

Issue number: 3

Issue: English is our common language. What does that mean?

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Summary of discussion, conclusions and/or recommendations:

Does the fact that nearly all the communication at this event is in English mean that we are all people of a particular type?

In parts of history, the replacement of the local language with English was a means of subjugating those people. In the British Isles, some Scots, Welsh and Irish are still anti the English language.

English is the main language of the Internet. Does this help or hinder communication? Is this due to the influence of the USA as a world power?

The knowledge of another person's language increases your power over them. The exercise of that power is a privilege you hold.

To speak only English when it is not your native language means a loss of power. It is like being separated from your mother.

Using English words underpinned by another syntax increases your range of creative options. The sounds you make can affect your thoughts.

Generally speaking, learning another language makes you more empathetic to other nations.