

Salman Rushdie, Imaginary Homelands

English is by now the world language. It achieved this status partly as a result of the physical colonization of a quarter of the globe by the British, and it remains ambiguous but central to the affairs of just about all the countries to whom it was given, along with mission schools, trunk roads
5 and the rules of cricket, as a gift of the British colonizers. [...]

What seems to me to be happening is that those peoples who were once colonized by the language are now rapidly remaking it, domesticating it [...]. Assisted by the English language's enormous flexibility and size, they are carving out large territories for themselves within its frontiers.

10 To take the case of India, only because it's the one with which I'm most familiar. The debate about the appropriateness of English in post-British India has been raging ever since 1947; but today, I find, it is a debate which has meaning only for the older generation.

(161 words)

Source:

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