A Need for English Language Proficiency for 21st Century Diplomats

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This article attempts to review in brief a need for English language proficiency for diplomats in today’s fast moving world and the need of the diplomatic English to communicate effectively and unambiguously to create and maintain successful diplomatic relations.

In this paper we would like to introduce some innovative usage of expressions and words commonly used in politics and analyze their usage in the political discourse and to answer the following questions: What language should one use when speaking to diplomats? What language should diplomats use to be more precise? What language/languages should a young diplomat try to learn to be more successful in his profession?

English is gradually becoming the language of diplomacy, which encouraged a new generation of diplomats to give their high priority to English as the preferred choice of the diplomatic community in the 21st century. The Diplomatic English recognizes the need to communicate effectively and unambiguously to maintain successful diplomatic relations and progression in this field. English is a key international language for inter-governmental relations, for NGOs and for all public bodies of many different types. The ability to contribute to meetings and debates, chair meetings, persuade people to your point of view is an essential means for diplomats, government representatives, officials, members of parliament, civil servants and those on international level. The English language has become the language of international communication, business and legal discourse. Therefore, knowing the basics of the English language is mandatory. In the modern world, fundamental education requires good knowledge of foreign languages for diplomats. In some countries it is compulsory for diplomats to know English in order to join their foreign service. In today’s fast moving world, diplomats have many new challenges.

The influence of the United States and Great Britain on political affairs and international relations for the past 100 years has ensured
the acceptance of English as the main spoken language in many centuries for diplomats and high-ranking officials in major countries to better understand international diplomacy.

Political language refers to the language used by political subjects in political activities such as political speech, political interview, etc. One of the major functions of political language is to persuade and control so as to influence the thinking of the audience or the readers. To achieve this purpose, political subjects use various techniques. This article attempts to analyze the use of political vocabulary used in political language from critical discourse analysis, with the aim of disclosing the power relations hidden behind the political language. The usage of political vocabulary is considerable in any assessment of political trends in Georgia. Politics has its own peculiar language that must be understood before you can begin to involve in intelligent discourse. The language of politics can be confusing to those who are just beginning to speak English, but some terms that are casually tossed around also remain enigmatic to those who have experienced English language speaking. Politics is a very complex field, it involves human relationships with a variety of objectives in mind. Politicians have a unique art of expressing the same situation in different words, depending on which side of the table they are.

As George Orwell says “Political language is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind.”

Politics can be a sensitive topic in any language. If you want to avoid getting into a debate, it’s usually best to talk about a less controversial topic with people who may not share your political views. But talking about politics in English is a great way to practice your language skills. If you really feel strongly about a political viewpoint, you will be motivated to make yourself understood.

If diplomats or high-ranking officials want to be clear, and particularly when using a language which he does not master perfectly, it is better to use short, simple sentences. Many political words are similarly abused. The words democracy, socialism, freedom, patriotic, realistic, justice have each of them several different meanings which cannot be reconciled with one another. It is almost universally felt that when we call a country democratic we are praising it. Consequently, the defenders of every kind of regime claim that it is a democracy and fear that they might have to stop using that word if it were tied down to any one meaning. Words of this kind are often used in a consciously dishonest way.
In short, in today’s world the need to incorporate a rigorous study of English is more and more strongly felt; it is standard for diplomats’ to be expected to be proficient in English. Moreover, as the United States’ influence on world information is dominant, in recent years, there is an urgent for the adoption of English among politicians in order to compete on an international platform.

Diplomats must be aware of how to communicate effectively and confidently in English to prepare and deliver speeches and presentations on a wide range of topics, to conduct negotiations, to discussing current and foreign affairs. They must consider some rules of diplomatic relations:

1. Diplomats must avoid negative words instead use positive words in a negative form.
2. Diplomats must use positive adjectives with “not” instead of negative adjectives.
3. Diplomats must use short, simple sentences.

Thus, a person working in the diplomatic service is required to develop special skills and background in certain subjects. One of these is being proficient in the English language. Not all diplomats find learning a language easy so there are different levels to attain. Diplomats, like all other students, can therefore brush up and revise their English language skills. A diplomat is the only person who can win the war by words, not weapons. That’s what makes him one of the most important people in any country’s government. I would also like to mention that not any diplomat is able to play and win the game of international intrigue. Moreover; diplomats must be highly qualified experts to be able to solve any problem even in an unpredictable situation.

The English language is one of the preferred choices of the diplomatic community. In today’s world if you are a diplomat or, wish to be one, then the knowledge of the English language is a must.
References


