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The Theory of Linguistic Imperialism as the Reaction to Global Spread of English.

The Global Spread of English which is perceived quite differently in different countries is highlighted. The essence of resistance to the spread of English which has acquired the conceptual framework in the well-known theory of “Linguistic Imperialism” is revealed. The supporters of this theory consider that in this way Anglo-Saxon countries are trying to strengthen their world domination.

It is emphasized that English, on the one hand, performs the functions of the means of international communication, whereas on the other, acts as the means of cultural penetration into civilizational environment of other languages. In this connection the peoples of many countries consider the expansion of western values and way of life as the threat to their national identity. However, there are strong objections in the world linguistic community to the role of English as the tool for limiting the rights and even ousting the languages of small ethnoses. At the same time, there is a competitive confrontation among the most widespread world languages, with every language trying to increase its international importance. Undoubtedly, the international significance of this or that language is determined by economic power of the country, whose population considers it their native language.

English acts as the promotion instrument of western mass culture. The process is seen by many as aggressive hence it causes resistance: the people

consider that it undermines their national values and historically formed way of life.

Resistance to English by certain peoples and nations can also be explained by economic reasons. The advocates of the theory of linguistic imperialism claim, that by means of imposing English on all the peoples, transnational corporations are trying to strengthen their economic influence . The spread of English is believed to aggravate the problem of economic inequality among countries and the gap between individuals, since it limits the use of other languages in the production sphere as well as trade and business.

The advent of information era in the world development also increases the importance of English ,one cannot take full advantage of information and -telecommunication technologies without knowing this language. This, in turn, leads to narrowing the possibilities of other languages to be used in this sphere.

Key Words: English, the language of international communication, linguistic imperialism/language imperialism, globalization, the means of international communication, linguistic rights.