



INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD
SERIAL
NUMBER
INDIA

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

DEVELOPING READING AND WRITING SKILLS AMONG THE SECOND YEAR INTERMEDIATE TELUGU MEDIUM STUDENTS OF MAHABUBNAGAR DISTRICT IN TELANGANA- PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS

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doi: doi.org/10.33329/rjelal.73.278



ABSTRACT

It is undeniable fact that English is a global language. Now it has become gate way of knowledge and language of job opportunities. Most of the Telugu medium students feel difficult to read and write in English because they have poor reading and writing skills. Learning English is not restricted to the learning in the classroom by using traditional methods. It is not enough to Telugu medium students to improve their reading and writing skills. At this juncture, this paper attempts to know why the Telugu medium students are lagging behind in reading and writing and problems of students in reading and writing skills. Simultaneously, researcher made an attempt to make the students know the prospects of reading and writing skills. In most of the Telugu medium schools and colleges, students are learning English as subject than a language. This same process is continuing so far.

We are living in era of science and technology. With the rapid development of science and technology, there is a need to use new teaching strategies and techniques in teaching and learning English. This technology is useful to everyone because it plays a vital role in every field. Language lab is very useful to the students. By using it, they can enhance their vocabulary, spellings, reading and writing skills. Different websites, D.V.D., blogs and other strategies are helpful to intermediate students in developing their reading and writing skills. Present study also highlights that learners should have awareness on different strategies of reading and writing skills

Key words: Global language, Science and technology, Websites, D.V.D. Blogs, Prospects etc.

Introduction

English language is an easy means of communication in the international arena of life than any other language. English is the language which can be easily understood in different parts of the country and the world. Even though English is a foreign language it occupies a unique position in our country. English is used in India by a large number of people for variety of functions and purposes. For almost two

centuries, it has been playing a vital role in our education system as well as our national life. English has occupied the paramount position in the country's Educational, Industrial, Social, Commercial, Cultural, Sports, Entertainment and even in Political life. English is the language of technology and the medium of inter-state and international communication. English education is the gate way for jobs. It has become an international commodity. Now the world

has become a global village and English is necessary for mobility, social and economic growth in the world. A good foundation in English ensures quality higher education and good prospects in job placements. This is precisely the reason why English is important

The demand for English has been sweeping almost all the fields of national life like politics, international relations, travel, education, media and communication. Most of the earlier scientific innovations were made in Britain and they are now continued in America. The advancements in Science and Technology and their use of new terminology have been showing an immediate impact on the language adding tens of thousands of words to the English lexicon. As those innovations come down from the English speaking countries, those who wish to update their knowledge and learn about new inventions need to learn English well. This need has resulted in a dramatic increase of the expository material in the English language. Besides, all the encyclopedias, dictionaries, and books of knowledge are written and printed in English. Hence, the access to new knowledge is only through the English.

The English has been an important medium of the press for about 400 years. Right from the Weekly News (1622) and the London Gazette (1666), there has been a continuous rise of newspapers and journals English. With the introduction of new printing technology, new methods of mass production and transportation, by the end of 19th century, there were about 2000 newspapers in the English. According to the data compiled about a third of the world's newspapers are being published in the countries where the English has a special status. Many English newspaper which are published for a global readership. Similarly, many literary reviews, comics, fanzines, pornographic literature, hobby journals, technical reviews, scholarly journals and many books are published in English. Linguistics Abstracts, a journal, reviews the content of some 160 journals worldwide above 70 percent are published entirely in English and in the Physical Sciences, the figure may reach more than 85 percent. Thus, a visit to any university library shows that most of the academic journals and books are published in English.

1) Reading

Reading is a receptive skill. It helps students to understand language, its structures, spelling systems and the nuances much better. Reading means understanding the content or what the writer has said. We get a lot of information from written texts. Reading helps us improve our knowledge. Thus reading is an active process. Comprehension and speed should be balanced. Learners need to understand the content and also should be able to read with reasonable speed. One skill cannot be developed at the cost of the other. So, teachers need to train the students to read with comprehension. Factors which hamper speed are running the finger along the lines, reading word by word, moving eyes along the lines, moving the head along the lines, going back and forth is reading, and sub-vocalization. Silent reading helps learners to comprehend the passage faster.

