

RESEARCH ARTICLE



## FORMULAS TO OVERCOME THE BARRIERS OF ENGLISH PROFICIENCY FOR SECOND LANGUAGE LEARNERS

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### ABSTRACT

English has attained vast priority in many parts of the world due to the dominance of English men in prosperity. They have entered many countries across the globe to promote their trading business, which led them to conquer those regions; even India is not lapsed in their mission. Some centuries ago they penetrated India for trading purpose and slowly captured the governance with all their deployment, among all the purpose the invade India, one of their greatest mission in India is to promote education, which had made the Indians to realize their slavery, thus led Indians to claim for Independence, which was finally granted after all the struggle. When the British left India they left many things over here, one of the greatest asset they left here is there language, which has attained to its own standards here known as Indian English. Whatever the level of notch we attain in that language still it is our second language, since the prevail of Indian languages still in exist. Despite of gaining many scholarly experts in English, still the proficiency in English is not 100% even among many experts in English. No clear reason is required apart from English is a second language for Indians, since there are lot of barriers in attaining proficiency in English language for the learners of English as second language. In this article I preferred to write some formulas with tips out of my personal and professional experience to attain proficiency in English language especially for the people those who are learning English as second language.

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### INTRODUCTION

English has dominated India despite of being a second language. Even the language has got the characteristics of the country where it was origin; many reasons can be traced for its dominance, what else the reasons are, none could reprimand the beauty of style and the structure of English. Some people can write good English, some can write good English, even some can be good at both, but not all the English users are good at both, the simple

reasons is English is our second language, whatever the way we learn it and get trained it is still our second language, most of the people in India are adapted to their first language which influence was their right from one's birth, by default the regional language get itself into the state of art to its standard of maturity. The first language would set it in complete form in one's mind which act as a main barrier for the second language to set its platform of proficiency, since the structure of English is entirely

different in comparing with the languages of India. Despite of being held in this scenario, It's been said 'Practice makes a person perfect', in concise to the above saying, I'm ought to discuss some of the formulas in this article, which was applied practically by the experts of English users as a second language to overcome the barriers to attaining proficiency in English, especially for users of English as a second language.

#### **Self Evaluation**

Either proficiency or fluency doesn't come easily on any domain. It takes tremendous maturity of hard work and practice. Even to attain the proficiency in English the language users must need to show some character in acquiring it, many language learners are self interested to attain proficiency, for that the first step is self motivation and self reliance, more of all curiosity can boost one's confidence in gaining the proficiency. No one can acquire proficiency in any language neither in overnight nor in forth night, but the more one practice the better they get perfect. The prominent thing one must do when they are in the act of development is to identify their own abilities and capabilities. They must do a detailed analysis of what they pursue and how they pursued it, since everyone will be good in some sort of skills. The environment creates the abilities and the atmosphere creates the capabilities. This analysis helps one to find out their limits and level of strength and weakness, and briefs them where they are and where they want to reach, the distance between the two gaps will make them to identify the areas they need to work out. In some scenarios, self analysis is alone quite enough to evaluate their level, when someone are lapsed in knowledge and Intelligence quotient (IQ). In such case if they undergo any evaluation process through outsource it could be a better enhanced process, since most of our demerits are been identified by outsiders in specific, after this detailed study needs to be taken using both internal and external analysis. Thus will certainly help one to find out the remedial measures need to be taken.

#### **Identifying the Barriers**

Barriers are there in every domain, language is not lapse from it, even many native speakers wouldn't have attained proficiency in it, the basics of the language itself highly enough for many to

manipulate with the language, but for the second language learners the thrust would be always in higher need. It is mandated for the language users to identify the barriers first, in fact to know what exactly prevents them in attaining proficiency in a language. There are some common language barrier are identified universally; they are as follows in separate for the skills of speaking, listening, and reading and writing (LSRW) this fundamentally emulates the language proficiency.

#### **Speaking Barriers**

- Lack of vocabulary,
- Inability to form sentence grammatically while speaking
- Mispronunciation
- Inaccuracy in voice & accent
- Improper rate of speech

#### **Listening Barriers**

- Day dreaming
- Inaudibility in hearing
- Interpretation of points which attracted more and leaving the remaining speech

#### **Reading Barriers**

- Lack of Interest
- Applying skimming & scanning in reading process

#### **Writing Barriers**

- Lapse in writing practice
- Lapse in knowledge and resource
- Inability in framing sentences
- Difficulties in using punctuations

There are more barriers which varies from person to person depends upon their life style and brought up, after the identification of the barriers then comes the role of hard work and self practice, which will certainly emulate the proficiency level and enact the barriers.

