



Bölüm #2

İngilizce öğrenmek neden önemlidir? Temel noktalar, hayat tecrübeleri ve hikayeler

HÜSEYİNDEMİRTAŞ
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İngilizce Konuşma Süresi

49 dakika

Hüseyin: Hello everyone, and welcome to the second episode of English Hour. We are very pleased to have you here. And in today's lecture, or talk, or interview, whatever you call it, we will be talking about the benefits of learning English. As well as?

Canberk: *As well as the disadvantages of not doing so.*

Hüseyin: That is true. So, you can approach an issue from two perspectives. You can either talk about its benefits, or you can talk about the problems you'll face if you do not do that. And I think, in some cases, that works better.

Canberk: *Yeah, you know what, I think there is a name for this duo in psychology. They are called positive reinforcement and negative reinforcement.*

Hüseyin: Yeah, I guess that is relevant.

Canberk: *Yeah, you know the phrase carrot and stick?*

Hüseyin: Oh, that is true. Yes.

Canberk: *There are positive incentives that, you just look at it and it looks appealing, you want to get it, and there are sometimes, like, monsters chasing you from behind so you have to run as fast as you can.*

Hüseyin: That is true. I think we have some great proverbs in Turkish that really pinpoint that specific instance, but since this is the English Hour, for now we will skip it, but for those of you who want to learn those, I think I'll be noting them down in the episode notes so you can check them out. OK, so let's get started with the benefits of learning English. When we say benefits, we can also say the pros and cons, like, the advantages and disadvantages of learning English. Well, I'll give the floor to you Canberk. What is the first benefit of English that comes to your mind when I ask this question?

Canberk: *OK, well, I think it is going to be different for everybody, for sure. For me personally, when I think about language, I think about two things: Information and culture. And I have to say, information at this point takes precedence. I feel like English gives me more access to information and knowledge than any other tool that I have at my disposal. So you have access, when you learn English, to incredible*

amounts of information and data and knowledge that you can't otherwise. So I think that's going to be the first point to make.

Hüseyin: OK. You know what, I'll make an interesting point. You said, well, when you ask this question to people, they might have different answers.

Canberk: *Sure.*

Hüseyin: But I can guarantee that your answer would be my answer if you asked the same question. Because for me, when I talk about learning English, or the benefits of English, the first thing that comes to my mind is access to information. Well, culture is definitely a part of the process but I think I consider that as part of information in general. So when I think about English, when I think about the benefits of English, the first thing that has come to my mind over the years has been access to information. And access to information in various forms. You can access information in written forms, in, what is it, in video form, or audio form, and especially with the spread of the internet. The types of information that we can access over the internet has been tremendous.

Canberk: *Yeah, there has been an explosion of information through communication. And, you know, I think we can succinctly say that learning English opens the door to more learning, basically.*

Hüseyin: I think I've got a great example. It's an example from one of my high-school teachers. So, when I was a language student in high school, I think I was in the second year, or third year, one of our teachers said, "Why do you learn English?" That was a question for the entire class, and we thought about it, as most high school students would do. And then, before listening to our answer, he gave us his answer. He said... well, he was someone who was offering the guidance and teaching courses, for Anatolian training high schools, right? Teacher training high schools.

Canberk: *Psychological counseling type of stuff.*

Hüseyin: So, those schools are now a thing of the past. I miss them.

Canberk: *For better or worse.*

Hüseyin: Yeah. So, our teacher said, “I want to learn English because when I go to Google, and when I search for “kitap”, which is a Turkish word, I get around, I don’t know, 200,000 results. But when I go to Google and search for “book”, which is an English word, I get around, or a lot more than 2 million results. And I want that information. And I think that was an eye-opener for me.

Canberk: *Yeah, that is an inspirational way to encapsulate this whole issue. I totally agree with that.*

Hüseyin: And it’s an example from someone I didn’t expect.

Canberk: *Yeah, I mean, teachers... If you think about a teacher ideally, I think that’s exactly where you’d expect to have this information from. But, you know, realities are always different, so... I think we can go ahead. I think this point is very clear, about information.*

Hüseyin: Yeah.

