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ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY AS A STRATEGIC TOOL IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND CORPORATE SECURITY

Abstract: *In a world where globalization and digital integration are transforming organizational dynamics, English has become an indispensable asset in both international relations and corporate security. This paper investigates the significant role that English language skills play for security professionals in multinational and diplomatically sensitive contexts, where clear, timely, and precise communication is essential. The study examines how English not only provides access to important security information and facilitates cross-border collaboration but also enhances diplomatic coordination and alignment with international regulatory standards. The theoretical framework draws from linguistic research, cognitive decision-making theories, and the real challenges we face in security communication. It highlights the urgent need for specialized English language training in high-stakes international contexts. Taking Hurricane Katrina as an example, it clearly illustrates the challenges that language barriers can present, particularly in diverse and multicultural contexts. The paper delves into the increasingly important connection between digital fluency and language skills, highlighting how crucial they are for boosting corporate resilience and fostering international collaboration. From a cybersecurity standpoint, any communication breakdowns between executives and global partners can significantly hinder our ability to tackle global threats, putting both business continuity and diplomatic trust at risk. This study highlights the essential nature of English for Specific Purposes (ESP) training, particularly aimed at meeting the specific needs of the security and international relations sectors. It underscores how crucial language is as a tool for global communication, risk management, and international collaboration. The findings call for more investment in language access and specialized training to enhance organizational security, trust, and effectiveness on a global level.*

Keywords: *international relations, corporate security, english for specific purposes (ESP)*

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1. INTRODUCTION

In our increasingly interconnected global economy, English has really cemented its role as the leading language for international business, technology, and security communications. The corporate sector, especially in the realm of security, relies on the quick and accurate exchange of information, and the widespread use of English as a common language makes this essential communication possible among multinational organizations. Grasping the English language goes beyond just chatting with others; it's a vital asset for security professionals who need to access, interpret, and apply complex security guidelines, protocols, and threat intelligence that are often crafted in English-speaking settings.¹ A shared language is key for security teams spread across different locations to work together, especially since cyber threats and corporate risks know no borders.²

Corporate security is a dynamic and technical area that demands ongoing learning and flexibility, which is often facilitated by resources available in English. A lot of academic research, white papers, government regulations, and real-time threat reports are primarily published in English, which means that being proficient in the language is crucial for accessing the latest knowledge and innovative security solutions.³ To effectively share knowledge and coordinate activities, the global cybersecurity community often engages in international conferences, journals, and collaborative platforms where English is the main language.⁴ This trend is bolstered by multinational companies that designate English as their official language, particularly in security divisions, to maintain uniformity in policy execution and crisis management.⁵

In international relations, the importance of English cannot be overstated. Diplomatic talks, treaty discussions, and multilateral policymaking are frequently carried out in English. Organizations such as the United Nations, NATO, and the European Union often rely on English for their working documents and international communications. In the fields of security and diplomacy, mastering English

¹ Knight, R., & Nurse, J. R. C. (2020): "A framework for effective corporate communication after cyber security incidents", *arXiv*, <https://arxiv.org/abs/2009.09210>.

² Aghaei, E., Niu, X., Shadid, W., & Al-Shaer, E. (2022): "SecureBERT: A domain-specific language model for cybersecurity", *arXiv*, <https://arxiv.org/abs/2204.02685>.

³ Ranade, P., Mittal, S., Joshi, A., & Joshi, K. (2018): "Using deep neural networks to translate multi-lingual threat intelligence", *arXiv*, <https://arxiv.org/abs/1807.07517>.

⁴ Mavlonova, S. A., Morozova, A. V., & Oromidinova, D. P. (2025): "The role of the English language in global communication and its importance in the education system", *International Journal of Artificial Intelligence*, 5(2), 702–705.

