# Самостійна робота. МУДЛ платформа.

# 1. Can English remain the 'world's favourite' language?

By Robin Lustig Presenter, The Future of English, BBC World Service

English is spoken by hundreds of millions of people worldwide, but do the development of translation technology and "hybrid" languages threaten its status?

Which country boasts the most English speakers, or people learning to speak English?

The answer is China.

According to a study published by Cambridge University Press, up to 350 million people there have at least some knowledge of English - and at least another 100 million in India.

There are probably more people in China who speak English as a second language than there are Americans who speak it as their first. (A fifth of Americans speak a language other than English in their own homes.)

But for how much longer will English qualify as the "world's favourite language"? The World Economic Forum estimates about 1.5 billion people around the world speak it - but fewer than 400 million have it as their first language.

Of course, there is more than one English, even in England. In the historic port city of Portsmouth, for example, the regional dialect - Pompey - is still very much in use, despite the challenges from new forms of online English and American English.

English is the world's favourite lingua franca - the language people are most likely to turn to when they don't share a first language. Imagine, for example, a Chinese speaker who speaks no French in conversation with a French speaker who speaks no Chinese. The chances are that they would use English.

Five years ago, perhaps. But not any more. Thanks to advances in computer translation and voice-recognition technology, they can each speak their own language, and hear what their interlocutor is saying, machine-translated in real time.

So English's days as the world's top global language may be numbered. To put it at its most dramatic: the computers are coming, and they are winning.

You are probably reading this in English, the language in which I wrote it. But with a couple of clicks on your computer, or taps on your tablet, you could just as easily be reading it in German or Japanese. So why bother to learn English if computers can now do all the hard work for you?

At present, if you want to do business internationally, or play the latest video games, or listen to the latest popular music, you're going to have a difficult time if you don't speak any English. But things are changing fast.

At Stanford University, in California, Wonkyum Lee, a South Korean computer scientist, is helping to develop translation and voice-recognition technology that will be so good that when you call a customer service helpline, you won't know whether you're talking to a human or a computer.

Christopher Manning, professor of machine learning, linguistics and computer science at the same institution, insists there is no reason why, in the very near future, computer translation technology can't be as good as, or better than, human translators.

But this is not the only challenge English is facing. Because so many people speak it as their second or third language, hybrid forms are spreading, combining elements of "standard" English with vernacular languages. In India alone, you can find Hinglish (Hindi-English), Benglish (Bengali-English) and Tanglish (Tamil-English).

In the US, many Hispanic Americans, with their roots in Central and South America, speak Spanglish, combining elements from English and the language of their parents and grandparents.

Language is more than a means of communication. It is also an expression of identity - telling us something about a person's sense of who they are. The San Francisco poet Josiah Luis Alderete, who writes in Spanglish, calls it the "language of resistance", a way for Hispanic Americans to hold on to - and express pride in - their heritage, even if they were born and brought up in the US.

English owes its global dominance to being the language of what until recently were two of the world's most powerful nations: the US and the UK. But now, especially with the rise of China as an economic superpower, the language is being challenged.

If you are an ambitious young jobseeker in sub-Saharan Africa, you might be better off learning Mandarin Chinese and looking for work in China than relying on your school-level English and hoping for a job in the US or UK.

In the US itself, learning Chinese is becoming increasingly popular. In 2015, it was reported that the number of school students studying the language had doubled in two years and, at college level, there had been a 50% rise over the past decade.

In Uganda, however, all secondary schools must conduct classes entirely in English, and some parents teach their young children English as their first language. In many parts of the world, English is still regarded as a passport to success.

So is the future of English at risk? I don't think so, although its global dominance may well diminish over the coming decades. Like all languages, it is constantly changing and adapting to new needs. Until recently, "text" and "friend" were simple nouns. Now, they are also verbs, as in "I'll text you," or "Why don't you friend me?"

