

Mladi za napredek Maribora 2016

33. srečanje

Angleščina-jezik mladih

Družboslovno področje – tuji jezik

Raziskovalna naloga

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Februar 2016, Maribor

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Summary

In this research paper I was looking for the reasons why the English language changed the world around us so much that our Slovenian words are being replaced by English ones.

First of all, I have explained what English is and what its role in the modern world is. After that, I tried to find answers why English gained so much popularity and why it is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world and is thus replacing other languages in international communication.

After that, I made a survey about the general knowledge, usage of English and English words in everyday language and if young people believe that English is taking the dominant role in everyday life.

I found out that many people speak English and are quite fluent.

I also stated two hypotheses that have been confirmed by a survey posted online.

Hypotheses:

1. Most young people in Slovenia speak and use English in everyday language
2. English words are replacing the Slovene words

Povzetek

V tej raziskovalni nalogi sem iskal vzroke za to, zakaj je postala angleščina svetovni jezik in je začela počasi izpodrivati druge jezike v našem okolju. Zanimalo me je tudi, kakšne posledice ima angleščina na naš svet.

Najprej sem razložil, kaj je sploh angleščina in kakšna je njena vloga v našem svetu. Nato sem poskušal ugotoviti, kako in kdaj je postala angleščina tako popularna, da na Zemlji skoraj vsak prebivalec zna vsaj osnove angleščine.

Na koncu sem želel svoje ugotovitve podkrepiti z dejstvi, in to sem storil tako, da sem izdelal kratko anketo, v kateri sem postavil nekaj vprašanj o angleščini.

Ugotovil sem, da večina mladih govori angleško in to kar dobro. Mladi ljudje angleščino oz. angleški jezik uporabljajo tudi v vsakdanjem življenju in menijo, da slovenske besede izgubljajo pomen, ker je za njih lažja uporaba angleških besed.

Zastavil sem si tudi dve hipotezi, ki sem ju potrdil s svojo anketo, objavljeno na internetu.

Hipotezi:

1. Večina mladih ljudi v Sloveniji govori in uporablja angleščino v vsakdanjem govoru
2. Angleške besede počasi zamenjujejo slovenske besede

Zahvala

Rad bi se zahvalil moji mentorici, ki mi je dala idejo za to raziskovalno nalogo in mi je zelo pomagala pri izdelavi le-te, mojim staršem za moralno podporo in vsem anketirancem v moji anketi.

1. Introduction

»Never stop learning, because life never stops teaching.«

English proverb

I have always been fascinated by the English language since I was small. I learned a lot of it by watching TV and browsing the Internet. When I was growing up, I saw a rising trend of using English in everyday language. Suddenly, the words in Slovene were being replaced by English counterparts, for example, *v redu* was replaced by *okay*, *živijo* was replaced by *hey* etc. But this trend was mostly seen in younger people, not so much in the older generation. It is probably because young people always jump on new things in the world because it is »cool« and »in« at that time. Some older people said that our language is dying slowly and it is being phased out in favor of English because it is much easier to speak one unified language than two or more. I am not surprised that this is happening in the real world because the world needed one language that almost everybody could learn and understand. It also helps people to enable easier communication.

2. What is English?

English is a West Germanic language that is currently the global lingua franca (meaning common language) that is being spoken officially in 60 sovereign states, most widely in the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand etc. It is the third most commonly natively spoken language in the world and it is the most widely learned second language around the globe. It is also an official language of the United Nations and EU, and many other important regional and global organisations. It has around 600-700 million speakers.

3. Reasons why English is the language of the world

If we would like to understand why English is so popular nowadays we have to look back in the past. It all began when the British Empire was established in the 15th century and it slowly, but steadily grew in its power in the world. At its height, it was the largest empire of history and for more than a century it was the biggest world power. During the Age of Discovery (informal defined European historical period from the 15th to the 18th century) the British Empire began to establish colonies all over the world. In these colonies slaves were being slowly forced into learning English, because Englishmen brought their settlers there and English was enforced to be the de facto official language of that particular colony.