#### **Remedial measures to overcome the barriers of language**

There are no problems without a solution the only deed is to identify and to apply the same. Even for these barriers there are remedies which measures are practically proven by means of applying it. They are unique and vary from skill to skill.

#### **Remedial measures for speaking barriers**

Any learner who sets themselves in a learning atmosphere like schools or training centers will get enough opportunity to come across new words and

its meaning appropriated to the situation, the moment they leave the atmosphere there won't be enough drills and works which gets them to come across new words, in such a scenario the language users must find an alternate source to get new words and its meaning, two activities which will certainly create a room to build their vocabulary (i) Reading, (ii) Listening to audios. These two activities will certainly give a measure to build one's vocabulary, since the user will come across lots of new words from which the reader can understand the meanings and the usage of new words. Reading and Listening to audios alone will not get one to know more, whenever one comes across new words they've to refer either to a dictionary or online source to find its meaning and usage, later they've to do some homework by talking to themselves or in front of a mirror by using those words, they've to keep doing this on a regular basis till they get perfect with those words with consistency in their normal usage. More than in reading the user can benefit from listening mode to build their vocabulary, thou it clears the problem of pronunciation too, when a word is pronounced correctly, it definitely sounds beautiful, then almost 20% of proficiency acquires from this act. Apart from vocabulary building the user gets additions benefits of these two activities, it enhances knowledge and resource and keeps them updated if they are in terms of current affairs. In addition to reading and listening the user can use many activities for vocabulary building like playing puzzles and word games like scrabbles and fables etc.

#### **Understanding Voice & Accent, Rate of speech and its remedial measures for the barriers**

The sound which is used to utter the words is known as voice and the pronunciation style and characteristic is known as accent. One's Voice & Accent purely depends on their regional and social background and it's unique to the language that used in a particular area. If we take Hindi for example, people from Mumbai speaks it different from the people of New Delhi and even in many parts of the country, it was spoken in different style, which stiffs upon one's tongue movements and rotations, it can't be blamed anyone since the physical growth and size of people differs from place to place. Even for a regional language if the accents

are that much then for a universal language English how much it would be, but there are three main accents in English which dominates the entire globe, they are (i) the American Accent, (ii) British Accent, (iii) Neutral accent. The accent, which is globally used and understood, is known as neutral accent. Listening to lots of audios will certainly help one to identify and differentiate the accent, and practicing the basis of vowels and consonants will make one to understand the relationship of words and sounds, which will certainly enhance one's voice & accent and more they apply using it in their personal life, one's voice along with accent will get emulate.

There are only three things to mind when it comes to Voice & Accent (i) Pronunciation, (ii) Intonation, (iii) Rate of speech, if a person learns to manage him or herself in all the three, then it would be an easy task to modulate the barriers

In Pronunciation, identification of the syllable in the words are more important, once it is done the rest depends on using the right vowel and consonant sound, to resolve these measures it is mandated to learn the forty four sounds of English language and start applying it practically.

In Intonation, one has to identify the scenario of usage, a same sentence will be considered in different meaning which depends on what is emphasized.

Eg.

He is in a temple?

He is in a temple.

Even thou both the sentence are same, when we use that in the scenario the melody and the pitch of our voice will change, that knowledge will be gained only through practice. There are three elements which will certainly acquire one to improve better on their intonation (i) Loudness, (ii) Stretch, and (ii) Pitch. One has to consistently practice in these areas to acquire perfection in Intonation.

The amount of words used in speech are known as rate of speech, normally Indians do have a fast rate of speech in their language, the main reason is anxiousness, and it normally comes to us, since it's our second language. One must understand the fast speech will not make much sense to the listeners, and neither the slow one. This problem can be rectified only in terms of consciousness; the user needs to maintain a caution while speaking to

others in the beginning, by self-instructing themselves to maintain a good rate of speech which is assumed to be 30 – 40 words per minute in a speech.

#### **Remedial Measures for Listening Barrier**

The capacity of human visualization is intended into many aspects like hallucination, delusion, fantasy, imagination, daydreaming, like more. These elements can be considered as skills or else a curse depends upon the level of the appliance. Nowadays it's been a common problem for most of them, diverse from students to scholars in different domain. Some of them take advantage of it and uses it for their personal and career growth, but most in cases it lies in defeat. Once a person got into these, it will surpass him to different levels and it is a tough task to get out of it. It takes special training and motivation to reframe them.