Canberk: *What else do you have in mind when it comes to pros, the advantages of learning English?*

Hüseyin: I think it is a great tool for career advancement, because I work with a lot of students from the private sector and government institutions, and I work with students with different age ranges. So I have students who are around 14 years old, and I have students who are over 45 years old. So it’s a huge age range. And in almost every case, English to them seems like a barrier in front of their advancement. So they go like this: “I have each and every qualification they might ask for but I don’t have a good level of English proficiency.” Or, “I can pass every professional test in my field, but I’ve not been able to get the required score on the IELTS or the TOEFL exam. And that’s very heartbreaking, because I see people who are very qualified and who can do great things, and the language in that case seems to be a barrier for their advancement.

Canberk: *That’s right. Well, without a decent command of the English language, you find yourself bumping against ceilings at work, in academia, everywhere. I remember my dorm buddy at university, telling me... One day, he came to the dorm, kind of, crestfallen. He was very disappointed with himself. He is very downcast. He doesn’t*

want to do anything; he just wants to sit there. And I guess after ten, fifteen minutes, he just divulged his secret.

Hüseyin: Opened up?

Canberk: *Yeah, he kind of opened up, he was more comfortable, I guess. He said, like, "I really don't understand it. We're in class, everything's fine, and all of a sudden, it turns into a one-to-one dialogue between one of the students and the instructor. Because that student happens to speak English well, and the others don't, and because of that we have to listen to this particular person, who doesn't necessarily know much about the topic, like, more than any other student. And I know the answer to the questions that the lecturer, or the instructor is asking, but I can't express it, I can't say it, because I don't know how to speak English. And it is so disappointing.*

Hüseyin: That sure is. I think I can totally relate to that. Because we both have been in classes where our English level, or English proficiency, was much higher than the rest of the class. For example, in our department, in the Translation and Interpreting Studies department, we have to take classes from other departments, like economics, psychology, and elective and selective classes from other departments. And in those cases, we are simply pitted against students from other departments, whose area of expertise is not necessarily English.

Canberk: *Yeah.*

Hüseyin: And I remember many cases where my English proficiency has helped me move forward, or get better grades compared to other students, because I was able to present my opinions better, I gave a better speech, I wrote a better answer. It's not necessarily the content, it's the delivery. Because maybe the content that I produced wasn't great. It was OK. In some cases, better than OK.

Canberk: *It was enough.*

Hüseyin: It was enough. But the delivery, I think, was better than most people, so that got me better results. And I can say that you've experienced something similar, probably.

Canberk: *Yeah, I totally have. I mean, it really helps you wiggle out a lot of difficult situations when it comes to academia. Because, nobody can be 100 percent*

prepared for every single exam, every single class. You're going find yourself behind the schedule, maybe even a few weeks behind the schedule, a lot of the times. And what you do is, you kind of hang on to something. You pick out bullet points of information, little bits and pieces of information, and you kind of blurt them out during the class. And all of a sudden, you look like you are well-prepared for everything where other people are not, whereas actually the reality is the opposite, it is the polar opposite. But it is your ability to speak the language fluently, and elaborate on things very easily that gives you the edge.

Hüseyin: Well, I think I have a proverb to raise that really pertains to this issue. So, in the English language they say, "Do not judge a book by its cover." We all know that. It's not just about books, it's about everything in life.

Canberk: *Yeah, it's metaphorical.*

Hüseyin: It's figurative, right? We say do not judge a book by its cover, but in reality, most of the time, we judge things by their covers.

Canberk: *That's right. That's actually true.*

Hüseyin: Yeah, so in that case, I can definitely say that, as you mentioned, and as I mentioned in the examples I gave, English is a great advantage, or a great trait that you can have when it comes to career advancement. In both professional life and your personal life as well, because I like traveling, I like talking to people from different countries, different cultures, so English language helps me connect with people from various parts of the world. So, when I was a high school student, I had pen friends from all around the world: I had friends from Korea, I had friends from Finland, I had friends from the USA. And back then, we did not have WhatsApp, we had, I think MSN messenger or something.

Canberk: *Email.*

Hüseyin: Yeah, bare email. We wrote emails to each other, we used the messenger service, which was available back then. So, it was a great experience. I had very personal moments, I had great memories. For example, the first birthday present that I received when I was eighteen, when I turned eighteen, came from Finland.

Canberk: *Cool!*

Hüseyin: Can you believe it? I was nicely surprised.