But it was not until the United States declared independence when they over time became the superpower which established English the leading language of the world and common language in many regions and in professional contests such as science, navigation and law.

4. Why is learning English good?

One thing is for certain that English enables communication between two or more people of various nationalities and/or ethnicities that could not communicate before because of a language barrier. Nowadays we can talk with another person on entirely different part of the world and we can communicate normally as if we were living in the same country. English also helps make friends and keep in touch with people that normally we would not even meet otherwise. English builds bridges, so to say.

English also helped to accelerate the adoption of new technologies, such as the Internet, computers, mobile phones and others because people felt more comfortable using these new things and especially the Internet has increased the learning of English and other foreign languages. Nowadays, we can just go to a social media, such as Facebook or Twitter and just talk to another person in the same language, read the newest stories of their lives etc. We can also launch a Youtube channel and for example share our work with others which was not possible before.

5. Disadvantages of the English language

However, there is not a thing that is perfect and the same can be said for the English language. Even though we get many benefits from it as I mentioned previously, there are also some disadvantages that have to be addressed. First and foremost, the native language of a particular state (in our case Slovenian) is slowly losing its importance because of the rising trend of the English language and that in reality means that Slovene words are phased out in favour of English words. Some of the examples are: hey-živijo, sorry-oprosti, ok-v redu, bye-adijo...

6. Usage of English in Slovenia

According to a study made in 2007, more than three quarters of people between ages of 25 and 34 spoke English as their first foreign language, almost a half between 35-49 and a quarter between 50-64. That places us quite high on the world scale.

Another study made by Eurobarometer in 2012 showed that around 67% of people in Slovenia can speak at least two languages (mother tongue and a foreign language, the most common are English and German) and that places us on 3rd place in the European Union. Most of the foreign languages are spoken by young people between ages of 15 and 24, where at least 74% speak at least one foreign language, 37% at least two and 12% at least three foreign languages. The percentage is falling when people get older. Also, those who

use the Internet every day are in the group which speaks more languages (70% at least one), while with those that never use the Internet the percentage decreases to a low 25%.

7. Research part:

I made a short survey about the English language. I surveyed persons aged between 14 and 30 years . The survey had following questions:

