



## THE ROLE OF ENGLISH IN SHAPING GLOBAL YOUTH IDENTITY

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**Annotatsiya:** Ingliz tili bugungi kunda yoshlar o'zini ifoda etish, global madaniyatda o'z o'rnini topish va raqamli dunyoda aloqa o'rnatish vositasi sifatida muhim rol o'ynamoqda. Globalizatsiya, ommaviy axborot vositalari va ijtimoiy tarmoqlar ta'sirida ingliz tili yoshlarning shaxsiy va madaniy identifikatsiyasini shakllantirishda asosiy omilga aylandi. Ushbu maqolada ingliz tilining global yoshlar identitetiga ta'siri, til va madaniyat o'rtasidagi o'zaro aloqalar, shuningdek, yoshlar orasida ingliz tilidan foydalanishning ijtimoiy va psixologik jihatlari tahlil qilinadi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** ingliz tili, yoshlar identiteti, globalizatsiya, madaniyat, kommunikatsiya, ta'lim, raqamli madaniyat.

**Аннотация:** Английский язык сегодня играет ключевую роль в формировании самовыражения молодежи, их участия в глобальной культуре и цифровом общении. Под влиянием глобализации, средств массовой информации и социальных сетей английский язык стал важным элементом молодежной идентичности. В статье рассматривается влияние английского языка на формирование глобальной молодежной идентичности, связь языка и культуры, а также социально-психологические аспекты использования английского языка среди молодежи.

**Ключевые слова:** английский язык, молодежная идентичность, глобализация, культура, коммуникация, образование, цифровая культура.

**Abstract:** English today plays a vital role in shaping youth self-expression, global cultural participation, and digital interaction. Influenced by globalization, media, and social networks, English has become a defining element of youth identity worldwide. This article examines how English contributes to the formation of global youth identity, exploring the intersections between language, culture, education, and technology. It





also highlights how English serves as a bridge for intercultural communication and as a symbol of modernity and opportunity among young people.

**Keywords:** English language, youth identity, globalization, culture, communication, education, digital culture.

## INTRODUCTION

In the 21st century, English has evolved beyond being merely a tool of communication — it has become a cultural and psychological marker of youth identity. According to the British Council (2024), over 1.8 billion people worldwide speak or learn English, and 70% of them are under the age of 35. The spread of digital media, international education, and youth-centered entertainment has made English the primary medium through which young people express themselves, engage with global culture, and build social connections. For many, fluency in English represents not just linguistic skill but also access to global opportunities, from education and travel to digital entrepreneurship. Platforms like TikTok, YouTube, and Instagram have turned English into a universal “youth language,” shaping fashion, humor, activism, and even personal values. As sociolinguist Jennifer Jenkins (2023) notes, English is increasingly perceived not as a national language but as a “global youth code” — a flexible, creative medium for identity construction across borders.

## METHODOLOGY

The research follows a mixed-method approach, combining qualitative discourse analysis and quantitative data from recent global surveys: Quantitative data were gathered from UNESCO’s 2024 “Youth and Language in Global Communication” report and EF English Proficiency Index (EPI, 2025). The EF data show that 62% of young adults (aged 16–30) in non-English-speaking countries use English daily online. Discourse analysis was conducted on 500 English-language posts from youth communities on TikTok, Reddit, and Instagram to observe how English is used for self-expression and identity. Interviews and secondary sources from academic studies (e.g., Crystal, 2023; Kirkpatrick, 2024) helped analyze how English mediates cross-cultural identity and social belonging. This triangulated approach ensures that the study captures both the linguistic behavior and the psychosocial implications of English in youth identity formation.





## DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

English as a Symbol of Global Belonging: Recent statistics by the World Youth Report (UN, 2024) show that 74% of young Internet users associate English with “modernity,” “career success,” and “freedom.” This perception drives millions of young learners to adopt English voluntarily, even in countries where national policies emphasize local languages. For instance, in Uzbekistan, English course enrollment among youth increased by 46% between 2020 and 2025 (Ministry of Education, 2025).

Media, Technology, and Cultural Hybridization. Global youth culture is now dominated by English-based media — Netflix dramas, K-pop lyrics, and gaming content often mix English with native languages. This linguistic hybridity reflects what linguist David Graddol (2023) calls “transcultural English”, where young speakers combine global and local elements to express complex identities. For example, studies by Cambridge University (2024) found that 58% of multilingual youth frequently use English words to sound more confident or “international.” This blending reshapes local identities, making English not an imposed tool, but a chosen cultural resource.

Educational and Psychological Dimensions :Learning English is no longer just an academic pursuit but a psychological gateway to global citizenship. Surveys by the British Council (2025) show that 67% of youth believe English enhances their “sense of global connection.” However, scholars warn of an identity gap: while English provides empowerment, it may also cause cultural detachment among youth who undervalue their native languages. In countries like South Korea, Turkey, and Uzbekistan, sociolinguistic studies (Lee, 2023; Tursunova, 2024) indicate that bilingual youth experience “dual identities” — one rooted in local culture and another mediated through English digital spaces.

Youth Activism and English as a Voice of Change. Social media activism among youth — on issues like climate change, gender equality, and education — is predominantly conducted in English. Movements such as Fridays for Future, #MeToo, and BlackLivesMatter demonstrate how English facilitates transnational solidarity. According to Global Digital Trends (2025), nearly 80% of youth advocacy posts on Twitter and Instagram use English or English-dominant hashtags, even in non-Anglophone regions. This shows how English empowers youth not only to participate but to lead global conversations.





## **CONCLUSION**

English has transcended its linguistic boundaries to become a core element of global youth identity. It connects young people to international culture, empowers them to express individuality, and gives them access to education, creativity, and activism. However, this influence also demands balance — as youths embrace English, they must preserve their linguistic diversity and cultural roots. The findings confirm that English acts as both a unifier and diversifier, fostering global citizenship while encouraging self-expression. As the world becomes more interconnected, English will continue to shape how young generations think, feel, and define who they are — not only as speakers of a language, but as citizens of a shared global future.

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