Canberk: *An actual present shipped to your address?*

Hüseyin: An actual present mailed to me. From Finland to a village in Trabzon.

Canberk: *That's amazing.*

Hüseyin: It's amazing. Well, since we did not have postal service in the village, I had to go to the district town center and then pick it up, but still, it was great! I had something, I had a present coming from Finland, and I was just a little boy in nowhere.

Canberk: *That's just beautiful. That's the beauty of communication, you know.*

Hüseyin: That sure is.

Canberk: *If you really believe that communication can make a difference in your life, which it can, but it's important that you believe it, then learning English becomes all the more important. Because English is the best tool, best instrument for communication that's available right now to humanity, basically. If you are a human being, this is the best tool that you can use. Before we go ahead I want to make a minor point about the previous point that we discussed. It's like, we said that you can get out of situation if you know the language.*

Hüseyin: That is true. *To a certain extent.*

Canberk: *Absolutely true. To a certain extent. But at the same time, there is counter-argument to that, which is – this is still in favor of the language, because when you speak a language, it gives you a world, a universe of terms and concepts. If you can really speak a language well, it comes with its universe of concepts... Intangible things like love, affection, virtues, honesty, and then like physical things, your car, house, money and finances – everything is almost like a coordinate system of concepts.*

Hüseyin: It gives you a universe.

Canberk: *It gives you a universe to think in, to believe in, to express emotions in. And what happens is, even if you don't know about the particular subject matter that*

you are supposed to learn, that you are supposed to study, for example, if you are familiar with this universe of concepts, those particulars don't really matter that much, because you can express yourself because you know what you are talking about.

Hüseyin: That is so true.

Canberk: *That is important point to distinguish.*

Hüseyin: And I think I have another point to raise that is relevant to the first point. So, I said, well, if your English is good enough, you can deal with, tackle with, surprising situations without being really well prepared. But it happens every once in a while. That's not the lifestyle that we pursue.

Canberk: *Exactly.*

Hüseyin: So, we do the homework, we do the job, we do the necessary prep, but as everyone else, we're humans, and there are times when we also feel lazy and maybe skip the work, do stupid things. But then, since we've done so much before, that pile of expertise helps us get through difficult times.

Canberk: *That's right.*

Hüseyin: So, we're not in favor of giving up, we're not in favor being lazy, we're not in favor of cutting corners. That's not the point. The point is, you have to be great at what you do, and if you're great, and if you are really well-prepared, you can deal with some surprising situations without being totally prepared.

Canberk: *That's right, because that expertise that you talked about is encoded in this medium, this language and the fabric of this language, so when you can speak it, you can express yourself.*

Hüseyin: And one point that you mentioned, the nature of communication – as you said, the language is really about communication, because we're social beings. Well, some call us social animals. I don't like that term. I'd rather call myself a social being, a social creature, not necessarily a social animal. Because you can find a lot of social animals. I'd rather be a social human.

Canberk: *Yeah.*

Hüseyin: So, we're social humans, or social beings. And when we communicate, I think we satisfy one of our greatest needs: We want to be heard. We want to be listened to.

Canberk: *Yeah, well that's an important point to make. That just reminds me of Maslow's Pyramid, I guess? The social needs step is an important part in your development as a human being.*

Hüseyin: For self-fulfillment.

Canberk: *That's right. For self-fulfillment. Because we are on this Earth for a limited period of time. And this limited period of time, no matter how short, is still pretty long. Like, we are talking decades. And being together with people, sharing experiences, sharing knowledge and information, this is so essential to our existence. So, to do this the most effectively, you're going to have to use your ability to communicate. And this ability to communicate gets an enormous boost when you learn the language that the world speaks. The entire world is speaking this language, which is, in this case, English.*

Hüseyin: Yeah.

Canberk: *You know what, you and I could be sitting around this table, or maybe another table, I don't know – maybe five hundred years later or earlier, and there could have been another language that occupies the place that English does at this point in time. And we would be vouching for that particular that particular language and telling people to learn that language. So it has nothing to do with English, per se. It is about this lingua franca of the world.*

Hüseyin: It's about the function.

