

Re: Anyone conversant in Tagalog here?

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- *From:* phoglund@xxxxxx
 - *Date:* 17 Apr 2007 03:17:58 -0700
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Padraic Brown wrote:

On 16 Apr 2007 03:26:48 -0700, phoglund@xxxxxx wrote:

English has long ago ceased to belong to native speakers alone. It's us – the second–language speakers – who will set the standards from now on, not them. We outnumber them.

Could be -- but the misuses of ESL users won't become Standard. They will always be the subject of how _not_ to use the language.

You are being very unrealistic now, my friend. The language will become increasingly tolerant of irrelevant solecisms which do not impair the mutual understanding – such forms as "runned" and "taached", for instance. Eventually they will become standard, and "run" and "taught" will pass into obsolescence.

If you're happy being continually misunderstood and degraded as an ignorant and uneducated foreigner, then be our guest! If I were to visit Finland, I would make an honest attempt to learn some Finnish, and would graciously accept correction by native speakers. If Finnish ever became the dominant language in the world, I would understand that it is important to learn it properly.

You are missing the point. I – and the rest of global second–language speakers of English – am not in the position of a guest in an Anglophone country. I am making use of English as a global auxiliary language on the Internet, and the majority here are people like me. In a sense, I am not visiting your country – you are at least as much visiting mine. I do not need to accept instruction or correction from anybody here – the Internet is mine no less than yours, and I am no less instrumental in setting the future standards of this variety of

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English than you are.

This attitude of mine will eventually prevail among Internet users, and you will be left in the minority. I don't really think I am doing anything else than stating a fact. You might see our variety of English as debased, inferior, or pidginised; but eventually, it will be the only show in town, if English survives as a globally dominant language.

The same would doubtlessly apply to Finnish, if it were in a dominant position in the world.

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