

Conlangs can become future global languages

English has been widely accepted as the global language for many years. Recently, there has been growing debate about whether it should be replaced by another natural language. Spanish is often seen as a strong candidate, as it has recently gained popularity and is considered relatively easy to learn. However, could natural languages themselves be replaced by constructed ones?

This essay explores the question: do conlangs have a real chance of becoming global languages, or is this idea unrealistic? It also considers a related question: is English's dominance helpful — or a form of linguistic imposition?

Constructed languages, or conlangs, are artificially created by individuals or groups. Unlike natural ones, they are easier to learn, have simpler grammar, and are phonetically consistent. Conlangs can be divided into several main categories, and it is important to understand that not every type has the potential to become a global language.

Let's begin with artistic conlangs — the least likely to become global. They're mainly appreciated in fan communities, which limits their relevance. Artistic languages focus on sound and aesthetics, created to reflect fictional worlds. They often have complex pronunciation and limited vocabulary, since they're meant for scenes, not full communication. A good example is Na'vi, made for Avatar by linguist Paul Frommer. Though crafted to sound emotional and immersive, its vocabulary is tied to the Na'vi world, not human concepts. It was made for storytelling, not everyday use.

Next come technical conlangs. While they could be placed last, I ranked them third as they've been used in practice. For instance, Lojban has been explored in AI and machine translation. However, these languages are designed for specialized fields, not daily communication, which limits their international use.

Second place goes to logical or philosophical conlangs — built to express ideas clearly. Lojban follows formal logic: *mi nelci do* means "I like you" and can't be misread. Each word has a fixed role. Toki Pona uses few words: *telo* means any liquid, and *ilo* means any tool. This forces reliance on context and emotion. Still, these languages are too narrow for global use.

Unlike other conlangs, Esperanto has the strongest potential to become a global language. Its grammar is simple and regular, and its vocabulary is based on European roots — for example, *libro* means "book", and *lerni* means "to learn." Most importantly, it has a real, active community. People use it in daily life, not just admire it. That's why Esperanto ranks first among all conlangs for global potential.

So, what exactly is wrong with natural languages, and why would anyone want to switch to a constructed one?

Take English, for example. Although it serves as a global lingua franca, it's not as easy to learn as it seems. One major issue is that spelling often doesn't match pronunciation. Words like 'colonel', 'through', or 'debt' confuse even advanced learners. This challenge becomes even greater for speakers of languages that are structurally very different from English — such as many Asian languages — where both pronunciation and grammar can feel especially unfamiliar.

From my own experience, I've spoken with several non-native English speakers who are learning the language, and many of them told me that this inconsistency is one of the most frustrating parts. They struggle with pronunciation because the spelling is often unclear. For some, English feels more like a barrier than a help — which is why switching to a more regular constructed language might make sense. But do conlangs really come without drawbacks?

Despite their benefits, conlangs face real challenges. They're not widely used, and most people are more familiar with natural languages. Conlangs can feel artificial and lack emotional depth. Unlike a mother tongue, they don't have cultural roots, shared history, or personal ties. Many people grow up using their native language in real-life situations filled with emotion — something Esperanto and others can't easily offer. Without that connection, it's harder to truly adopt them.

To sum up, I believe that using a constructed language as a global one is a possible and even logical solution. Personally, I still find it hard to imagine Esperanto fully replacing English, but the idea doesn't seem unrealistic. If the world continues to seek a neutral tool for communication, a well-designed conlang could become part of that solution.

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