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IMPORTANCE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ENGLISH SPEAKING SKILLS IN INDIA

Abstract

In the globalized world scenario, the need for the English language is crucial. People are getting connected with each other universally. Globalization made it possible for all to work together extensively. In this state it is very important for individuals to have a lingua franca. The English language became the lingua franca of the world. Therefore it becomes very important for people to speak the global language. India is a multilingual country, it is very important for people in India to develop English language to connect globally. To compete with the futuristic sphere, English Language skill is unavoidable. The paper aims to proffer the demand of English Language with the global perspective and history of English in India. Also it discusses the difficulties in front of non-native English speakers like Indians to learn English speaking.

Key words : English Language, Communication, Lingua Franca, India

Introduction

As the world becomes a global village, the world keeps on moving towards globalization that requires more connectivity and interaction. Every human being spends the majority of his life communicating with others through reading, writing, speaking, or listening. Although, communication does not talk about any particular language, the very important aspect of communication is understanding and choosing the correct medium. Here the relevance of communication skills with English language can be understood because English is accepted by many countries and the language has not kept any field untouched. Further, in the area of research and development the English language also has its key role because technology has interfered with the English language. With the global perspective, no Nation can survive without keeping stride with other countries. Many countries have established various organizations such as League of Nations, United Nation for Peaceful coexistence and cooperation. Some continents such as SAARC NATO, European Union also started various organizations to discuss and analyze local issues. To run such multinational organizations, it is important to have a lingua franca.

In the context of workplace, communication skills is not limited to sharing messages to each other. It involves strong social bonding, development of good relationship, smooth working environment and better understanding. Good communication has a budding capacity to make a person in demand professional competent and to enhance goodwill of an organization. In Multinationals, large business organizations, and big companies executives spends lot of time in Meetings, Interviews, Conferences, giving Instructions,

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preparing notices, circulars, Memorandums, advertising, handling Emails etc. and Employees also gets involved in following instructions, handling Emails, dealing with clients and customers, Meeting with executives etc. Hence, effective communication is the key element to handle a lot of things in a day. Most of the activities at workplace involved Oral and Written communication. It is observed that time spent for written communication occupies much of working hours.

Importance of English Language

From the beginning learning stage, people start learning English language that continues till graduation or his last academic qualification. Still, many of them fail to speak English. They are unable to actively involved in discussion. Generally, in English language classes emphasis is given to listening, reading and writing while speaking is considered less. This enforce lack of ability and confidence to speak. Oral communication plays a vital role for every individual whether he or she is literate or illiterate. Further, if we talk about professionalism, the English language emerged as an indispensable tool to communicate with one another especially in white-collar. Is it easy to know each and every language spoken in the world for global interaction? The majority of answers would be, No. For this, one can go with the option that could be accessible and acceptable to all, and that is the English language. Out of the world's approximately 7.8 billion inhabitants, 1.35 billion people speak English. All these 1.35 billion people aren't native English speakers; however, 360 million people speak English. Many Non Native English speakers also speak fluent English. In India English is considered an official language. English is the most important language in India and most commonly spoken after Hindi. In the classroom when we start learning second language, speaking the language is largely consisted to reading aloud from the text book and give the framed answer. Exams are mostly focused on structured answers, grammar and comprehension that may help to improve writing. In some cases it is practiced in Co-curricular activities such as Elocution, Debate, news reading and so on in schools and colleges. We all know

these activities are not actually work to speak fluently. It does not mean we should stop conducting such activities but, more efforts and regular practice is required.

It is observed that initially, people feel hesitate to speak new language. The reason is, activity of speaking happens face to face or sometimes on phone other than reading or writing. Also, spoken words cannot be taken back, erased, or edited. In today's world employees with good English proficiency are considered an asset to the companies. Focusing on the present scenario, Indian parents make all efforts for their children to provide the environment with which they can become good professional competent. Financially poor people also prefer their wards to study in English Medium schools to be good professionals. English in India is very much emphasized with due consideration of the importance of the English language. In the Indian education system, English is made compulsory in all streams and all fields. Many educational institutions arrange English Spoken Classes as add-on courses to enhance English proficiency. If we talk about the profession, it is very important for every graduate to have good knowledge of the English language, especially English oral communication to perform adequately in this advanced era. It is seen that not only to the students but in many business organizations and educational institutions for employees also English communication trainings are arranged. Therefore, educators are also required to keep themselves upgraded to provide every possible environment to make students ready to compete globally. Any platform without English is globally inaccessible. With the emerging demand for English, instructors can play a key role to develop peers professionally. At the present time, in every company, organization, institution and all other profession recruiters seek the candidate with proficiency in English. Today's workplace demands an employee to be a professional who communicates effectively with coworkers from different areas for this, as per global demand an employee needs to hone their communication skills.

