



CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

The Manual of the Church of the Nazarene (Global English Version)

THE GLOBAL ENGLISH MANUAL COMMITTEE:

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Global English is an easy-to-read and easy-to-translate version of the Church's constitution, covenant, and polity. The project is in the hands of the General Secretary's office and will undergo a rigorous approval process that will expand the project to include the entire *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene*. Here are two examples of the translation of the *Manual* from the original wording to Global English.

Example #1

Original Wording

We believe in one eternally existent, infinite God, Sovereign Creator and Sustainer of the universe

Global English

We believe in one God who is eternal and without limits. He is the creator and the ruler of the universe.

Example #2

Original Wording

Our leaders and pastors are expected to give strong emphasis in our periodicals and from our pulpits to such fundamental biblical truths as will develop the faculty of discrimination between the evil and the good.

Global English

We expect our leaders and pastors to emphasize biblical teachings that help people develop the ability to know the difference between good and evil.

A GLOBAL CHURCH: Our denomination is established in 162 world areas. We are, in fact and in mission, a Global Church. Our 100th anniversary, October 6, 2008, was celebrated on the campus of Trevecca Nazarene University under the name, *The Sun Never Sets on the Church of the Nazarene.*

ENGLISH:

The Language of the World

The use of English has expanded. According to research conducted by the British Council from the applied linguist David Graddol, “A massive increase in the number of people learning English has already begun, and is likely to reach a peak of around 2 billion in the next 10–15 years.” The council members published their predictions in 2006. Their prediction has become reality.

- 1582, **4 million** people spoke English.
- 1780, **12 million** people spoke English.
- 1828, **50 million** people spoke English.
- 1920, **200 million** people spoke English.
- Today, **2 billion** people speak English.

The handbook of world Englishes By Braj B. Kachru, Yamuna Kachru, Cecil L. Nelson

In the last 100 years, the world’s population has tripled. The number of people who speak English has increased 10 fold. Of the two billion people who use English, only one in four is a native speaker.

“We can credibly imagine a genuine global language.”*

**The handbook of world Englishes*

By Braj B. Kachru, Yamuna Kachru, Cecil L. Nelson

The Change in English. English is a living language as opposed to a dead language, which is one that is no longer the native language of any community. English has changed over the last thousand years. Here is the opening of the Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:9) that illustrates how English has changed over that period of time.

1100, In Old English: (WSCp)

- **Fæder ure þu þe eart on heofonum;**

1380, In Middle English: (Wycliffe)

- **Oure fadir that art in heuenes, halewid be thi name;**

1611, Early Modern English: The King James Bible

- **Our father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

1963, Late Modern English: The New Testament in Modern English (Phillips)

- **Our Heavenly Father, may your name be honored;**

2009, In Global English, Jean-Paul Nerriere

- **Our Father, Who comes to us from above, Your name is holy.**

(https://faculty.uca.edu/lburley/the_lord%27s_prayer.htm)

Can English be better adapted so that our message translates all over the world? This is where the writing style known as **Global English** proves to be a useful tool.

Standard English, or the English native speakers use every day, is bursting with nuances and idiosyncrasies that are difficult to translate into foreign languages. Unique or unusual grammatical conventions like the passive voice and implicit pronouns create confusion quickly in translation. **Global English** modifies the rules of Standard English to eliminate that confusion.

In **Global English**, sentences are short. Word order is consistent and as predictable as possible. The passive voice is avoided. The relationship between the sentence’s subject and its modifiers is explicit. No metaphors or other types of figurative language are used. Everything is literal and logical.

(<http://daily.unitedlanguagegroup.com/stories/editorials/global-english>)

Here is an example of how Global English brings clarity to Standard English. Consider paragraph 112.1 in the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene*.

Original Wording in the Manual

112.1. Laypersons. When a lay member of a local church has accepted membership, license to preach, or ordination from any other religious organizations, or is engaging in independent church or missionary work, his or her membership in the local church shall, because of that fact, immediately cease, except in case that person shall secure the annual written approval of the local church board of the church in which said membership is held, and the annual written approval of the District Advisory Board of the district in which that church is located.

The paragraph is one sentence consisting of 89 words and nine phrases divided by commas. Now, read the same paragraph translated into Global English.

Global English

112.1 Laypersons. A lay member of a local church may lose his or her membership in the following ways.

- The member accepts a license to preach or ordination from another religious organization.
- The member engages in independent or missionary work with another organization.