Computerised translation technology, the spread of hybrid languages, the rise of China - all pose real challenges. But I continue to count myself immensely fortunate to have been born in a country where I can cherish and call my own the language of Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton and Dickens, even though the language I call English is very different from theirs.

2. https://www.bbc.com/worklife/article/20190401-why-worthless-humanities-degrees-may-set-you-up-for-life

### BBC, 2019 December 29. Humanities degrees may set you up for life. Amanda Ruggeri.

Today, a degree is all but a necessity for the job market. Learning for the sake of learning is a beautiful thing. But **given those costs**, it’s no wonder that most of us need our degrees to **pay off** in a more concrete way. Broadly, they already do: in the US, for example, a bachelor’s degree holder **gets $461 more each week** than someone who never attended a university. The ability to communicate and **get along with people, and understand what’s on other people’s minds**, and do full-strength **critical** **thinking** – all of these things were valued and appreciated by everyone as important job skills, except the media. George Anders is convinced we have the humanities in particular all wrong. This realisation led him to write his appropriately-titled book “You Can Do Anything: The Surprising Power Of a “Useless” Liberal Arts Education”.

Take a look at the skills employers say **they’re after**. The three most-wanted “**soft** **skills**” were **creativity, persuasion and collaboration,** while one of the five top “**hard** **skills**” was people management. As computers behave more like humans, the social sciences and humanities will **become even more important**. **Languages**, art, history, economics, ethics, philosophy, psychology and human development courses can teach **critical, philosophical and ethics-based skills that will be instrumental in** the development and management of AI solutions.Of course, it goes without saying that you can be an excellent communicator and critical thinker without a liberal arts degree. And any good university education, not just one in English or psychology, should sharpen these abilities further. “Any degree will give you very important generic skills like being able to write, being able to **present an argument**, research, problem-solve, teamwork, becoming familiar with technology,” says Dublin-based educational consultant and career coach. But few courses of study are quite as **heavy on** reading, writing, speaking and critical thinking as the liberal arts, in particular the humanities – whether that’s by debating other students in a seminar, writing a thesis paper or **analysing poetry**.

“**Creativity, curiosity and empathy**,” he says. “Empathy is usually the biggest one. That doesn’t just mean feeling sorry for people with problems. It means an ability to understand the needs and wants of a **diverse** group of people. But in general, say Anders and others, the benefit of a humanities degree **is the emphasis it puts on** teaching students to think, **critique** and **persuade** – often in **the grey areas where there isn’t much data available or you need to work out what to believe**. And while **there’s often an assumption** that the careers humanities graduates **pursue** just aren’t as good as the jobs **snapped up** by, say, engineers or medics, that **isn’t the case**.

**This isn’t to say** that a liberal arts degree is the easy road. “A lot of the people I talked to were five or 10 years into their career, and there was a sense that the first year **was bumpy**, and it **took a while** to find their footing,” Anders says. “But as things **played out**, it did **tend to work**.”For some graduates, the initial challenge was not knowing what they wanted to do with their lives. For others, it was not having acquired as many technical skills with their degree. Pursuing a more **vocational degree** can come with its own risks too. Not every teenager knows exactly what they want to do with their lives, and our career aspirations often change over time. Focusing on broadly applicable skills like **critical** **thinking** no longer seems like such **a moon shot** when you consider how many different jobs and industries they **can be applied to**. Whatever a student pursues in university, it must be something that they **aren’t just good at, but they really enjoy.“** That’s why I think doing something that really interests you is essential – because that’s when **you’re going to do well**,” she says. No matter what, making a degree or career path **decision based on average salaries isn’t a good move**. “Financial success is not a good reason. It tends to be a very poor reason,” Mangan says. “**Be successful at something and money will follow**, as opposed to the other way around. Focus on doing the stuff that you love that you’ll be so **enthusiastic about**, **people will want to give you a job**. Then go and develop within that job.”**This speaks to a broader point.** It’s not as if most of us have an equal amount of passion and **aptitude** for, say, accounting and art history. Plenty of people know what they love most. They just don’t know if they should **pursue** it. Mangan says: “There is only one expert. I’m the expert on me, you’re the expert on you, they’re the expert on themselves,” she says. “And nobody, I really mean nobody, can tell them how to do what they should be doing.”