⁵ Swift, J. S., & Wallace, J. (2011): "Using English as the common corporate language in a German multinational", *Journal of European Industrial Training*, 35(9), 892–913. DOI: 10.1108/03090591111185574

is essential for engaging meaningfully in global governance. It enables professionals to create alliances, confront international challenges, and negotiate security deals with assurance. Therefore, proficiency in English goes beyond being beneficial for business; it's a must for representing national interests internationally.

The role of English in corporate security training programs is incredibly important. By providing specialized language training for security professionals, we equip them with the right terminology and communication skills needed to understand technical manuals, write incident reports, and coordinate across borders smoothly and accurately.⁶ English for Specific Purposes (ESP) programs designed for the security sector not only boost language skills but also enhance cognitive and operational effectiveness by helping employees get familiar with the specific jargon and nuances of their field.⁷ As a result, we end up with a workforce that's more agile, allowing them to proactively address security vulnerabilities and respond rapidly to incidents.⁸

Mastering English is key to establishing a strong corporate security culture. It fosters open and effective communication among everyone involved, including management, technical teams, and outside partners. Companies with staff who speak multiple languages often run into issues like miscommunication and delays, which can be particularly harmful in security situations where quick decisions are essential.⁹ By using English as a common language, these organizations can minimize risks and foster a shared understanding of security priorities, protocols, and best practices. This strategy ultimately boosts their overall resilience.¹⁰

When it comes to corporate security, using English isn't just about practicality; it also helps companies comply with international regulations and standards, most of which are created and shared in English. This alignment in language capabilities enables organizations to fulfill global governance expectations and engage with international cybersecurity alliances, highlighting the strategic necessity of English proficiency in the contemporary corporate security environment.¹¹ Given

⁶ Brilianti, D. F., & Rokhim, A. (2024): "The importance of English for specific purposes based on the engineering students' perceptions", *Academic Journal Perspective: Education, Language, and Literature*, 11(1), 70–78. DOI: 10.33603/wc0gnm38.

⁷ Xie, Q. (2016): *English language training in the workplace: Case studies of corporate programs in China*, Springer. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-319-30157-0

⁸ EF Corporate Learning (2024): *Driving talent retention and development through language learning*, <https://corporatelearning.ef.com/en/resources/articles/talent-language-learning/>

⁹ Yoqutxon, M., & Feruzjon, K. (2025): "The crucial role of English in advancing information security in Uzbekistan", *Trends in the Use of Foreign Languages for Professional Priority*, Uzbekistan. DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.15666116

¹⁰ Alekseeva, E. A. (2020): "Language diversity development as a phenomenon of European security", *European Proceedings of Social & Behavioural Sciences*, 11, 15–22. DOI: 10.15405/epsbs.2020.11.03.2

¹¹ Shahriar, A. H. (2022): *The importance of English in multinational companies in Bangladesh: Corporate expectation vs reality*, Brac University, <http://hdl.handle.net/10361/21885>.

the challenges posed by a globalized economy, the role of English as a key tool for improving security and facilitating international partnerships is increasingly vital for businesses.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Approximately 6,500 different languages are spoken worldwide now. Although English and French are frequently regarded as world languages, the languages of China and India are by far the most widely spoken because of their sizable populations. Although English is still the most widely used language in business and science in the West, most speakers actually speak it as a second language. When speaking in their second language, people make riskier choices. However, research only found slight effects. Another theory put forth by other research is strategic risk-taking. Compared to those who struggle with their first language, those who struggle with their second language tend to make more objective assessments. Moderating factors exist that make sense intuitively.¹²

With 940 million native speakers, English surpasses Mandarin Chinese, which is spoken by almost 1.14 billion people worldwide, as the most spoken language when non-native speakers are included. Even with 1.46 billion English speakers, less than 20% of the world's population still speaks the language.¹³

In the field of international relations, language is incredibly important in shaping how countries behave diplomatically and how power is distributed globally. English has become a key tool for sharing political norms, values, and ideologies. The dominance of English in multilateral institutions offers both opportunities and challenges for nations with varying language backgrounds. Those who are fluent in English often have greater access to soft power channels, such as public diplomacy, strategic communication, and international media, while others may find themselves marginalized in global discussions. This linguistic gap emphasizes the necessity for inclusive language policies and improved access to ensure that everyone can participate fairly in international decision-making.