A member can avoid this action by writing the local church board and receiving the annual written approval of the District Advisory Board.

There are places in the Manual that are written in a style that aligns with Global English. When possible, the wording of the original Manual is maintained. Here is an example.

Original Wording

502.1 The Church of the Nazarene depends largely upon the spiritual qualifications, character and manner of life of its ministers. (538.17)

Global English

502.1 The Church of the Nazarene depends largely upon the spiritual qualifications, character, and manner of life of its ministers. (538.17)

In translating the Manual from the original wording into Global English, the translation task force used three principles: 1) eliminate English idioms, 2) follow the principles of Global English, and 3) preserve the distinctive meaning of the terms.

1. Eliminating English Idioms

One of the major issues in translating English is the wide use of idioms. Here are a few common idioms in the English language. Native speakers understand them, but they must be translated into Global English.

- “A hot potato” *means* “an issue that many people are disputing.”
- “A penny for your thoughts” *means* “asking what someone is thinking”
- “Actions speak louder than words” *means* “a person’s intentions should be judged by what he or she does.”
- “Add insult to injury” *means* “to make an unfavorable situation worse.”
- “At the drop of a hat” *means* “without any hesitation; instantly.”
- “Back to the drawing board” *means* “when an attempt fails and it's time to start all over.”

There are phrases, idioms, and vocabulary in the Manual that must be changed when translated into Global English. Here are a few examples.

Original Wording

“The core of this unity is declared in the Articles of Faith of the *Manual*. . . This is **the golden strand that is woven into the fabric** of all we are and do as Nazarenes.”

The “golden strand” is not translatable into Global English. The purpose of the phrase in the sentence must be made clear. Here is the same sentence in Global English.

Global English

We express the foundation of our unity in the Articles of Faith in the *Manual*. . . The Articles of Faith **establish and reflect who we are and what we do as Nazarenes**.

In the next example, “seek to preserve the fruits” sounds like making jams and jellies. The phrase must be translated.

Original Wording

“To promote evangelism in the local church and **seek to preserve the fruits** of evangelism.”

Global English

“To promote evangelism in the local church and **look for ways to conserve the results** of evangelism.”

The next example requires a definition of “immediate family.” In Papua New Guinea, one’s cousins are “brothers,” and one’s aunts are “mothers.”

Original Wording

”In addition, other **immediate** relatives of the pastor may be recused from the interview, . . .”

Global English Glossary

We defined “immediate family” as **spouse, children, siblings, or parents.**”

The use of the word “provisions” in the next example is problematic. Provisions is normally associated with food supplies.

Original Wording

“The task of the council is to . . . make **provisions*** for these plans.”

Global English

“The task of the council is to . . . **supply resources** for these plans.”

There are words in the Manual that can be rendered in Global English by a replacement word.

- “The **remuneration** of the pastor. . .” *becomes* “the pastor’s **salary or wage**”
- “This includes the power to . . . **hypothecate**” *becomes* “**to pledge money.**”
- “The authority to **impanel** a committee” *becomes* “**to appoint** a committee.”
- “Will not **jeopardize** the spiritual life of the church” *becomes* “**will not put the spiritual life of the church in danger.**”

2.

Guiding Principles of Global English

The first principle of Global English is clarity. Dr. Donna Gray, a member of the translation committee, uses the principles of Global English to teach her students about effective writing. To achieve clarity, sentences are restricted to 25 words. The cardinal rule is “Don’t make any change that will sound unnatural to native speakers of English” (Kohl, 2008, *The Global English Style Guide*, pp. 4, 34).

A second principle of Global English is to use a verb-centered writing style.

- “reach an agreement” *becomes* “agree”
- “make a decision” *becomes* “decide”
- “provide an explanation” *becomes* “explain”
- “conduct an investigation” *becomes* “investigate”

(Kohl, 2008, *The Global English Style Guide*, p. 37)

A third principle is to limit use of passive voice. "Passive voice is appropriate when the agent of action is unknown or unimportant" (Kohl, 2008, *The Global English Style Guide*, p. 42). Here is an example.

(*Passive*) The manual *was developed* by the management team.

(*Active*) The management team *developed* the manual.

A fourth principle for all English writers is the placement of "only." Native-English speakers tend to place "only" in the wrong place in a sentence. As with some grammatical rules, it can feel awkward to use the proper placement of a modifier in a casual conversation. However, for a non-native speaker, it is essential that "only" be placed in the correct place, which is just before the word it is modifying. Notice how the meaning of the sentence changes as "only" is put in different places.