Canberk: *It's about the purpose. It's about what it does, what it serves.*

Hüseyin: We're not looking at the brand, we're looking at the quality, we're looking at the market penetration. So, English is the language that has the highest market penetration. So, you can find people speaking English all around the world, but you cannot say the same thing for any other language. It's not like we're fans of English – well, we might be, to a certain extent – but the reason why we learn English and the reason why we help people learn English is to help them achieve their goals, and

achieve their purpose in life. And I'd really like to talk about this communication part, because I think English language helps us amplify our message. So, we live in Turkey, right? We are Turkish citizens. We live in Turkey. Our mother tongue is Turkish. Great. By using Turkish, we can approximately reach maybe hundred million people, considering the Turkic republics in Central Asia. We can partly reach those people. So, by using Turkish, you can reach approximately a hundred million people, which isn't bad. But if you're using English, you can reach billions of people, you can amplify your message by twenty, by forty times.

Canberk: *That's right.*

Hüseyin: And if you have something valuable to say, then I think it's your duty to master the language and get your message out. Because if you think you have something very valuable in you, if you think you have something that you should definitely share with the world, maybe you'll change the world. And for it to happen, you have to share that message. And right now, the lingua franca, the shared language is English, and better master it.

Canberk: *Yeah, well that's an important point to make. This is actually inspirational. I can feel the drive that you have, when you say, if you have a message to share, learn this language so that you can share it with the most amount of people possible. So it's definitely a worthy goal when you look at that point. Another point to make here could be, if we are going to keep looking at the pros, the benefits of learning language, we talked about the career boost that you are getting out of it, we talked about the access to information. And then, you know, human interaction is also important. Because language allows you to meet actual people. Because human beings, we are so diverse. Different ethnicities, different nationalities, different languages that we speak.*

Hüseyin: And there are great stories we can learn.

Canberk: *Exactly. And it's like when you go and speak with another human being, several important things happen: One, you touch their life. And they touch yours.*

Hüseyin: And you know what, when you say "You touch their life", it's a very touching sentence for me. I feel touched.

Canberk: *Well, you know, it's real. You really experience that. That common humanity, that common denominator, being human, really manifests itself. You feel that, and the person in front of you feels that, and to use the cliché, you are just brothers and sisters in humanity, basically.*

Hüseyin: That is true. I think we forget that very often. We are remembered of that fact by events, generally catastrophic events, but things are right, when we are in peace, we tend to forget our shared, common humanity, the fact that we are all humans.

Canberk: *It's just business as usual, unfortunately. Just pursuing interests, pursuing worldly pleasures and stuff. Basically, that's what a lot of us are doing. But, another thing that happens when you communicate with another person from another language, thanks to this bridge – this language that you have learned – is, it's like you understand what is more important about yourself, your identity. Because some things go beyond your own culture, and your own language. And some things don't. And when you realize which things go out, branch out, which are more universal and which are not, then you reprioritize. You realize that in your life, maybe some things are more important than others. And it changes you. It really gives you a broader perspective. I'm sure you can attest to that.*

Hüseyin: Sure.

Canberk: *Because you have been in so many different international encounters, and environments.*

Hüseyin: I've some stories to share.

Canberk: *Cool!*

Hüseyin: For example, when we talk about communication, I can think of some very vivid memories from important past times. You might remember, some years ago, there was a mass shooting in Norway. Right?

Canberk: *Yeah, exactly.*

Hüseyin: So, there was this white guy.

Canberk: *Breivik, I guess.*

Hüseyin: A Norwegian guy, yeah. He killed tens of, maybe more than a hundred people, right?

Canberk: *I guess it was like seventy-six, so I guess tens.*

Hüseyin: OK, so tens, he killed tens of people.

Canberk: *That's right. And a lot of them were young people.*

Hüseyin: That is true. So, at that time, I guess in the summer of that year, I was in Slovenia for a summer school on computational linguistics, I think. And I had one weekend free, and I thought, well this is a great chance to travel a little bit. And I took a train from Slovenia to Austria. They are very close, and I think you can go from one country to the other, in about three to four hours by train. So I hopped on a train, and I was on my way to Austria. And, you know, there are travelers all around the world, especially from around Europe, and there was this young guy – I think two people, two young people – and I learned that they were from Norway. So, we were sitting side by side, and I started a conversation. And for the next hour, we talked about the mass killing, the perception of a terrorist, and the white identity, and religious discrimination, all kinds of things. So, I was able to offer that person a perspective that he would probably not receive from his own TV channels or from his friends. So I was able to give him an outsider's perspective of the events.