1. How old are you?

a) 14-17

b) 18-21

c) 22-25

d) 26-30

2. Do you speak English?

a) Yes

b) No

3. How well can you communicate in English?

a) Excellent

b) Very good

c) Good

d) Satisfactory

4. Do you use English or English words in everyday language?

a) Yes

b) No

5. Do you think that Slovene words are being replaced by English equivalents?

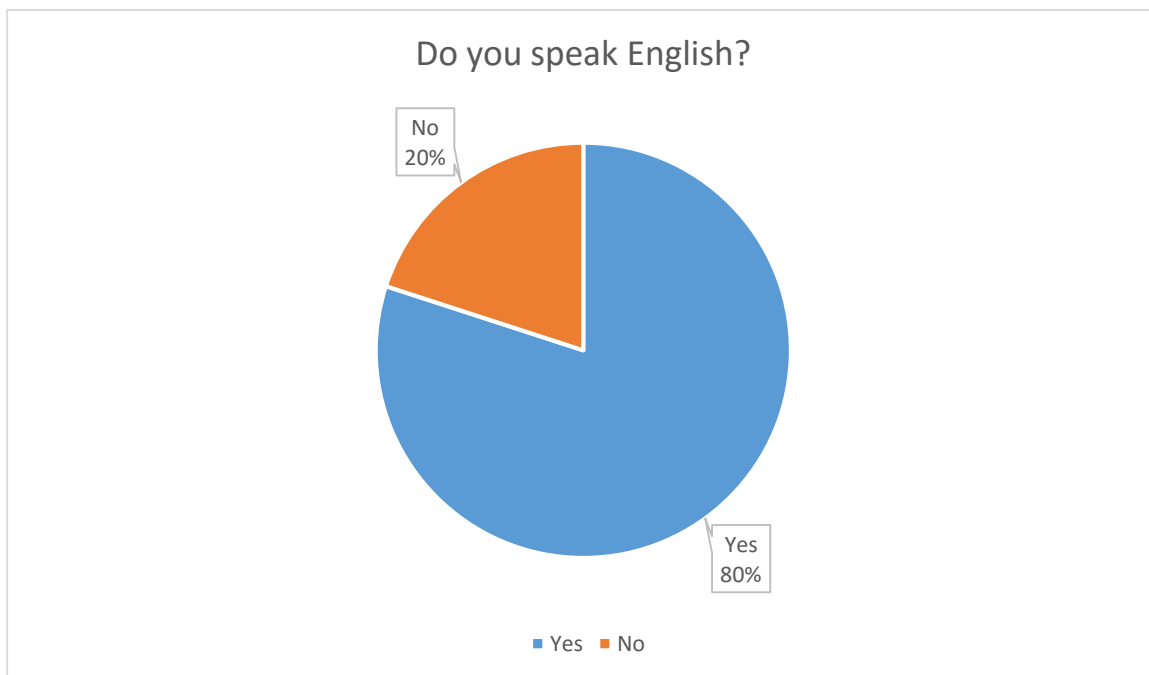
a) Yes

b) No

6. Do you speak another foreign language?

