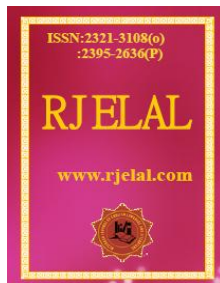RESEARCH ARTICLE

A CRITICAL STUDY ON NEED OF ENGLISH PROFICIENCY FOR EMERGING ENGINEERS

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ABSTRACT

Engineering is one of the important professions in the world. Corporate companies want to recruit the engineers who have soft skills and communication competence. Most of the Engineering students have good knowledge of the subject but they are not good at English especially in developing countries. Though they have English medium education from school level onwards, most of them are unable to speak general English and not competent in technical writing. They know the importance of English but they fail to realize the gateway to express their core knowledge is communication skills only. Corporate world need people not just with the knowledge but with the expression of knowledge and it is just with language that one can be able to express. So Emerging engineers should get proficiency in English along with their core subject to get job in national and multinational companies and to sustain job. There are many reasons for lack of knowledge in English in engineering students. This research paper aims at find out the difficulties in teaching, learning of English to engineering students and gives solutions to get English proficiency.

KEYWORDS: Communication skills-Proficiency in English-learning process-problems-remedies

INTRODUCTION

English is the window of the world. 70% of the world's population is speaking English and 80% of the books are printed in English. So English is a good tool to improve English. An Engineer will be qualitative and efficient if he/she gets Proficiency in English. An English teacher also plays a key role in developing language skills in engineering students. He must adopt latest technology to teach English in the class room and he has to act as mentor, friend to facilitate learning. Most of the students are missing opportunity to work in multinational companies due to lack of language skills.

IMPORTANCE OF ENGLISH FOR ENGINEERING STUDENTS: Effective communication skills are essential for the emerging Engineers. They must be able to present their knowledge with an excellent standard of communication skills. In academic life, engineering students have to deal with the countless English lectures, labs, project reports in English. During the job seeking process in interviews, Group discussion, English plays a vital role in getting job. After getting job, they are required to work in

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groups. So being an engineer, he has to communicate with different people from various parts of the world. Engineering students will be good at English when teachers connect class rooms to the world to learn language effectively. Teachers should train the students to write E-mail, report wiring, letter writing effectively as engineers are expected to be good at technical writing along with fluency and accuracy. These are very useful to get the job and to sustain the job. So English is part of professional life.

PROBLEMS: The following are the major problems in engineering education system and in learning and teaching of English in engineering colleges.

1. The subject English is introduced in First year engineering only. So naturally students focus on core subjects and they neglect English. More ever, they are learning English from examination point of view in the semester system.

2. The syllabus and exam pattern are giving chance to develop written English but it should be emphasis on spoken English through task-based activities.

3. Most of the class rooms in engineering colleges are not equipped with overhead projector, computer etc. E-class rooms are introduced in some of the Engineering colleges in very limited way. Most of the Engineering colleges are far away from E-class room teaching.

4. English lab is the place where students can enhance their language skills. But in most of the colleges, language laboratories are not equipped with latest English soft wares.

5. It is out of question to the English teacher to focus on each student as the class room contains 60 students. Actually the ideal class room will be with 40 students.

6. According to AICTE norms, students and teacher ration should be 15:1. But colleges are not recruiting sufficient faculty and they are showing fake faculty at the time of inspection.

7. If the teacher is competent in English, the students also will be competent in English. Most of the English teachers are not updating their knowledge in research area. It is countable the Ph.D holders in English in every state. They not

are focusing on doing Ph.D due to availability of limited seats in universities and financial problems.

8. The core subject teachers are using mother tongue to teach their subject instead of using English language. And most of the students are confining to class room teaching to learn English language and they are not participating in literal and other activities which are related to English. When they attend interviews, they feel nervous and come to know the importance of English.

SOLUTIONS

1. English teacher should encourage and motivate students to develop English proficiency in students. He has to follow Direct method and Communicate approach in the class room. Teacher should be familiar with latest technology to teach English with Technology. He must know the latest trends in English language Teaching to make their teaching effective. They have to attend seminars, workshops in national and international level. They must read research papers and publish research papers in national and international journals to know latest trends in English language teaching and they must be active in research. If they are active in research, they can understand student's problems and they will find out the solutions for the language learning.

2. The subject English should be introduced in second, third and final years at least one semester in a year. Then the scope will be increased in learning language.

3. The syllabus should be framed with task-based activities and integrated language skills. The exam pattern should be changed from written to oral. At least 30 marks should be awarded for spoken skills out of 100 marks.

4. Audio-visual aids in teaching makes the student easier and interesting. So English teacher should not teach the entire syllabus in traditional class room. He should cover at least 50 % of the syllabus in E-class room by using power point presentation and latest technology. For this colleges should provide E-class rooms

5. Students can develop their pronunciation skills, phonetic skills in English lab. They can improve

communication skills by participating in different activities like Group Discussion, JAM, Debate, Paper presentation, Power point presentation, Extempore Presentation, Role-Play, Public speaking etc. so the teacher should encourage dull and average students to participate in various activities. And students can avoid stage fear and build up confidence by participating in different events.

6. Lord Bacon said "practice makes man perfect", Students should not depend completely on teachers to learn English language. They have to practice speaking English in inside and outside the campus.

7. If the students register in different activities like English Club, they will get continuous chance to expose themselves and they will get platform t develop their language skills

8. Students must join English courses which are available in their country or state. NPTEL(National Programme on Technology Enhanced learning) is available in India, students will listen lessons by IIT Professors and write exam at the end of the course and they will get certificates at the end of the course and they can improve their English proficiency by joining in English courses from NPTEL

9. Students can learn English language through technology by downloading videos and apps of vocabulary and grammar. Even students from rural areas also can develop English by adopting technology

10. The limited vocabulary will not be enough to express ideas. So they must improve vocabulary by learning ten words per day. They have to read English news paper daily, and listen to English news, bulletins and debates in English.

11. Students also should attend Personality Development programs (PDP) classes to develop positive attitude and self-confidence which helps them to learn English language in stress-free atmosphere. They can avoid stage fear, shy nature, and can build confidence if they attend PDP classes.

12. They must be good at body language as it is part of communication. Good body language gives good impression. It can't be learnt in one day. It needs practice and continuous effort.

13. English language proficiency testing system should be set to enter into graduate engineering courses.

CONCLUSION

Proficiency in English is inevitable part in professional life of Engineers. So students should be trained to learn English language with the help of teachers and friends. And it should not be taught from examination point of view as English plays a significant role in student's academic and career life. Emerging Engineers should have dedication and determination to develop proficiency in English language. They should acquire communication skills along with technical skills to make their career bright.

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