a trained cadre capable of using English in foreign affairs, in trade, in banking, in tourism, industry or in agriculture. This need is felt in many settings: professional meetings, formal and non-formal discussions, telephone conversations, letter writing, electronic mail, etc"¹⁴.

DISCUSSION

Here, I am going to comment on the most notable results obtained in this study. As stated early, the main purpose of this present research paper was to investigate the use made of English in Senegal. Thanks to the data provided by the questionnaires and interviews, we made some noteworthy findings on the framework. In the official sector, the government is laying an increasing emphasis on the learning of English. That is the reason why they created a national commission for English in charge of controlling and establishing the programme taught in schools. In the cultural domain, English is playing an important role. Many Senegalese artists speak or use English words in their productions because the language is much appreciated. The use of English is widely spread among Senegalese enterprises. It is used also in the informal sector. The field of press is not a rest. For instance, it is used in the Senegalese national TV RTS1 and more and more televisions use it now. The place where English have any influence in Senegal is the domain of Islam where national languages, the most important Wolof are mostly used. In brief something that cannot be denied today is the important place that English has gained in this country.

There is an urgent need for English in Senegal. People want to learn English and train themselves. Globalization being relatively a new phenomenon of multidimensional nature that puts variety of complex trends in the economic, social and cultural fabrics in all societies, people need to communicate by using a particular language as *lingua franca* when they meet. In this respect, English is inescapable and plays the role of *lingua franca* at the global level. English is also used for more purposes than ever before. Everywhere, it is at the forefront of technological and scientific development, new thinking in economics and management, new literature and entertainment genres. The expansion of English can also be seen in communication, the Internet and the development of E-learning. Socio-political, socio-economic and socio-cultural factors have contributed greatly to the expansion of English as a foreign or second language worldwide. Government agencies have also played an important role in the spread of English as a non-official foreign language. Music and sport have not been left behind in the spread of English. Most young people have now adopted the way they speak, dress and act through the emergence of rap music and sports such as basketball.

Globalisation demands openness from every people. Yet the English language has come to dominate not only in scientific research and technological innovation, in global political and economic governance, but also and above all in culture. Senegalese people who participate in the rendez-vous of giving and receiving all around the world are obliged to perfect their English or simply to learn this language if they do not want to miss the train of history. It is therefore necessary to recognise that the majority of Senegalese people try to speak English: it is not only the most widely spoken language in the world, but it also concentrates most of the scientific, technological and cultural heritage of humanity. To this end, as Wardhaugh (1987: 165) claims, English, rather than French, appears to be a language of greater value in Senegal.

There is more and more awareness on the national level that it is the means by which different countries have to employ to raise their voices and put forward their claims and demands on the world forum. It is the language of prestige and progress which is surely winning converts from French in the Francophone countries of Africa and Senegal in particular. Since each language conveys a vision of the world, a culture, and diverse knowledge, multilingualism is now indispensable to any form of integration. A polyglot is always more cultured than one who is a prisoner of a single language: each language opens up a universe of meaning and values that cultivates more and frees its speakers from the narrow prisms of the absolute imperialism of a single language that condemns them to the calamity of a single culture. Insofar as Senegalese national languages do not yet have the international standing that the country needs, it is imperative to invest in the development of English.

¹⁴Mawéja Mbaya. English Language Programmes for the Development of West African Industry and Commerce: the Case of Université Gaston Berger. In *Parole essentielle. Mélanges offerts à Ferdinand Diara*. UCAD/FLSH, Département de Lettres Modernes. 2000. p125

Cultural realism and pan-Africanism nowadays incline to give a more important place to English both in education and in the country's cultural production. Promoting the English language and the culture it conveys would certainly be a resolute option to give Senegalese youth more opportunities in this world more than ever dominated by competitiveness. Aware of this, Senegalese people are increasingly expressing themselves in English in order to benefit from the privileges that this language can offer them internationally.

CONCLUSION

To sum up, we can say that talking about the use of English in non-English speaking countries like that of Senegal is very significant. In fact, nowadays, English occupies an important place in the world scene and mainly in outside English speaking countries. It is incontestably the most important and the most powerful language which has influences in almost all around the world. In a country like Senegal, it is being used entirely in all spheres of the society. English has become the universal language of use that allows people of different societies to be on a mutual understanding. If you speak English today, no matter where you are, you will find someone with whom to discuss. English has become a need in countries like Senegal mainly in the domain of education, culture, NTIC and business institutions. The study reveals that English has a great power in the field of education and professional training as well as in scientific researches. In private and public enterprises, the mastering of English is essential. In fact the word English is almost mentioned in all recruiting notices. The use of English in Senegalese culture is gaining more and more power. English is the most predominant language within the framework of the so-called "Global Culture". Indeed, being among the most important domains in which Senegal counts to develop itself, people evolving there cannot fully work without using the English language. It is case of sectors such as tourism, music and sports. In the field of Medias, its use is also important due to the fact that they are in mutual contact with the language. This role played by English in the Senegalese society brings some people to wonder if it isn't the time to promote it as the second official language. To this question, a low number of people think that the officialising of English will push away the linguistic bolt. This viewpoint is shared by Atepa who defends the idea that Senegal must adopt English language as a second official one to emerge. He sees English language as a political act that Senegal must exploit to develop itself. That is to say that its choice depends on a major political act, the gain of English language revalorization. Of course, the fact that English is the language of the future; and that Senegal is geographically closer to the first power i.e. USA and the fact that English is the language of international communication are given as arguments. The majority of people put forward the idea that the national languages such as Wolof should be officialised because not only this language is widely spread in the Senegalese country but also it is easier to use a national language to develop the country than a foreign one.

Then, it is up to the Senegalese government to take decisions as it is fitting in this sense. Appropriation is neither "good" nor "bad", it is a neutral procedure. Thus English can be appropriated by Senegalese people so as to fully participate in international great debates and be among the decisions makers. I will finish my work not with a definite conclusion but with a sense of wonder about those speaking English alongside other languages; they will outnumber the first language speakers and, increasingly, will decide the global future of the language.

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