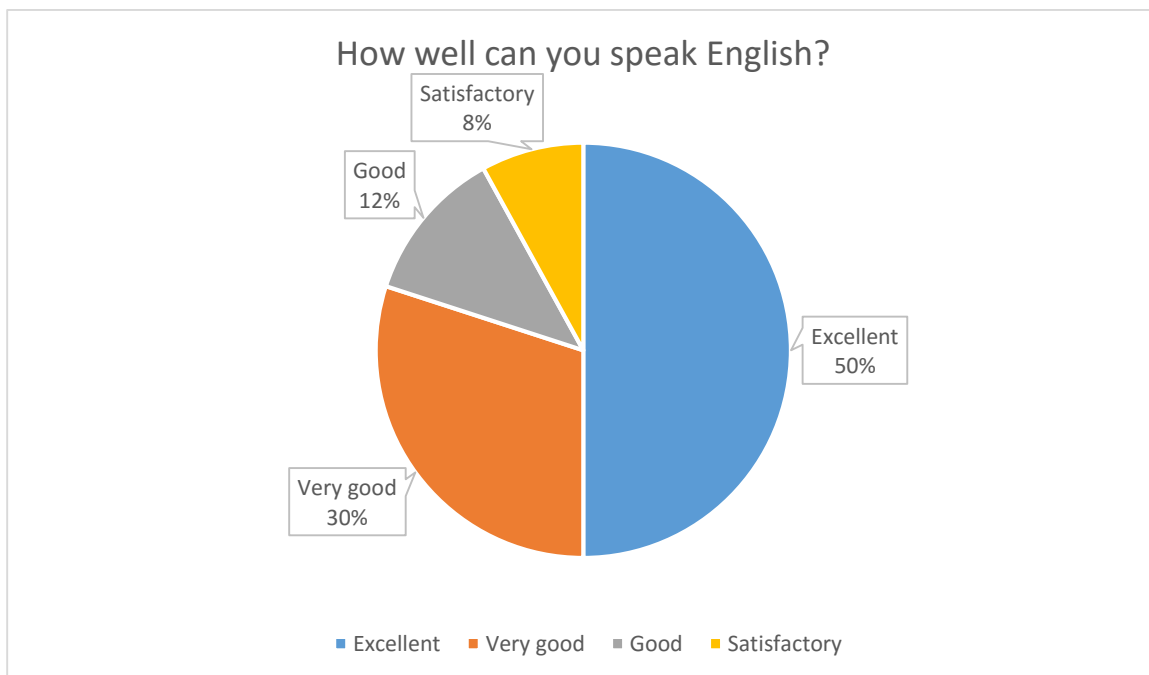
a) Yes

b) No



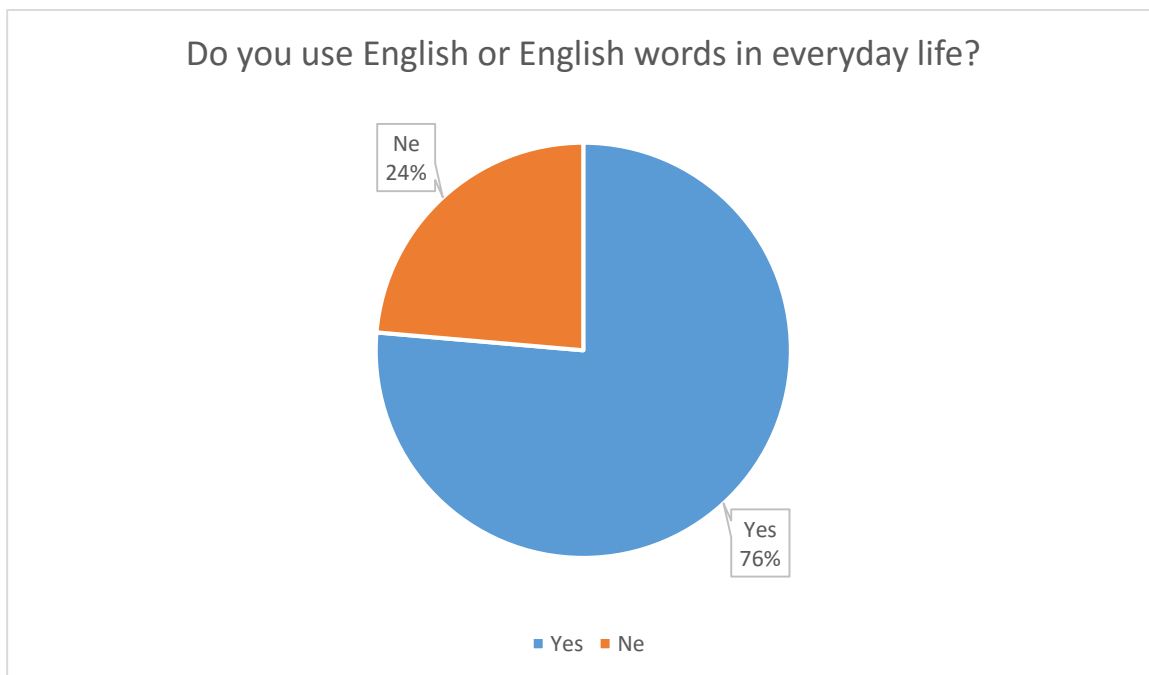
Graf 1: Do you speak English?

The first question in the survey was »Do you speak English?«. According to this graph we can see that 80% of people can speak English, which is quite a staggering percentage. The results have validated claims of various other surveys and studies that showed that quite a lot of Slovenes can speak and understand English.



