

## Linguistic (English) Imperialism: An Overview

Sumiko Nagasawa

As more and more areas of human activities seem to be interpreted on a global scale, English has come to be considered to be the lingua franca necessary for the global family community. In Japan, the urgency seems to be felt at the government level, revealed in the proposal “English as the Second State Language,” as well as at the educational and personal level that aspire to believe in the teaching and learning of English to be an indispensable part of getting on board.

Where does this urgency come from? Is it a syndrome rooted in the so called “English Imperialism” as has been argued in recent years?

This paper surveys linguistic imperialism first, and then English imperialism and its background, English language promotion of Britain and the U. S. A., a look at different views of English imperialism, and finally implication to the language teaching profession.