



REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

- Why is it difficult to compile accurate statistics about English speakers? What are the possible reasons for statistical discrepancies?
- Is there a threat of the native-speakers' cultural domination?
- What categories are linguists trying to rely on as a basis for discussing diversity and change of English? Are those categories useful for linguistic descriptions of English(es) or mere idealizations?
- Why do you think the worldwide spread of English can cause a considerable debate? Is the spread of English beneficial? Or is it a treat to local languages and cultures?
- Why do many countries (like Nigeria, Ghana), where English is used as a second language, not select a local language for the official use but give a priority to English?
- Taking into consideration an impressive and still rapidly growing number of the users of English as a foreign tongue, do you agree that it is not the number of the mother-tongue speakers that makes a language important in the eyes of the world but the extent to which language is found useful?
- In the Middle Ages, Latin was indisputably holding a position of the language of learning in Europe. What massive social changes have given the way to English? Fashion? Economic fortune? Political power? Other? What has enormously motivated the dominance of English in world communication?
- Which countries have English as an official language?
- Are there national varieties of English?
- What is the difference between a native language and an official language? Between a second language and a foreign language?
- What is a pluricentric, or polycentric, language?
- What two varieties are the most commonly taught in the education systems where English is taught as a second language?
- What countries have their own well-established standard varieties of English which are far more rarely taught overseas to second language learners?
- Do you think it is important to speak English today? Why?