Since World War II, English has been the accepted lingua franca. Social media, business, entertainment, politics, and diplomacy have all been overtaken by English. Non-native English speakers most frequently communicate with one another in English, which is a very effective tool. Having said that, it is only one tool in

¹² Kreamer, M. (2023): *Language makes us tick – how do we make security training stick?*, <https://martin-kraemer.net/language-makes-us-tick-how-do-we-make-security-training-stick/>.

¹³ Richter, F. (2024): *The Most Spoken Languages: On the Internet and in Real Life*, <https://www.statista.com/chart/26884/languages-on-the-internet/?srsltid=AfmBOoqlQi1HLj2gbKNecXjhn0vXbygeHfG1HNVblv2ti8MUQ0SwAsd4>.

a multilingual toolkit. Only 7% of non-native English speakers at multinational corporations think they can communicate well at work, according to statistics. If so, there is a compelling commercial argument for companies to make additional investments in corporate language training initiatives that genuinely improve the working lives of their staff members.¹⁴

This uncovers a significant challenge in business settings where employees lack proficiency in English, despite it being the official *lingua franca*. Language barriers can cause misunderstandings that might compromise operational efficiency and safety, especially in security contexts where accuracy and clarity are paramount.¹⁵ Therefore, investing in language training for security professionals is not only beneficial but necessary to mitigate communication risks and enhance workplace safety.

In any industry, workplace security and safety are critical. One important component that is frequently disregarded is English language training, even if businesses make significant investments in tools, procedures, and training initiatives to guarantee a safe workplace. Effective communication becomes the cornerstone of operational efficiency and safety in a multicultural and diverse workforce. Misunderstandings, errors, and confusion can result from language problems. An employee who doesn't speak English well, for example, could misunderstand safety instructions or an emergency announcement. Workers may not correctly follow safety protocols or may not be able to respond quickly in an emergency as a result of this ignorance, which raises the risk of accidents. The foundation of occupational safety is trust. Employees are more likely to collaborate and perform effectively when they have faith that their coworkers comprehend and adhere to safety procedures. By ensuring that everyone on the team is aware of the same safety and operational protocols, English language training helps to foster this trust.¹⁶

Professionals who grew up in tech-savvy environments, often referred to as "digital natives," tend to have an entrepreneurial spirit that highlights creativity, adaptability, and a knack for self-directed learning.¹⁷ By fostering proactive problem-solving skills, resilience in the face of evolving challenges, and a strong

¹⁴ Learnlight (2019): 5 Reasons Why Language Training is Business Critical, <https://www.learnlight.com/en/articles/why-language-training-business-critical/>.

¹⁵ Hinds, P., Liu, L. & Lyon, J. (2011): "Putting the Global in Global Work: An Intercultural Lens on the Practice of Cross-National Collaboration", *Academy of Management Annals*, 5(1), 135–188. DOI: 10.5465/19416520.2011.586108

¹⁶ Inlingua Utah (2024): *Why English language training is important for work floor safety and security*, <https://www.inlinguautah.com/why-english-language-training-is-important-for-work-floor-safety-and-security/>.