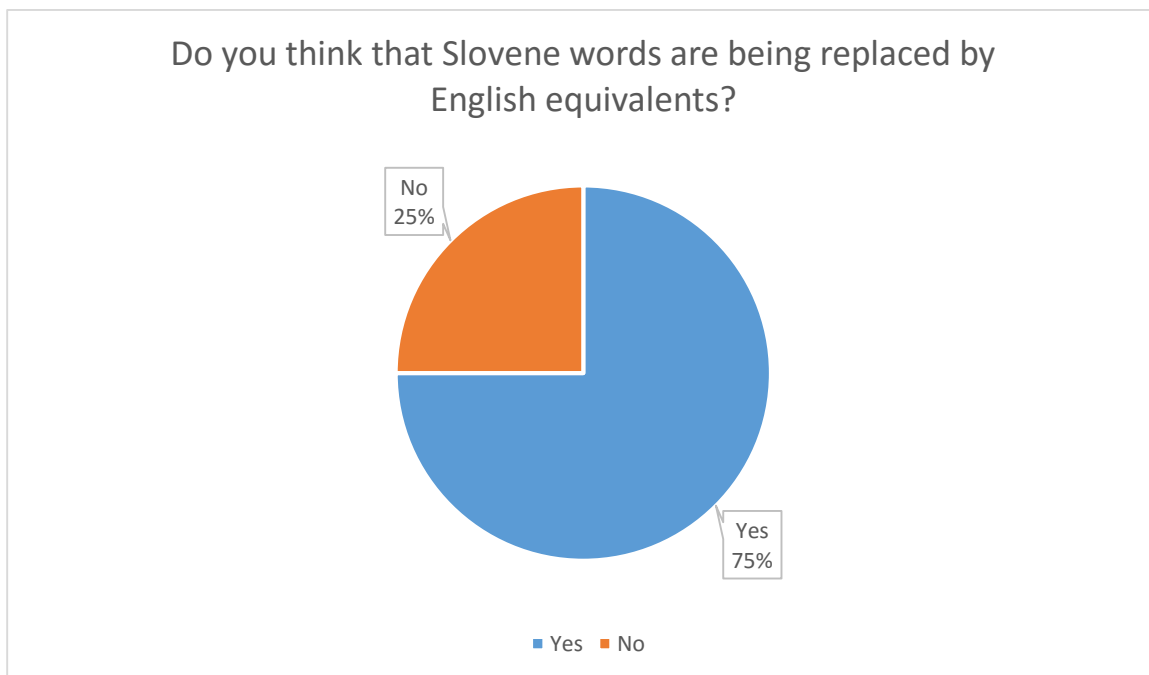
Graf 2: How well can you speak English?

The next question was »How well can you communicate in English?« and if we analyze the results, 50% said that they can speak English excellently, 30% said very well, 12% well and 8% satisfactory. That places Slovenia quite high in the European Union by how fluently people can speak English.



Graf 3: Do you use English or English words in everyday life?

Interviewees were asked the next question: » Do you use English or English words in everyday life?« After gathering the answers, I got an interesting result: most of the young people used English or English words in everyday life at least once a day. This confirms my first hypothesis that said: »Most young people in Slovenia speak and use English in everyday language.«



Graf 4: Do you think that Slovene words are being replaced by English equivalents?

The last and the most important question of the survey was »Do you think that Slovene words are being replaced by English equivalents?« and the results were quite literally shocking: 75% people said that they think Slovene words are being replaced by similar English words. This survey has also confirmed my second hypothesis and that means one thing: our lust for being better at English has endangered the Slovene language because of the effects that English has on languages that are not similar.

8. Conclusion

After a few months of gathering information from people, I now understand that English really has a major role in today's society. It has become the language of the world, which is very useful these days because it is much easier to speak with each other on nonformal and academic level.

If we look at the results from the survey, we can see that many young people depend on the English language and would probably be lost without it. I have also confirmed both hypotheses that I stated beforehand and in this case it means that the Slovene language is losing its importance because, let's face it, the Slovenian language is not very useful outside Slovenia, so young people have to learn English in order to secure themselves a better future career somewhere abroad.

9. Družbena odgovornost

Izjavljam, da sem deloval v skladu z družbeno odgovornostjo, saj sem želel ljudje opozoriti na pomembnost angleščine v današnjem času.

10. Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_language (15.1.2016)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Empire (16.1.2016)

<http://www.renton.si/slovinci-poliglotti-eu/> (30.1.2016)