# 3. https://p.dw.com/p/3dqb9

# DW. 17.06.2020. Клара Нак. ЄС без слів. Як коронавірус змінив роботу перекладачів у Брюсселі.

Через пандемію COVID-19 заходи, які проводили відомства ЄС, скасували. Тому перекладачі у Брюсселі залишилися без роботи і тепер вимушені боротися за виживання.

**Робота припинилася раптово.** Відтоді як особисті зустрічі призупинились через заборону подорожей та заходи соціального дистанціювання, Штейнс втратив усі свої замовлення від ЄС. Зазвичай близько 1500 самозайнятих перекладачів роблять близько половини перекладів під час інтенсивних пленарних тижнів. Ті ж нечасті заходи, які [у часи коронавірусу](https://www.dw.com/uk/70-ту-річницю-свого-заснування-єс-відзначає-онлайн-через-коронавірус/a-53377543) відбуваються онлайн, повністю забирають собі штатні перекладачі. Самозайняті спеціалісти раптом залишилися без замовлень, а значить - джерела доходів, і тепер не знають, що їм готує майбутнє у недешевому для життя Брюсселі. За оцінками Єврокомісії, зараз існує потреба лише у 20 відсотках від звичайних обсягів перекладацької роботи.

У цій непростій ситуації Міжнародна профспілка перекладачів (AIIC) взяла на себе переговори із європейськими інституціями. Але у підсумку перекладачі отримали мінімальну пропозицію, яка не залишала вибору. ЄС пропонує одноразову виплату у 1300 євро, які самозайняті перекладачі потім муситимуть відпрацювати на заходах протягом трьох днів, коли робота у Брюсселі повернеться до норми. Але коли це станеться, ніхто не знає. Повернення до нормальної перекладацької роботи може не відбутися навіть до січня 2021 року.

Після десятків років роботи [перекладачі](https://www.dw.com/uk/не-престижна-робота-перекладача/a-2931332) обурені такою неприйнятною пропозицією. При цьому саме ЄС, який намагається подавати себе як захисника соціальних прав, обходиться зі своїми самозайнятими працівниками так погано, фактично не допомагаючи їм врятуватися від падіння у економічну безодню. "Я відхилила цю пропозицію, бо відчула себе приниженою", - сказала Деррер, але багато її колег вважають так само. Вони вимагають рішення за прикладом деяких держав ЄС, де самозайняті працівники отримають місячні доплати. Але є й надія на покращення ситуації. Єврокомісія працює над тим, аби створити технічні передумови для багатомовного перекладу онлайн-засідань у дистанційному режимі, заявив Балаш Уйварі. Якщо це буде зроблено, самозайняті перекладачі знову зможуть отримати доступ до замовлень у найближчі місяці.

**Напружена та важка робота.** Той, хто хоче перекладати для ЄС, потребує одразу кілька вищих освіт та має постійно працювати над своїми знаннями та навичками. Деррер розповідає, що вона додатково бере три місяці неоплачуваної "відпустки" щороку, аби й далі поглиблювати свої мовні знання. Це стосується, зокрема, постійного вивчення маси професійних термінів, які з'являються у робочих мовах перекладача. Коли лідери урядів сперечаються щодо бюджету ЄС, перекладачі мусять знати що значить MFF (multiannual financial framework, або багаторічні фінансові рамки. - Ред.) кожною з мов. А засідання у Європейському суді вимагають всебічних знань юридичної лексики. Перекладачі мусять дбати про те, аби кожен присутній усе розумів, а лідери держав та урядів могли говорити рідною мовою. Тому, коли італійський прем'єр-міністр Джузеппе Конте під час боротьби за нову допомогу на тлі епідемії коронавірусу починає лаятися, перекладач мусить якомога швидше дослівно це перекладати.