Is The Global Spread of English good or bad?

Presenter: Alvin Nguyen
“Power isn't pre-existing, but established”
(Kiesling, S.F., 1997, Power and the Language of Men)
Classification of "Englishes"

- **KACHRU’S “CIRCLES” THEORY**
  1. **The Inner Circle:** English as a first language (U.S.A, U.K, Australia)
  2. **The Outer Circle:** English as a second language (India & Singapore)
  3. **The Expanding Circle:** English as a foreign language (China, Japan and German).
English Has a Very Bright Future Ahead

A quarter of the world’s population speak English in 2015.

A half of the world’s population will speak English before 2020.
Debate over the pervasion of English.

“English is both a world tool and a world problem” – Dr. Sebastian Mahfood

Arguments For

1. a Tool for Cross-Cultural Communication and Awareness

Arguments Against

1. Promote Colonization & Imperialism
I feel that the English language will be able to carry the weight of my African experience. But it will have to be a new English, still in full communion with its ancestral home but altered to suit new African surroundings.

— Chinua Achebe —
Debate over the Pervasion of English

“The rise of English should be understood as a powerful economic tool for development and commerce, or as a dangerous mechanism reinforcing (and creating new) inequalities based on English-proficiency.” - Anne Johnson

Arguments For

- An Instrument for Economic Success

Arguments Against

- a Creator of New Inequalities
English As an Instrument for Economic Success.

1. Proficiency in English has become something as a “basic skill of modern life comparable with the ability to drive a car or use a personal computer,” - The Economist Magazine

2. Upward mobility: nearly a billion individuals worldwide are learning the language, most in hopes that their lingual skills will boost their paycheck or land them a better job
English As a Creator of New Inequality.

“Spreading languages often come to be hated because they can disadvantage many as they provide advantages for some” - Joshua Fishman

“95% of the articles indexed in the Science Citation Index’s Web of Science were written in English, despite the fact that only half were written by authors in English-speaking countries” - Thed N. Van
Conclusion

Overview:
1) English language generates Power.
2) The development of “New Englishes” in the world.
3) Classification of “Englishes”.
4) The global rise of English.
5) Positive and Negative Consequences due to the global rise of English.