



PROBLEMS FACED BY INDIAN STUDENTS IN LEARNING ENGLISH

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ABSTRACT

English proficiency becomes unavoidable in present scenario. To acquire this skill a physical, intellectual and emotional involvement is needed. Language is the most significant part in communication. There are many factors in learning English like attitude, self-confidence duration of exposure to the language, class room conditions, environment, family back ground and availability of competent teachers.

The present age is the age of globalization and the four basic skills in learning English are listening, reading, speaking and writing. Proficiency in English language is considered an indicator of success in India. A good level of proficiency guarantees a good job. One of the greatest widespread problems among learners of English is their considerably lower speaking skills, majority of Indian students particularly from rural areas considers the word of English as a magical and a mystical word.

Keywords : English proficiency, essential for globalization, Indian students problems

English is rapidly becoming a world language. No language, ancient a modern can be compared with English in respect of its international status. In a developing country like India, a constant touch with the outside world is absolutely necessary to bring about the revolutionary changes in every field. Without the adequate knowledge of English, we cannot come to grip with modern technology. In India English is the only language which is understood in all states. But unfortunately, the majority of Indians still feel uneasiness in using English in terms of writing or speaking. Teaching of English in India is in a chaotic state today. English is taught in India under conditions which are far from satisfactory. The teaching learning in our schools and colleges is so much defective that only a complete over haul will set it right.

There are a number of factors which mar the process of teaching-learning of English as a second language in India.

Use of Mother tongue

Indian students are prone to their mother tongue. It creates a major problem. They are taught other subjects in their native languages and English

fall in their ears only in the case of English. They do not get enough opportunities to speak English in or outside the class rooms. This process cut short their chances of being competent in English.

Improper Infrastructure

Most of the colleges are in a pitiable condition due to the lack of proper infrastructure. There are no language labs.

Inaccurate Government policy

Government of India is always in a hurry to implement the policies on educational institutions. Students are supposed to acquire only pass marks in English. Politicians and educationists have different ideas regarding English implementation.

Shortage of competent teachers of English

Many of our teachers who are teaching English do not know the techniques of English language teaching. Good teachers of English are a scarcity in India. Training programmers' should be conducted and made compulsory to be attended by the teachers.

Lack of motivation and encouragement

India is a multilingual country. Due to this, students do not feel the necessary of English at

initial level. As a result they lose their interest towards English. Their family environment, economic and social conditions contribute to declining interest in English

Influence of barriers

1. Attitude: Rubin & Thompson defines attitude as one of the key factors that influence success or failure for language learners. Indian students negative attitude regarding English is a major stumbling block. With positive attitude, students can learn a language much more fluently.
2. The Environment: It does not support Indian students to speak English frequently. The outside people think that the students just show off when they speak English for daily conversation. The response that the students get makes them lose their self-confidence.
3. Problems with grammar: Indian students get confused with English grammar. English rules appear cry confusing for them.
4. Competency of the teacher: Bilingual teaching has made many teachers to teach English in the regional languages. This hampers not only the teachers but also student.
5. Faulty textbooks and curriculum: Presently there is a compulsory English paper for all students at undergraduate level in which ancient works are prescribed. The students feel very uneasy and boring while studying such types of literature. To overcome the problem we should add such content in the course curriculum which apart from being interesting may prove more useful in enhancing their language and linguistic skills.
6. The unproductive supervision: The inspection and supervisory staff of the Education Department of the state Government is far from qualified to main and improve teaching standards in English. Some workshops, refresher courses and orientation programmes should be arranged for teachers.
7. Lack of Motivation and encouragement: India is a multi-lingual country. Due to this students do not feel the necessity of English

at initial level. As a result they lose their interest and attraction towards English. Their family environment, economic and social conditions contribute a lot for the negligence of English.

8. Practice of Inappropriate Methods / Approaches: The methodology commonly followed in our schools and college is the translation-Grammar method, which is faulty. To achieve the desired results, we have to combine the best of the methods a) translation method. B) Direct method c) Bilingual method. We have to bring about the rainbow effect by blending the finest of these methods.
9. Defective system of Education: The examination in India put a lot of importance on note learning rather than on language mastery`. The examination process should be designed in such a way that apart from the existing theoretical papers, an oral paper should also made by compulsory in which students should be ask to make presentations, group discussions and participate in mock-interviews.

One of the major problems of language learning in India is that most of our students do not have the capacity to express themselves in English fluently.

English, though it has now become a global medium of communication, without it a single step cannot be taken. But many of us thinks it as a foreign language, and do not invest our effort properly in it. This language has a memorable place in the pages of world history. But, English in the time of William Shakespeare was not like as nowadays it is. A lot of change has become in all aspects of it. The unwanted generation gap between old English and Modern English sometimes evokes lots of trouble for the beginners. Though English has a tiny number of letters (26 only) than other languages like Chinese (10,000 letters!), but English Grammar is very strict and perfect. A single mistake can change the whole meaning of a sentence, whereas in other languages you can escape by making some mistakes, but in English you will not get any pardon as this language is very neat and clean. In English Vocabulary, a same word has a lot of meaning in it. The meaning varies from one sentence to another.

Besides I personally has observed that in English, a word has a general specific meaning to all, but in law , that same word means a totally different meaning as a legal term that is beyond imagination. This leads the path of confusion and harassment.

Nowadays, spoken English is considered a milestone to the road of a bright future. But how to speak English properly and fluently is a million dollar question today, many to ask, but a few to answer. The unnecessary fear to make mistakes, hesitation, and lack of positive attitude multiplies the problem in a big amount. So, we see that there is a lot of difficult aspects in learning English, but here is just a single solution: Give proper respect and time to English, try to learn English Grammar perfectly, simultaneously increase your vocabulary. Last of all; turn on the pages of books without haunting behind the confusing sites of internet to find a word meaning or to speak English rapidly.

Conclusion

As Newton said for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. Either one way of teaching or learning is not good for both, a (teacher, student). When teacher has come forward with some methods to improve the language skills, the students have to show interest to correct themselves and learn necessary skills to settle in their live.

The new methods are very helpful; with basic knowledge in English with the help of some electronic gadgets one can develop language skills perfectly. YouTube, Whats App and some websites are very much useful to develop language skills. The most important thing is he/she can arrange English speaking environment in all areas where ever he goes. Make English part of your life at home, at work, during your free time. Read on to find tips that will help you overcome the difficulties you might be experiencing to improve your English language. Expose yourself to the language as much as possible. Practice makes perfect. All the above one can practice, practice, practice!! Whatever learning style you have, whatever your native language is, the key to acquire and master a foreign language in practice is must and as often as possible.

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