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GLOBAL ALPHABET

ENGLISH WELL QUALIFIED AS WORLD LANGUAGE, EXCEPT SPELLING

The claims of the English language for consideration as a world language have been excellently stated recently by Prof. Mario A. Pei, as follows:

"The adoption of English (Basic or otherwise) as an international language is uppermost in the thoughts of many.

"English is probably, at the present time, the most widespread of all tongues. Its native speakers number well over two hundred million, and colonial populations totalling over five hundred million can be directly or indirectly reached with it. It is by far the most widely used and popular of commercial tongues, while culturally it is probably as far-reaching as French or German.

"From the grammatical standpoint, English is a comparatively simple tongue. It has reduced inflectional endings almost to a minimum. Its system of gender and number is logical. Its adjective is invariable, its verb simplified to the point where a knowledge of three forms, present, past, and past participle, plus a few unchanging auxiliaries, covers all complications of person, number, tense, mood and voice.

"Syntactically, English is direct and straightforward to the point of bluntness, saying what it means in the fewest possible words.

"The vocabulary of English is the world's most fortunate blend of two great linguistic stocks, the Germanic and the Latin-Romance, with plenty of Greek and other languages thrown in. In addition, English is a free and easy borrower, and readily grants admission and naturalization to foreign words, from whatever source they may come.

"English pronunciation is not too easy, but foreign speakers seem to adapt themselves readily enough, though not always perfectly, to its rich assortment of vowel and consonant sounds.

"The great stumbling-block in the path of English, both as an international language to be learned by foreigners, and as a national tongue to be learned by English-speaking school-children, is its orthography, which represents an archaic state of affairs that has long since ceased to exist. **"

THE VALUE OF ENGLISH PHONETIC SPELLING

To the children who are first learning the language--how to read it, write it, and spell it--phonetic spelling can be learned in one day with the global alphabet. Books printed in the global alphabet can be immediately opened to young children for their entertainment, instruction and development and advancing by a number of years their knowledge of the world in which they live. The knowledge of these things and the knowledge of phonetic spelling would give them rapid command of many English words and greatly facilitate their ability to read the languages as now printed in the newspapers. Phonetic spelling would save them years of time, of precious time, urgently needed for immediate acquisition of knowledge of practical life.

R. L. Owen.