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D. Crystal. The Future of English

1. While speaking on the podcast use the following words and phrases. Reconstruct the contexts in which they are used:

*Tongue in cheek, naughtily, in terms of laziness, efficient way to communicate, short cuts, formal footing, leave out "b" in "debt", magic, trend, underlying feeling, tide, the rate of acceleration is growing up, the centre of gravity has shifted, numbers count in language, moot point, caveat is my middle name, to nip at the heels of English, big players, melting pot, phonetically scripted language, to take off, money talks, language competent (computers), person-to-person translation, spontaneous spoken and written translation.*

2. Answer the following questions:

- *What are the possible future developments in English in terms of pronunciation?*
- *What are the lexico-grammatical tendencies in present day English?*
- *What are the underlying causes of the aforesaid developments?*
- *What are the estimates as to the number of people speaking English?*
- *In what way has the linguistic centre of gravity shifted and why?*
- *What is the role of English in business, internet, scientific communication?*
- *What are the prospects for digital spontaneous translation?*
- *Can English change beyond comprehension in future? Could Shakespeare understand the English of today?*