

Paper Proposal for Presentation at
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“Transforming the Language Classroom: Meeting the Needs of the Globalized World”

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Paper Title: **Is a Little English Better Than None?**

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Paper Abstract (138 words)

Our national universal English language (UEL) requirements are failing in their mission -- not because they have not succeeded, rather because their success has been achieved with little regard to their cost.

There are too many people learning English to provide adequate training, and there is insufficient real demand to help sustain what has been learned after having been trained. As a result the overall quality of the English language has suffered, many languages of the world are being neglected, and understanding between peoples has been impaired.

The obvious solution to this problem is to remove the artificial demand for the English language created by national governments and the language's global proponents. Unfortunately, those who are in the best position to remove this excess demand and consequent oversupply of poor quality English are the least inclined to do so.

Autobiographical Sketch (49 words)

B.A. in anthropology, University of Michigan. Second M.A. in economics, University of Washington. I have spent 17 of the past 20 years in Asia teaching ESL and TESOL. In all of these countries I have sought to acquire the principal language and culture of my host country.

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