¹⁷ Kwiatek, P., Papakonstantinidis, S. & Baltezarevic, R. (2021): "Digital Natives' Entrepreneurial Mindset: A Comparative Study in Emerging Markets", In: S. Rezaei, L. Jizhen, S. Ashourizadeh, V. Ramadani, & S.e Gërguri-Rashiti (Eds.): *The Emerald Handbook of Women*

command of digital tools and protocols, these traits can significantly enhance workplace safety. In the realm of corporate security, having a good grasp of technology and language is incredibly important. Both skills are vital for quickly identifying and addressing digital threats. When security teams harness these strengths, they can share information about vulnerabilities, make sense of threat intelligence reports, and act swiftly.¹⁸

By failing to invest in language access capabilities, organisations risk betraying the confidence of the public. For people who speak little or no English, even a simple misunderstanding might get worse. In certain situations, ignoring language limitations may even be a violation of someone's civil rights. These and other factors make language services, such as translation and interpreting, more and more important for community relations, public safety, and security. Language and cultural differences may cause unwarranted escalation, which may result in preventable harm or even death. These dangers are reduced by proactively implementing language services, which guarantees clearer communication in otherwise uncomfortable situations. When Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans in 2006, many Latino citizens chose not to leave the city. The community was not fully aware of the storm's intensity because so few of the storm's warnings were transmitted in Spanish. A lot of people couldn't leave until it was too late. Although it is encouraging to see a more coordinated effort by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and its regional partners to prioritise language access, inclusive emergency communications still have a long way to go, especially at the local and regional levels. The storm's aftermath brought hard lessons.¹⁹

Creating effective security communication in international teams comes with its own set of challenges, one of which is silence. This silence often stems from unexpressed thoughts or worries that arise when team members feel insecure about their language skills or are anxious about miscommunication.²⁰ It really underscores the importance of having focused English language training and strong communication skills to help lessen these moments.

For companies and organisations of all sizes and industries, cybersecurity is essential. Businesses may experience severe or even catastrophic outcomes from cyberattacks, including data loss, operational disruptions, or non-compliance with

and Entrepreneurship in Developing Economies, Chapter 15. (295-316), Emerald Publishing Limited.

¹⁸ Prensky, M. (2001): "Digital Natives, Digital Immigrants", *On the Horizon*, 9(5), 1-6. DOI: 10.1108/10748120110424816

¹⁹ Thomas, P. (2024): *The Role of Language Services in Public Safety and Security*, <https://piedmontglobal.com/language-services-in-public-safety-and-security/>.

²⁰ Baltezarević, R., Kwiatek, P., Baltezarević, B. & Baltezarević, V. (2022): "The meaning of silence in personal communication: spiral of silence or a stimulant of creativity?", *Creativity Studies*, 15(1), 58-73. DOI: 10.3846/cs.2022.11374

regulations. They may also have a direct effect on earnings, harm one's reputation, or erode the confidence of suppliers, customers, and staff. Executives must thus recognise the importance of cyber security for businesses and take the necessary precautions to safeguard their digital assets. A recent study found that 44% of CEOs said their organisations do not place a high priority on cybersecurity. This is because the terminology employed in this field is unclear. "The language used is confusing and hinders threat understanding," according to Europa Press, is the reason for this. A third of the executives who responded to the study said they had no idea what "malware" (malicious software) was, and nearly another third had no idea what "ransomware" (data hijacking) was. Executives must thus comprehend the importance of cybersecurity beyond words since it affects every facet of the company, including business continuity. Cybersecurity needs to be a top corporate and strategic priority.²¹

3. CONCLUSION

You can't underestimate the role of the English language in corporate security. In a fast-paced world where threats, both digital and physical, can cross borders in mere seconds, having a common language is vital for clear communication, coordination, and response. English has become the go-to language for sharing security protocols, intelligence reports, regulatory frameworks, and best practices worldwide. This common tongue helps multinational teams collaborate more effectively, cuts down on miscommunication during stressful times, and builds a shared understanding of security roles across different cultures and locations.

When it comes to international relations, English serves as a vital tool that helps countries participate in security dialogues and work together on counter-terrorism strategies. Mastering the language becomes a valuable form of strategic capital, allowing both states and corporations to join global efforts, shape diplomatic discussions, and bolster compliance with international laws. On the other hand, a lack of language skills can lead to missed collaboration opportunities and reduced credibility in multilateral discussions.