Canberk: *Just a question: How much time had passed between this encounter and the actual shooting that happened?*

Hüseyin: I don't quite remember, but I was a couple of months, I think.

Canberk: *A couple of months, I see. So it was very fresh.*

Hüseyin: Yeah, it was fresh. I think it was all over the news, because the trial took some time to progress.

Canberk: *And the person, the perpetrator of this heinous crime, was caught alive. He didn't commit suicide, he wasn't killed. He was caught alive and he expressed his own ideology. And he kind of tried to justify killing tens of young people by this ultranationalistic manifesto that he spawned. It was very strange.*

Hüseyin: That is true. And I remember another conversation that I had with an Austrian lady. So, I think this time I was going back to Slovenia. I was on my way back. And I had a conversation, had a long chat with this Austrian lady, who was a doctor. She was with her granddaughter, I think. She was taking care of her granddaughter. And again, for an hour, or more than an hour, we talked a lot about our cultures, our history, and I think she was nicely surprised by my existence. Because up to that point, he had met a lot of Turkish people, but he had – she hadn't met, well, I'm referring to her as he, which isn't true – so, she had not met a lot of well-educated Turkish people. So I think she was nicely surprised. And really, speaking an international language helps you represent your country in a better way. If you are a well-equipped, if you are well-prepared, well-educated person, and if you know the language of the world, you can represent your country, your culture, your civilization in a much better way.

Canberk: *I totally agree with that, yeah. I mean, I've had my fair share human interaction, as we just talked about. I worked as a journalist overseas for over a year, and that really helped me come into contact a lot of people from different cultures, from different nationalities, and it's like when they see you, when they get to know you, and when they have access to some basic information about you. OK, you're Turkish, and you are from this town or this city in Turkey, and then you do this for a living, like your profession. And when they combine all of these different identities, they inadvertently – like, they are not even trying – unknowingly they come to a conclusion. And that conclusion is going to be what they base their judgment on for the collective of people that you represent. Even if you don't want to represent, you are in a position to represent.*

Hüseyin: You are a living representation.

Canberk: *That's right. So, if you are Turkish, if you speak English well, then you are, "OK, well, Turks, they speak English so well, their educational system must be excellent. Like, look at this guy, I mean, how can they produce a mind like that if they are horrible? So there is something going on there." And then, you know, suddenly you have boosted the image of your country in another human being across maybe thousands of kilometers away somewhere.*

Hüseyin: That is so true and striking. And I think communication also helps us understand and figure out the similarities and differences between cultures, nations and people as you mentioned. I have an example in which I was having a conversation with an American friend of mine, and I learned that some Christians, some American Christians, avoid alcohol and pork and other things most Americans would consume. And I was a little, well I guess more than a little, I was surprised because I was like, well, you Americans, you guys do this stuff. But you are avoiding it? And then I learned there was a part of society or different religious groups in the Christian community who had a different approach to their religion. And then it helps you understand that a culture is not a uniform entity.

Canberk: *It's not a monolith.*

Hüseyin: Yes. There are different parts to a culture. And then for example, I did an internship in the UK, in London, when I graduated. And my best friends there were not Turks. Like, in my workplace, in the office, I had two friends, two close friends; one was from France, and the other was from Germany. And it was a great combination, like, a Turkish guy with a French and a German friend; we are traveling around London. We even went to different cities together, and we had a great friendship when we worked in that office. And I was like, wow! We can be international friends, we can be really close friends in an international setting. And in that case, sometimes the culture, the language doesn't matter that much – well, it matters but to a certain extent. For example, they know the things that you are sensitive about, and you know the things that they are sensitive about, and you try to respect them and they try to respect you and you find middle ground. Of course, you can't do everything with them and they can't do everything with you because there are obviously things that you are not in sync with. But still, you can find a lot of common ground and you can experience a lot of great memories together.

Canberk: *That's right. So, you know what, we have spent quite a bit of time talking about the benefits of learning English. Honestly, I think at this point, just summing up these three points that we made is more valuable than delving into the negative reinforcement side of things. I don't know if you agree, but...*

Hüseyin: Yeah, I'd agree, because, based on these stories, you can just imagine the reverse scenario. You can imagine the opposite scenario and you'll get the picture. I think you have enough imagination for that.