Today we are living in a knowledge world. We are expected to absorb and retain a great deal of written information quickly and attentively as our needs and purposes have become more diverse. The growing number of books and magazines shows that we are reading a more than ever before. Besides, science and technology too have given us considerable leisure to enjoy reading books. The academic success of the students only depends on their reading habits. Hence, the quality and quantity reading have become an important part of the study skills.

The kothari commission (1964-66) accepted English as a 'window on the world' and 'library language' which means that reading is the most important skill at the higher stage of learning. The Study Group Reports (1965 and 1971) also emphasized the importance of 'reading comprehension' in English language teaching programmes.

2) Writing:

Writing is important in the life of an individual and it is used for many different purposes. We need to write in order to communicate in English in our social, educational and professional areas. In real-life situations, we may have to apply for some

leave, write minutes of a meeting plan a programme report a happening, give a press release etc. In the field of education it is very helpful to the students in the class room to take notes and make drafts. Students need to be aware that writing is a tool for survival in the real world situation, because English become the medium of communication today. Writing is important for academic purposes. "If schools insist upon teaching the identification of parts of speech, the parsing of sentences, or other concepts of traditional grammar, they cannot defend as a means of improving the quality of writing". (Hillocks. 1991). Hence, writing occupies an important position in the curriculum of schools and colleges. In view of its need and importance it is necessary for a teacher of English to acquire both theoretical knowledge of the process of writing and the practical procedures involved in teaching.

Writing not only plays an important role in conveying information but also in transforming knowledge to create new knowledge. Writing is central to the learners in academic needs. Because of the importance of writing, the role of teaching writing is too important in the area of literacy. Writing also facilitates the reinforcement of other language skills reading vocabulary, spelling and grammar. Raimes (1983) marks that writing not only helps the students to develop all these skills and reinforce grammatical structures, vocabulary, it is also encourage the students to be adventurous with the language, they have just learnt and experiment with it.

Unfortunately, writing has been a neglected area of English language teaching for some years. There are a number of books offering different models of reading and reading tasks. It is only recently that research into writing has offered thought provoking ideas about what good writers have to do and about certain implications for teachers who wish to help their students. It is evident that the teaching of writing is a complex process involving many activities such as initial probing into experience, the analysis of it, the organization of ideas into a meaningful sequence, and finally their expression in language. In order to write text with confidence, the students should be given repeated opportunities for writing. Hence, this lesson presents some aspects of teaching and learning writing.

There is a close relationship between writing and vocabulary because one's proficiency in written expression can be accessed from the way uses vocabulary while writing. Proficiency in vocabulary enriches the learners' writing skills and gives students a sense of academic satisfaction and achievement. The learners need to concentrate more on the vocabulary in their academic writing and this enables students to be good at the academic writing. Teachers can assist learners to work more on the vocabulary by guiding them to do different writing tasks such as:

- writing an essay and a paragraph on some topic of learners' personal interest/choice
- writing letters to friends and parents
- using the newly learned words while doing writing tasks and so on.

Most of the Telugu medium students feel difficult to write in English because they have poor vocabulary and writing skills. Most of the Telugu medium students come from families of daily labors and farmers. So there is no English exposure inside and outside schools and colleges. So, teacher has to know the background and individual differences of the learners. First Teacher should give opportunity to learn vocabulary and give tasks for improving writing skills in English like writing letters, and writing an essay.

Telugu medium students:

Most of the Telugu medium students in Intermediate colleges in Mahabubnagar district feel difficult to read and write in English because they have poor reading and writing skills. They do not have adequate vocabulary. The Telugu medium students are lagging behind in reading and writing skills. It may appear too simple. Computer is not used as a part of classroom teaching and learning in almost all Telugu medium schools and colleges in Telangana. Text books and chalk board have been continuing to dominate classroom activities in most of government schools and colleges in rural areas. Most of the urban students are now using technology to become better information users. Why are government schools and colleges lagging behind? The answer is simply mismanagement of resources of country.