The paper highlights a crucial point: having limited English skills can create significant operational risks. This ranges from misunderstanding safety protocols to failing to respond adequately to cyber threats. The insights into decision-making in a second language really emphasize how vital structured language training is, especially in situations where being objective, quick, and clear is essential. As the

²¹ Palou, N. (2023): *How language puts business Cybersecurity at risk*, <https://telefonicatech.com/en/blog/how-language-puts-business-cybersecurity-at-risk>.

cybersecurity landscape grows increasingly intricate, it's not just about having the right technical skills; being able to communicate effectively is just as important. This is particularly important for executives and decision-makers who need to handle unfamiliar terms and make smart choices under pressure.

By investing in English for Specific Purposes (ESP) programs tailored for the security sector, organizations can effectively enhance their resilience while protecting their people, assets, and information. These programs seamlessly link language skills with professional needs, equipping employees with the communication tools they require to work confidently and accurately. As businesses around the globe keep growing and changing, English will continue to be a vital tool, not just for smooth operations, but also for fostering trust, ensuring compliance, and ultimately safeguarding what's most important. Companies that recognize this and take proactive steps will be better equipped to face the intricate security challenges that lie ahead.

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ZNANJE ENGLESKOG JEZIKA KAO STRATEŠKI ALAT U MEĐUNARODNIM ODNOSIMA I KORPORATIVNOJ BEZBEDNOSTI

Sažetak: U svetu gde globalizacija i digitalna integracija transformišu organizacionu dinamiku, engleski jezik je postao nezaobilazan resurs kako u međunarodnim odnosima, tako i u korporativnoj bezbednosti. Ovaj rad istražuje značajnu ulogu koju veštine engleskog jezika igraju za stručnjake za bezbednost u multinacionalnim i diplomatski osetljivim kontekstima, gde je jasna, blagovremena i precizna komunikacija neophodna. Studija ispituje kako engleski jezik ne samo da omogućava pristup važnim bezbednosnim informacijama i olakšava prekograničnu saradnju, već i poboljšava diplomatsku koordinaciju i usklađenost sa međunarodnim regulatornim standardima. Teorijski okvir se zasniva na lingvističkim istraživanjima, teorijama kognitivnog odlučivanja i stvarnim izazovima sa kojima se suočavamo u bezbednosnoj komunikaciji. Ističe hitnu potrebu za specijalizovanom obukom engleskog jezika u međunarodnim kontekstima sa visokim ulozima. Uzimajući uragan Katrina kao primer, jasno ilustruje izazove koje jezičke barijere mogu predstavljati, posebno u raznovrsnim i multikulturalnim kontekstima. Rad se bavi sve važnijom vezom između digitalne tečnosti i jezičkih veština, ističući koliko su one ključne za jačanje korporativne otpornosti i negovanje međunarodne saradnje. Sa stanovišta sajber bezbednosti, svaki prekid komunikacije između rukovodilaca i globalnih partnera može značajno ometati našu sposobnost da se nosimo sa globalnim pretnjama, dovodeći u opasnost i kontinuitet poslovanja i diplomatsko poverenje. Ova studija ističe suštinsku prirodu obuke za engleski jezik za posebne namene (ESP), posebno usmerene na zadovoljavanje specifičnih potreba sektora bezbednosti i međunarodnih odnosa. Ona naglašava koliko je jezik ključan kao alat za globalnu komunikaciju, upravljanje rizicima i međunarodnu saradnju. Rezultati zahtevaju veća ulaganja u pristup jeziku i specijalizovanu obuku kako bi se poboljšala organizaciona bezbednost, poverenje i efikasnost na globalnom nivou.

Ključne reči: međunarodni odnosi, korporativna bezbednost, engleski jezik za posebne svrhe (ESP)