Canberk: *Yeah, sure. I mean, by looking at what you are getting...*

Hüseyin: and what you'll miss.

Canberk: *Exactly. You can definitely visualize what you would be losing out on. So we talked about how important it is for somebody to have access to information. And we emphasized the importance of English to get access to information through communication, through mass communication, Internet – as you mentioned, the books you have access to, everything – that is point number one, right?*

Hüseyin: That's true. But I think we gave more stories on the communication part. But honestly I think the access to information part is the critical part. Because, for example, if you are a doctor, if you are an engineer, you have to follow the latest developments in your field. No matter which profession you have, you have to follow the latest developments in your field to give the best service, to be the best, to do your job well, you have to follow the developments, and you have to contribute to the literature, the progress in that field and for that you need English. Personally, I've used English to learn about many things. For example, I'm not a professional programmer or computer scientist but as a hobby I've worked with computers and programming for years and it's been a great journey and I've learned a lot. And I was able to make that progress thanks to my knowledge of English. Because the amount of material that was available in Turkish back when I started was very limited, it was very scarce. But in English, I could find thousands of books on the same subject or thousands of YouTube videos that could help me out so learning English, knowing English mastering English really helped me learn a lot in areas that are not directly relevant to my field of study, and I think what really sets you apart in life are the things that you are not expected to excel in. That's a different point. But this assumes that you are already great at what you do.

Canberk: *Sure. If you are not great at what you do, it's almost like a multiplier effect. If you multiply everything with zero, then you get zero. So you have to be good at what you are doing first. But, going back to this doctor example that you just*

mentioned, I think I'm going to give you a small example about the intersection between career advancement and access to information. And this is about doctors, for example, going to international conferences and seminars. You are a physician with a specialty on, maybe, brain surgery.

Hüseyin: Which is a very specialized area.

Canberk: *Exactly. And then, it is a very specialized area, and at the same time, it is at the frontier of medical research. Like, it is an area where there is an active, scientific medical community that is hard at work trying to generate more knowledge and more expertise and trying to find better ways of treating people, of helping people.*

Hüseyin: And uncover the mysteries of the brain.

Canberk: *That's right. That's also another part of it. And you know, if you have a good command of the English language, what is going to happen is, you are either going to be invited, or you are going to apply and be admitted or accepted at an international conference that takes place, for example, in the United States. And then as a Turkish surgeon, you are going to take off and you are going to land in the United States, maybe in Miami. And then you are going to go to this conference. And you are going to understand every single word that is being spoken there. You are going to take notes, you are going to have exposure to this new information, to this breakthrough in brain surgery that none of your peers back at home in Turkey have access to. It's going to make a very clear difference between you and others in terms of your professional career, in terms of your abilities. So this is like a very small example of what can happen with that. So, learning English definitely opens the door to more learning. So I guess that's the point that we are making here.*

Hüseyin: I think in this global world, and in the 21st century, English is the key to learning and advancement. If you want to invest in your future, if you want to invest in the future of your country, your organization, or your profession, I think it is almost a must to advance your English and master the language in a professional setting, or in a personal setting. It's up to you, but you have to do something about it, because the cost of not doing so is tremendously high.

Canberk: *Yeah, it's too high to bear, basically. OK, the second point that we made – let's give our audience a short summary of the points that we made so that we can kind of wrap this up. You know, the second point I guess was exposure to culture and human interaction. And communication in general. So I think that's also a very important point to make. And I think your stories in particular really helped deliver this point home.*

Hüseyin: I mean, they are very vivid stories. When I told those stories...

Canberk: *You almost went back to those places.*

Hüseyin: I went back to those places, like, I was almost sitting next to that Austrian lady, or I was looking in the eye to that Norwegian guy, so it's a very vivid memory. And it's great to have such memories.