The outstanding development in Information technology and communication has increased the demand of communication competency that

increased the necessity of learning English Language. Importance of English is demanded in every field due to explosion of information. Almost in all fields English has its reach. Technology and internet played a vital role for English as lingua franca of many countries. Some conventional people believe to run primary education through the medium of their mother tongue, they create such perception for the thought of being comfortable in the initial stage of learning. Such thought became outdated now. In today's era, the area of learning is limitless, earlier people did not feel the necessity of learning foreign or second language. But the drastic change in technology and education influenced people to develop their skills similarly the conventional thought started becoming contemporary. The invention of printing press by Johan Guttenberg increased the interests of people to communicate and connect to each other. The people started showing interest in happening all around. Earlier people used to connect to each other only to full fill their requirements but, the invention of printing press created a zeal among people to come out of regular practices and connect to others. From the time of industrial revolution the English speaking countries played the vital role in promoting English Language. The leading countries evolved with science and technological enhancement. With the evolution of Information Technology, the launch of the internet came with the drastic demand of the English Language. As more and more countries got connected with each other, an invisible web created onto the world. And the web was created mostly of English Language. In many countries now days English is not considered just as a second language but it became the professional language. More and more countries started attributing the status of English Language demand to developing the skill also increased. The educational curriculum of almost all nations have not only updated the syllabuses in respective faculties but also seeking better opportunity to increase competency. Many parents are also focusing on English medium education considering it as more beneficial for their wards from elementary education itself. The person who knows English well, can travel at any place of the Globe.

English Language Teaching and Learning in India

It is widely known that the roots of the English language in India were established with the advent of Britishers in India in the 17th century for the purpose of trade. The first step of English in India was initiated by Christian Missionaries. Initially there was no forceful official attempt for use of the English Language on the masses. Moreover, the British army attracted many Indian army where the language spread swiftly from the settlers strand to Indigenous Residents strand. Besides, there was a vast cultural difference between Settlers and Indigenous. At that moment English was considered as foreign language for Indigenous. The history of colonial age in India describes the British Empire's increased the intrusion from trade to administration. The English came in the 17th century and till the end of the century and early 18th century the Language got control over many parts of India. Until the early 18th century, English was successfully settled as the official language of Administration. In addition to this, by the year 1857 Bombay, Calcutta and Madras had opened their respective Universities. Soon the reach of the Language increased and was widespread all over India till late 18th century. In 1835 English Education Act was introduced under the Governance of Lord William Bentinck. On 2nd February, 1835 British Historian and Politician Thomas Babington Macaulay presented his 'Minute of Education' that sought to establish the need to impart English education to Indian natives. Macaulay believed English as the supreme language, he held the views that English should be the only medium of education in India. This was making English the language of the nation, not the foreign language. The consequences of the act increased centralization of education and implementation of British Politician Charles Woods's dispatch of 1854 that introduced the three-tier educational system that we know today, with education in the native languages at the primary stages but an increasing focus on English at the higher level.

India is a well known and celebrated country for being multilingual. While talking about the importance of the English language, native language or mother tongue is unavoidable. Native

dialect has a significant role in learning the acquisition of a second language. The language policy of the country recommended three language formula. This ensured no disparity towards north Indian and South Indian learners. The learners are expected to have the ability to communicate in English and lecturers are expected to teach solely in English. Thus the journey of establishment of the English language had a lot of conflicts and barriers due to the diversified culture of India. Despite a huge condemnation of Britishers, India has received a lot of knowledge and lifelong learning. The language brought many positive changes that helped in development. A great evolution is experienced with the language.

The research is objectified to English oral communication of students of degree colleges of south Rajasthan. The degree college students are to be identified with the problem faced by them in development and improvement of English speaking. It is observed that even after studying in English medium schools right from the beginning, clear communication in English is not ensured. Students are unable to talk in English. The research is focused to spot the difficulties in inculcating English oral communication and suggest some promulgating ideas to develop Effective oral communication. In the sphere of life, students who are attending universities and colleges are expected to have a good command on all four skills of languages specially Speaking Skills. Major difficulty in front of most of degree college students is belonging to nonnative English language. Also they don't get proper environment to develop their language. Because of English as compulsory subject, they are given drill in reading, writing, and listening skills, but speaking or oral communication is mostly avoided. Some English language students are unable to communicate in English. Train remains busy in completion of syllabus that results less emphasis on Speaking Skill. With the review of Literature the research has recognized the difficulty in front Indian students to have fluency in English Language. It has been confirmed by many lecturers that students find lack of confidence and lack of communication when they are told to communicate in English Language. Therefore, the

research tried to investigate the effect of using a program based on oral communication skills of second level students, at the degree colleges of South Rajasthan.

Conclusion

The present complex global environment seeks for the prominent English speaker that became a key requirement everywhere. Hence it is the prime requirement for graduates to be fluent English speakers. Native English students have to work only on their communication skills but for non-native, vernacular background students it is challenging. To vanquish the challenge, both students and teachers have to make some extra efforts using some strategies. Teachers of English should always have a mindset to not only impart the knowledge but to make them aware, enrich, and implement. To develop the English language productively, learners need to be keen on it and teachers should be always attentive to provoke them within teaching and out of the classroom also. Through proper incentives and superintendence, students will have the opportunity to practical implementation. Other than the regular subject-related knowledge drill and practice sessions in an informal way can be implemented for better results.

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