Government is not taking care of Telugu medium schools and colleges. Now they are in critical position that is why government schools and Inter mediate colleges do not compete with private institutions. Day by day strength of the students in government schools and colleges are decreasing. Few inter mediate government colleges are in the stage of closing. Most of the private and corporate colleges are using innovative methods to bring solutions to their current challenges in teaching learning process in developing communication skills.

Prospects in reading and writing skills: Language is an exclusively human property to exchange information of various types among each other. In this process, the four skills namely Listening, Speaking, Reading and writing are involved in using the language in various aspects.

There can be innumerable prospects in enhancing the reading and writings skills. One can meet the educational as well as professional milestones by the acquisition of proficiency in reading and writing skills. Both the skills develops the human mind. Struggling to understand written words is one way. The mind grows in its ability. If anyone has good reading and writing skills, that student get good marks in other subjects. That is why elders often hints the children to read more so that they can attained mental maturity and enhance their confidence levels for achieving sustainable growth in their lives.

Research studies states that the students who well versed with reading and writing skills possess wide range of opportunities academically as well as professionally. It is proved that avid readers positives civic and have inclination towards students activities like volunteering, playing sports and participating in cultural activities.

Technology in education:

With the rapid development of science and technology, there is a need to use new teaching strategies and techniques in teaching and learning English. The technology plays an important role in teaching learning process. It is also used as teaching aids. Although the text books and chalk board have been used for teaching learning purpose over many years in schools and colleges, there is no

development among the students. No one has quite impacted in teaching learning process like the computer. Computer is capable of activating the senses of sight, hearing and touch of the students. Technology has the capacity to provide higher interactive potential for students to develop their creative and intellectual ability. Today computers perform a host of functions in teaching and learning English and other subjects. There is no doubt that Technology provide teaching and learning in order to develop students' reading and writing skills and creative, intellectual resources especially in today's information society. Although the simultaneous use of text, audio, multicolor images and graphics, education Technology gives ample and more opportunities to the students to improve capacity for high quality of learning and to improve students' ability to innovate. That is why, Telugu medium students in government schools need to be taught by using Technology.

Technology occupies the prominent place among the technological aids in language teaching and learning. It is one of the recent innovations in the English language teaching. Language lab consists of many types of equipment. It provides good models of speeches and many activities of reading and writing. Students imitate models of speeches which are useful for developing one's pronunciation. In single period, they have enough reading and writing practice. Students do not have much reading and writing practice in classroom.

Now a days, English reading and writing skills are more important. Students from private schools and Inter mediate colleges have shown better performance in their exams, job interviews or in higher education whereas Telugu medium students in government schools and colleges have failed in speaking, reading and writing in English after completion of Inter, degree and post-graduation. Telugu medium students from rural area have poor vocabulary and reading and writing skills after 10th and Intermediate. So their performance is not good in interviews and written exams. English medium private schools and colleges have good equipped language laboratories and other facilities. So these students are improving communication skills through audio, video and Language lab whereas Telugu

medium students facing problems due to non-availability of English language labs, and infrastructure facilities to gain proficiency in English. Present days, digital language laboratory plays a vital role in developing written communication skills.

Conclusion

Most of the Telugu medium students are from government schools. The medium of instruction is in Telugu from first class. Generally, Telugu medium students have phobia that writing in English is difficult. Government schools and colleges have less facilities, compare to private or corporate institutions. In government colleges, English is taught as a subject not a language. Most of the students by heart the answers only to pass English exam. With the advent of technology, it has been made possible for the students to enrich their reading and writing skills. Students get sufficient information on anything by using internet. Information of any subject is available free on the websites. This Technology reduce the burden of the students and enrich their language skills

This technology is useful to everyone because it plays a vital role in every field. Language lab is very useful to inter mediate Telugu medium students. By using it, they can enhance their vocabulary, spellings, reading and writing skills. Different websites, D.V.D., blogs and other strategies are helpful to students in developing reading and writing skills. Present study also highlights that learners should have awareness on different strategies of reading and writing skills. If computers, English language lab and other infrastructure facilities are provided to government colleges, we can bring drastic change in English communication skills of Telugu medium students

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