Canberk: *Exactly. Because I mean, it's like, at the end of the day, you can learn a lot from a book. You can learn a lot from the internet. But learning from another human being will always have its place because it's a different experience altogether. It comes with so much more than just bare bones of information. Like, it is not just data that is coming your way, it's emotions, it is the style, it is the personality, the character that person has. All of that adds to the information to make it more impactful.*

Hüseyin: That is definitely true. And I think there is one point we did not really mention. I think it's part of the whole process and I think we should definitely talk about it. And it's this: English enables you to explore the world. If you speak English, you can go to pretty much any country in the world, meet people, explore cities, explore cultures. There is no other language that affords you that opportunity. So, I think English is a great compass for exploration. It helps you explore. You can think of that in very general terms: English helps you explore information, English helps you explore communication with different cultures, and English helps you explore the world. So it really broadens your horizon, your perspective and everything about you. You are not the same person. Because once you learn an international English, once you know that culture, once you interact with other people, I think you can

never go back to the person you were before. I'm not sure if you'd agree. But I think you'll agree with this.

Canberk: *I totally agree with this. I mean, it's like, even the learning process adds so much to who you are. Because it takes a lot of discipline to learn a language. It's not just an off-hand thing. You can't really do it haphazardly. "Let me take a look at this source of information, OK, you know it's good, it's great," and "Let me try this podcast and this video", and then, you know, you kind of are grasping at straws and you're not really doing anything. You have to be disciplined. You have to start at one point, and then you have to realize that it's a journey that you are going to take, and it's going to take you somewhere. So, learning a language, even just learning it, the process, changes you. And when, you know, you start actually using it for what it is designed to do, then it is a whole different world.*

Hüseyin: It definitely is.

Canberk: *OK, so finally I guess we talked about career advancement and improvement in academia, or in general. And that's also valuable, it holds its value, because it makes life easier for you, it helps you grow as a professional. And you know, it helps you – I think we can add promulgating your message and really making itself heard, expressing yourself, I think we can add that in this point as well. I think that's an extremely crucial point to make.*

Hüseyin: And one extra thing I'd like to add is that, we want you, our audience who is on the other side of this discussion. It's you, you're listening to us, you're listening to this conversation, and we want you to explore the world, we want you to grow, we want you to achieve your goals, and we want you to be better at whatever you're doing. So, I think you owe it to yourself to fulfil your potential, and English in this case is a great tool, a great medium to accomplish that.

Canberk: *I agree with this. It's very succinct, it's to the point. I absolutely agree.*

Hüseyin: Well, honestly, we said we will shoot, record an episode for nine to ten minutes. But I think we're a little bit over time.

Canberk: *I think we added nine to ten minutes, even more than that, to the previous episode, and reached new heights. But that's fine, I think it had content, it really presented something...*

Hüseyin: I think this was a conversation we needed to have. Because sometimes you need that space, that time, to really elaborate on those topics.

Canberk: *You can't do this in nine minutes. You're not going to have the thought process.*

Hüseyin: That is true. Because this is a two-way conversation and we built things up from what we say, and it really inspires us, it really helps us to move to different points and to think about novel things, novel aspects. And as I said in one part of this interview, you shouldn't cut corners, and we did not cut corners. I think we did our job. We did not try to trim it down to bare bones, we did our best to explore, to elaborate and to give back as much as possible.

Canberk: *You know what, I have to say something. Valuable information will always be hard to get. In the past, it was hard to get because the bridges were not built. You did not have the internet. If you go back further than that you did not have the television, if you go further, you didn't have the radio. This mass communication was not there. So you didn't have the bridge to cross to access information. Today, valuable information is still hard to get, but for a whole different set of reasons. It is hard to get, because there is so much information out there, that it is hard to judge what is valuable and what is not. And there is always going to be this barrier that is going to sift through and filter people who are in some cases worthy, or in some cases interested in getting this valuable information, and those who are not, or maybe who are not yet ready. So I think this barrier in this case, in the case of our podcast, is time, and if you are patient, if you've waited this long, if you've listened to the podcast for this long, I think you are going to take away something that you are going to be able to carry with you for the rest of your life, basically.*

Hüseyin: I think Canberk made a great point. Because if you've made it this long, that means you have the drive, the determination and the patience, and these are the factors that will make a difference both in your personal life and in your

professional life, and these are the factors, the traits that will make it much easier to master the English language.

Canberk: *Well said.*

Hüseyin: So I think we can wrap this episode up here. It's been a great talk, I'd like to thank Canberk for taking the time to be here.

Canberk: *You're welcome. I would like to thank you as well.*

Hüseyin: And I'm hoping that you've taken some great points from this episode, and I'd like to say, see you in the next episode.

Canberk: *Alright, peace out.*

