



INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD
SERIAL
NUMBER
INDIA

2395-2636 (Print);2321-3108 (online)

PROBLEMS OF TEACHING ENGLISH IN ENGINEERING COLLEGES AND OVERCOMING THOSE PROBLEMS

SNEHA CHATTERJEE

Department of Applied Science ,United College of Engineering And Management, Allahabad

Email: chatterjee.sneha9@gmail.com

doi: doi.org/10.33329/rjelal.73.160



SNEHA CHATTERJEE

ABSTRACT

It is said that, "Practice makes one perfect". If we keep on practising something for a longer period of time we come to the level of perfection. But this proverb is too far for the engineering students to practice spoken English in the colleges. Aim of the present study is to focus on the problems faced by the teachers teaching English in the engineering colleges and the challenges to overcome the problems. English language holds a dominant position in the world. The advancement of science and technology is growing tremendously day by day. As the innovations are published only in English language. So it is a necessary for the students to learn and write correct English. Many institutions have also understood the significance of English in engineering colleges and they have introduced few programmes like "Verbal Ability Programme" and "Soft Skills Development". Teaching English in engineering colleges have become a difficult task. If we try to analyse, it is found that the students doesn't take much interest in learning it. They feel that it won't help them during their placement times. But they fail to realise that the companies which comes for placements knows that the students know their technical subjects well. So the companies try to analyse their other developments too. The other reason for not showing much interest is that most of the students come from different backgrounds and they speak different languages. They build a shell around themselves and assume that people will laugh at their mistakes. This is the reason they feel convenient to speak in their mother tongue.

Key Words: Verbal Ability Programme; English language; Engineering colleges.

Introduction

English has long been considered the global language of business with more and more multinational companies recruiting employees with a strong grasp of the English language. In fact, it has almost become mandatory for a candidate to speak English if they are to even consider interviewing for a global organisation, so it's well-worth perfecting our skills in order to make our self-more employable.

According to the census of 2011 it says that no less than 1652 languages, including 63 non-Indian languages are spoken in India. English is a language which is universally accepted all around the world. In today's world we need to learn and write English because if a person doesn't know to write or speak English he stands nowhere. As Graddol perceives: "In 1700s, English became the official language of administration and many educated Indians learnt the language as it helped

them to go up the career ladder. The influence of English grew unabated even after the British left India in 1947. Today, English language plays a vital role in higher education, media and administration of private and government organizations. English has become a powerful agent for change in India" (Graddol, 2010). It would be difficult to cope with the speedy developments that are taking place in the world. The importance of English should be well understood by the technocrats too. In a modern world where everyone needs to prove oneself by their results and for showing their outcomes they need to express well.

Reasons behind the students for not adopting English well:

The students come from a different background and fail to connect with the teachers. They think the teachers have come from a different planet all together. They can neither speak in English nor frame correct sentences in English. They feel comfortable while speaking their mother tongue among their friends because they feel a solace in it. If we try to scrutinise the problems, then we come to a conclusion that these students even don't have the basic knowledge of English. They feel "English holds a place of status in our country" even after more than six decades since the English had left India.

They even think that when they would sit for placements drive they won't be judged for their proficiency in English but in their technical subjects.

Not only I face problems in teaching English but there are few more honourable people who feel the same. I have discussed few about their thoughts.

According to Gautam Biswas, director, IIT Guwahati, "We get students from different backgrounds and regions, and they are mostly not comfortable with English. Quite a few students appear for the joint entrance examination in their mother tongue. It becomes very difficult for them to follow the curriculum".

Mr. UB Desai, director of IIT Hyderabad, said the problem of students not being able to speak English is not restricted to IIT's but is prevalent

across the country, and even in China and a few European nations.

How to upgrade the software of teaching English in Engineering Colleges:

In order to build interest in the students of learning English, the teachers need to take an extra walk for teaching them. Initially we need to build a sapling of interest in the subject English by talking about the history and glory of it. We should make the environment of the class comfortable by making them understand that committing mistakes is a part of learning process and they must not feel ashamed of it. I have discussed few points in order to overcome this problem

1. Conversations: We should talk to them and this conversation should be a two-way process in the class room, giving continuous lectures could be boring sometimes in the class room.
2. Soft Skills Classes: We could even introduce soft skills classes in the curriculum of the engineering colleges. Some colleges have already included it. Students love to perform various activities so we can keep them engaged in different activities in class.
3. Motivational Videos: We could also arrange for motivational videos by the great speakers with well-structured courses. And in this way they can get connected through the teachers and by connecting through the teachers they can very well connect to the subject as well.
4. Professional Communication: There are many engineering universities who have introduced Professional Communication in their first-year curriculum. This subject deals with the basic of English like parts of speech, letter writing and essay writing. It builds a confidence among the students after clearing professional communication examination in first year.
5. Importance of English in placement drives: We need to make the students aware of the importance of English in placement drives.

According to Varun Aggarwal co-founder and chief technology officer, Aspiring Minds, "Recruiters and HR managers around the world report that candidates with English skills above the local average stand out from the crowd and garner 30-50 per cent higher salaries than similarly qualified candidates without English skills. The trends in India are no different, with English fluency being one of the key qualities recruiters look for during the interview,"

Conclusion

Mr. R. David Koilpillai, Dean, IIT Madras, has even said that the students must be able to communicate technical ideas clearly in interview. Proficiency in spoken English gives confidence.

English is the global language of the world and we cannot deny the importance of it in case specially in engineering Colleges. So proficiency in English must be dripping among the students as a necessary skill.

There are varieties of ways to inculcate interest in students for the subject English. There is no specific method for creating interest in learning the English language as it is still a foreign language. A good teacher knows different method for creating interest among the students for the language.

References

1. Graddol, D. (2010). English Next, India. New Delhi: British Council.
2. How English-speaking skills are keeping Indian engineers away from their dream jobs, By Prachi Verma, ET Bureau: Aug 07, 2015.