- Only assigned ministers shall be voting members of the district assembly.
- Assigned ministers shall only be voting members of the district assembly.
- Assigned ministers shall be voting members only of the district assembly.

Original Wording

Our leaders and pastors are expected to give strong emphasis in our periodicals and from our pulpits to such fundamental biblical truths and will develop the faculty of discrimination between the evil and the good.

Global English

We expect our leaders and pastors to emphasize biblical teachings that help people develop the ability to know the difference between good and evil.

3.

The Meaning Beneath the Meaning

"We see and hear and otherwise experience very largely as we do because the language habits of our community predispose certain choices of interpretation" (Sapir, 1933, pp. 155-156).

There is a "common language" we use when we want to speak with people who are outside our group. This is the language of Global English. There is also a "distinctive language" that we use within our group. For example, teenagers develop a vocabulary that baffles their parents. When parents learn the language, the teens change it. Another example is "teacher talk," or the way mothers speak to one another. A major example is religious insider language.

These distinctions are called "markers." A subset of language "markers" is "cherished terms,"* which is defined as follows:

1. A cherished term identifies the central purpose or ideology of the group.

2. A cherished term is valued, highly esteemed, guarded, prized, and held dear by members of the group.

*Parrott, Ph.D. Dissertation, 1983

When the *Manual* is translated into Global English, the “cherished terms” must be evaluated. Here is a section of the Manual with three examples of “cherished terms.”

Original Wording

... promote and expand the necessity of ***holiness evangelism***, by providing training opportunities, by conducting ***rallies*** and conferences, by emphasizing the need for local church revivals with ***God-called evangelists*** . . .

Global English

... promote and expand the following.

- The necessity of ***holiness evangelism***
- Training opportunities
- ***Rallies*** and conferences
- Emphasizing the need for local church revivals with ***God-called evangelists***

“Holiness evangelism” is a Nazarene term. We know what we mean when we use the term. This is a term that does not need to be translated, but may need to be explained to outsiders.

“The God-called evangelist” is another term used by Nazarenes. Again, it is a good term, a cherished term, and one that does not need to be translated. It can be used directly in Global English.

“Rallies” is another issue. As Nazarenes, we enjoy mission rallies, Sunday School rallies, teen rallies, children’s rallies, etc. It is a term we use, and it is a term that is cherished by some. However, in the rest of the world, rallies are for politics or protests. This is a term that must be changed for Global English.

Where We Go From Here

We are asking ***50 people from all world areas*** to evaluate the Global English version of the Manual:

- Evaluate the personal **value and use** of the Global Manual in their leadership role.
- Evaluate any **problems** with the translation that may negatively impact their leadership.
- Finally, help us **fix up problems** in the *Manual* that the committee has discovered through the process of translation.

Writing in Global English

A few authors have provided specific tips for writing in Global English:

- Martin A. Schell – Website – American Services in Asia
- *The Global English Style Guide: Writing Clear, Translatable Documentation for a Global Market* By: John R. Kohl
- *“Global English for Global Business”* by Rachel McAlpine (2005). Wellington: CC Press. ISBN 0-476-01386-0.

Why English is Becoming the Language of the World

Here are some factors that are contributing to English being chosen by the vast majority of learners as the global language:

- The current dominance of the English language in learning and communication content on the internet (75%)
- The dominance of English in the recent wealth creating industries of computer and information technology
- It was and still is the language of the developed Western nations that the developing world wishes to do business with.
- It is based on the Roman alphabet which is already the most widely used alphabet in the world today, and is shared by many disparate and seemingly unrelated languages.
- It is the official communication in Olympic sport, air-traffic and maritime control.
- It is one of the six official languages of the U.N., and, along with French, one of the two working languages
- English is the sole working language of most UN bodies which is influenced heavily by the fact that UN headquarters, and the majority of UN bodies, are based in the United States.
- All of the world’s major scientific journals are published in English.
- It is easy to learn, because it has less grammar to learn than its rivals and its relative simplicity of conjugation of verbs.
- It is used as an official language of the Council of Europe and is used for daily work and official statements.
- English has no state-controlled regulatory authority monitoring its use. It is an inclusive language that borrows from all others which allows it to easily morph into the vernacular of the age.
- It is one of the working languages of the European Commission.
- It is the predominant language in the publishing industry, which allows authors writing in English to have a much better chance of translation than those writing in other tongues.
- It usually affords better job prospects and ensures full enjoyment of English entertainment in the forms of music, film and literature.