There are two types of daydreaming (i) sleep mode means a person will only dream or think something out of the box only when their eyes are closed. (ii) active mode means a person will still dream, or think something out of the box even by keeping their eyes open, it occurs normal to every human being, but to some people it gets worst in which they miss lot importance that happens in and around them. This is the biggest barrier of listening skill. It's been said a child learns to speak by listening to his surroundings and it's quite natural to understand which opts even for second language learners. One can get perfection in a language only he or she gets lots of good listening. The art of meditation will certainly help one to overcome this barrier. One must have a good control over their mind, body, and soul which can be acquired through meditation. Thus, it prevents one to daydream and to get focused onto the subject and helps their listening ability.

Inaudibility is another barrier which prevents listening skill, there are several reasons for these acts, (i) it could be physical disabilities or mental disabilities, (ii) Noise and voice pollution. One has to identify with what complications they suffer from, after the identification if it is due to physical or mental discomfort they have to approach a physician for suggestions which may recover for those cases, if it is noise or voice pollution they've to make necessary environmental conditions which can resolve the pollution.

Deeply Interpreting a concept is another problem that lies in listening skill, which is not good in most of the cases, many of the people got struck with the problem, while one interpret on a said concept they miss the rest of words which may be equally important. To overcome this barrier one must practice qualities like note taking, hints making, and gadget recordings these will certainly help to overcome this barrier.

#### **Remedial measures for Reading barriers**

The procedure of going through a text or a passage in order to get the subject inside one's mind is known as reading, this habitual certainly makes a person knowledgeable and resourceful. The protocol of reading is been explained from the basis studies, one must know the letters, spellings, meaning of the words and the knowledge of content understanding. Not everyone is been gifted with this skill, most of them finds difficult in doing this, many reasons are traced, but the common issues which are found in most of the cases are describes as reading barriers. It is certain that if a person needs to be educated in any domain, can't skip this skill, but still many of them are not in the marks when it comes to reading, the ultimate reason is lack of Interest. It is nature that the entire humanity prefers to listen to understand things, rather than reading, but to understand things better manner, reading is the best option. No one can create self-interest towards anything, but the suggestion opted as if one is determined to know more and to be resourceful, they've to spend time in reading books in any at least minimum of 30 minutes a day. Once they acquired reading habit with this limits, then slowly they need to step forward by increasing the spending hours, in fortnight by default reading will become as a habit and interest towards reading will be developed by default.

Another barrier identified for reading is the appliance of skimming and scanning. The current generation prefers to apply this term while reading anything nowadays, since the load of work is heavy, consisted too much of workload which needs to be covered in short time, nevertheless it becomes common among students, this habitual will also create a boredom towards reading on later stages in order to avoid this, one has to avoid applying the terminology of skimming and scanning while reading

at least in the scenario where it can be avoided, practicing these terms will certainly emulate one in the process of reading

#### **Remedial measures for writing barriers**

The art of "writing makes a perfect man" says Francis Bacon. Writing is not a definite measure for everyone; it is quite different with the rest of the skills. The above three skills Listening, Speaking, and Reading, are found common among everyone if one enhances themselves in those skills it really makes them to stand on better ground. But writing skill is unique and exempted from the above skills. Writing is used for conveyance of message and documentation. The history of this world, science, and even religion is conveyed through the process of writing. Many people tend to write but wouldn't succeeded due to writing barriers, even in this skill, there are some barriers identified for writing which can be resolved through practical training.

The more one write the better get perfect, every student can see difference in their writings from age to age and standard to standard, completely depends upon one's level of maturity and level of understanding. Age factor plays a vital role in gaining experience, once it accumulates in a person; he or she needs to start practicing in communicating it through writing. In the beginning everyone will find it tough to explore their ideas exact in the manner they feel or think, when day goes on the more they write slowly and steadily it will acquire them, writing and reading are co-related, when one become mastery and do lot of reading by default they turn as a good writing. The struck up and struggle will not occur to set their point while writing.

Another barrier for writing is continuous overflow of emotions, this problem occurs in many professional writers, they get lot of point than they write; This problem comes to the people those who write while thinking itself, its unavoidable, the only solutions for this problem is to make a practice of thinking first and then write about it. Even in this formula there is a problem most of them wouldn't recollect and remember all the points they thought, to overcome this problem one must practice the habit of note making and hint making through shorthand or in any of their favorite style which could be accessible for them to recover the entire content of creation.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Language barriers are common for any language learners in the beginning, but when one get used to with a language it goes off without any intact. The ultimate source to find perfection is practice; hence it is proved that the more on practice the better get perfect. The formulas I've mentioned in my article are few, there are many more can be traced by the language users when they get in more touch with it.

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