

THE ROLE OF ENGLISH IN MEDICINE

Utambetova Arzaim Kalmurzayevna

Teacher at the department
Uzbek and foreign languages
Tashkent Medical Academy

arzay8898@gmail.com

Student: Erkinova Mehrangiz Ulug'bek kizi



Annotation. *English has become the dominant language in medical education, research, and practice worldwide. It serves as the primary medium for scientific publications, international collaboration, and medical training programs. The ability to communicate effectively in English is essential for healthcare professionals to access cutting-edge research, participate in global conferences, and provide patient care in diverse settings. Additionally, most of the modern scientific literature published in English. During the translation process, some essential details of the article may be lost, so if a person is competent in English, he can avoid the difficulties associated with this. Moreover, a medical professional can publish an article in English himself, thereby presenting the results of his research to the international medical community. Moreover, knowledge of the English language makes it possible to internships in English-speaking countries and international communication. Finally, the study of languages promotes the development of memory, which is also necessary in the study of medical disciplines.*

Keywords: *medicine, English language, scientific research, medical publications, International medical certification (USMLE, PLAB, OET)*

The field of medicine is highly dynamic, requiring continuous learning and collaboration across borders. As a lingua franca, English connects medical professionals worldwide, enabling them to share knowledge and innovations effectively. According to a study published in The British Medical Journal, over

85% of medical research articles are published in English, even though only about 15% of the world's population speaks English fluently. This linguistic dominance raises questions about accessibility, equity, and the role of English proficiency in medical advancements.[1,2,3]

Medical education relies heavily on English, as most top-tier universities offer courses, textbooks, and exams in this language. Even in non-English-speaking countries, medical schools increasingly adopt English-based curricula to prepare students for global careers. For example:

China and Russia have introduced English-language medical programs to attract international students.

Germany offers medical degrees in English, allowing students to practice globally after graduation.

Uzbekistan recently launched English-based medical faculties to enhance international collaboration and research contributions.

Furthermore, international licensing exams such as:

USMLE (United States Medical Licensing Examination)

PLAB (Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board) for the UK

IELTS/OET (Occupational English Test) for medical professionals require English proficiency, emphasizing its necessity for career progression. Without fluency in English, medical graduates struggle to qualify for residency programs and specialist training abroad.[6,7]

This article examines how English influences medical education, scientific research, clinical practice, and professional development. It also addresses the challenges faced by non-native English speakers and proposes solutions to enhance linguistic inclusivity in the medical field.

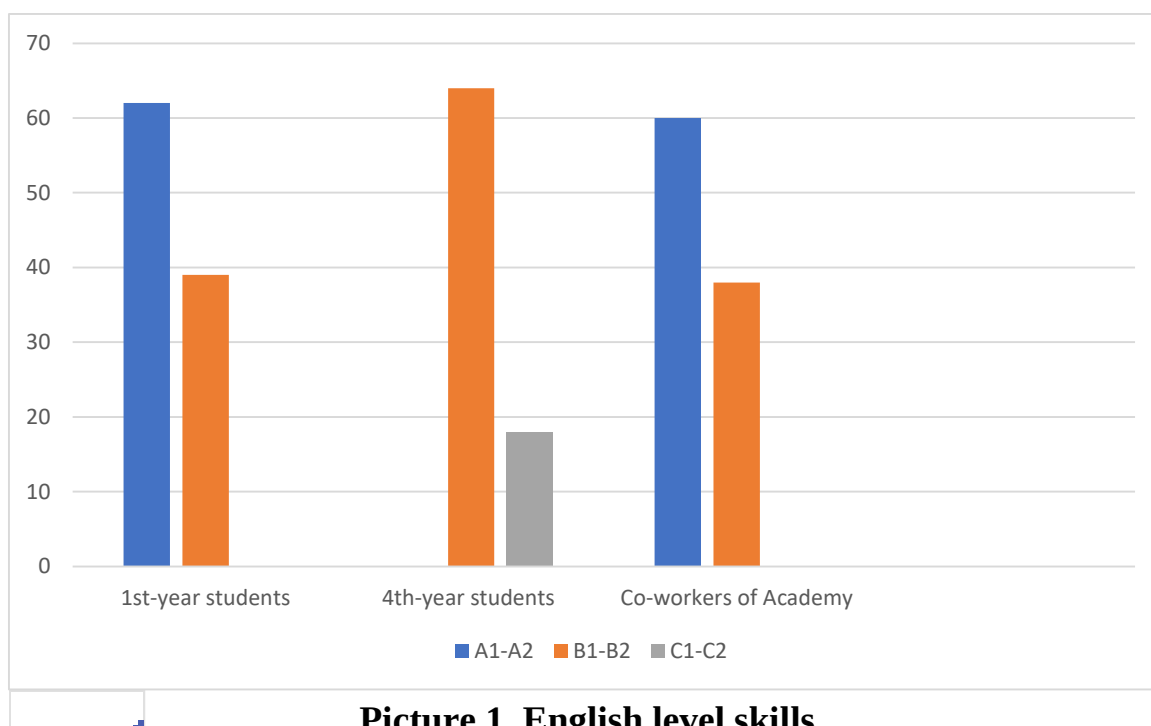
MATERIAL AND METHODS

Order to confirm this assumption, I interviewed students and employees of the Tashkent Medical Academy amount of 80 people (60 students and 20

employees). First, the respondents were asked to rate their current level of English, according to the Common Standards (CEFR).

RESULTS OF RESEARCH

This graph shows the levels of English proficiency of students and staff of the Tashkent Medical Academy. In general, the level of English among the respondents is low. About 60% of the respondents speak a foreign language at the A1-A2 level, about 40% at the B1-B2 level, and only a small number of medical students have an advanced level of English. However, the majority of respondents argue that knowledge of the English language is necessary for the successful work of the future physician. As a result of the survey, a general trend was revealed: with experience in medicine, employees acquire an understanding that English is needed in the medical profession.



Picture 1. English level skills

English in Medical Research and Publications

The majority of groundbreaking medical discoveries are published in English, limiting access for non-English-speaking researchers. According to Scimago Journal & Country Rank, the top five medical journals (The New England

Journal of Medicine, The Lancet, JAMA, Nature Medicine, and The BMJ) exclusively publish in English.[4,5]

A real-life example is the COVID-19 pandemic, during which critical research, including vaccine development and treatment guidelines, was primarily documented in English. The rapid dissemination of information helped scientists and doctors worldwide combat the virus, but non-English-speaking professionals faced delays in understanding and implementing new protocols.

Additionally, artificial intelligence and big data in healthcare are predominantly developed using English-based programming languages and datasets. This linguistic bias affects global medical research participation, necessitating better translation systems and multilingual accessibility.

In addition, English proficiency increases the ability of health workers to collaborate internationally. If the doctor understands English, then he can explain his ideas and do your research with colleagues from other states, thus establishing international scientific ties. Being able to speak English can give you more job opportunities, such as working with international patients or medical students.[2,3]

English in Clinical Practice and Global Healthcare

In clinical settings, English proficiency is vital for patient safety and effective communication. Multinational hospitals, such as:

Mayo Clinic (USA), Cleveland Clinic (USA), and Singapore General Hospital Dubai Healthcare City and European Medical Centers prefer hiring multilingual doctors who are fluent in English. This is because international patients seek treatment abroad, making English the standard language for medical consultations.

A notable example is Doctors Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières, MSF), where medical professionals work in crisis zones. They rely on English to coordinate humanitarian aid, communicate with local healthcare workers, and manage medical supply chains efficiently.[4,5]

Moreover, telemedicine services, such as Mayo Clinic's online consultations and Babylon Health's AI-based diagnostics, operate in English, allowing patients to seek medical advice remotely. This technological shift highlights the increasing demand for English proficiency among healthcare workers.[6,7]

Challenges Faced by Non-Native English-Speaking Medical Professionals

Despite its benefits, the dominance of English creates significant challenges for non-native speakers, including:

1. Academic Disadvantage – Non-English speakers often struggle to publish research due to language barriers, reducing their contributions to global medical knowledge.
2. Miscommunication in Clinical Settings – Misinterpretation of medical terms can lead to diagnostic errors and treatment complications.
3. Limited Career Opportunities – Many talented doctors and researchers face difficulties in securing positions at prestigious institutions due to language requirements.

For instance, a 2019 study in the International Journal of Medical Education found that over 60% of international medical graduates fail their first attempt at the USMLE due to language difficulties, not medical knowledge.[1,2,6,9]

Solutions and Recommendations

To bridge the language gap in medicine, the following strategies should be implemented:

1. Integrating Medical English in Curricula – Universities should offer specialized English courses focusing on medical terminology, research writing, and communication skills.[7,8]
2. AI-Based Translation Tools – Platforms like Google Translate and DeepL should be optimized for medical contexts to provide real-time, accurate translations.

3. Bilingual Medical Journals – Leading publishers should consider translating key research findings into multiple languages.

4. International Training Programs – Medical institutions should provide language support for non-native English speakers, ensuring better integration into global healthcare systems.[9,10]

Conclusion

English plays an indispensable role in modern medicine, influencing education, research, and clinical practice. While it facilitates global collaboration and knowledge exchange, language barriers still hinder the participation of non-native speakers. To ensure equitable access to medical advancements, universities, research institutions, and healthcare organizations must implement strategies to support multilingualism. By addressing these challenges, we can create a more inclusive and effective global healthcare system.

References

1. Ammon, U. (2012). "Linguistic inequality and its effects on participation in scientific discourse and exchange."
2. Liu, J. (2017). "Publish in English or perish in other languages?"
3. Meneghini, R., & Packer, A. L. (2007). "Is there science beyond English? Initiatives to increase the quality and visibility of non-English publications might help to break down language barriers in scientific communication." EMBO reports, 8(2), 112-116.
4. The New England Journal of Medicine. [NEJM.org](https://www.nejm.org).
5. JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association. [JAMANetwork.com](https://www.jama-network.com).
6. Buranova, D.D. (2022). Teaching special subjects in english as an important stage in higher medical education. Педиатрия.
7. Buranova, D.D. (2021). To Teach or Not to Teach English for Medical Students. Psychology and Education 58(3): 990-996

8. Davletyarova N.I. (2016). The specificities of teaching English language for children on early stages in the present year “Healthy mother-healthy child. Педиатрия. 2016. 25-26.
9. Kolesnikova I.L., Dolgina O.A. English Russian terminological handbook on the methodology of teaching foreign languages - S.-Pub, BLIC, 2001,223 pp.
10. Markaryan E.V. Teaching professionally oriented intercultural communication to students - future specialists in service and tourism. Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences Pyatigorsk, 2004.