



English as a Second Language: Learning and Teaching in India

Prajakta Jagtap

First Year Engineering IOK-COE Pune, INDIA
 bharatjagtap71@gmail.com

Vyom Bhushan

Automobile Engineering IOK-COE Pune, INDIA
 bhushanvyom21@gmail.com

Abstract—English is considered as an international language and a language of status, which is essential for building up of confidence in every person at any particular place. Learning English in India has been trending since the colonialism period. But in rural areas of the country although English is being taught but no importance is given for speaking the language. This paper emphasizes on why English is a priority in today's competitive world and how to tackle with the problem of speaking skills.

Keywords- language; learning; teaching tools; communication skills; skill development.

I. INTRODUCTION

Speech is a natural form of a language. There is a huge difference in English teaching between technical colleges and traditional arts, science colleges.

Technical colleges have learners who are advanced learners and intermediates whose abilities in English are tested at the entry level. The intellectual of students of engineering colleges is high to that of other colleges, they bring along with them different aptitude. So teaching in a technical institute demands for the teacher to be well trained but knowledgeable of the subject matter.

Basically, the reason why English is so needed is because we aim for our country to be a world leader by 2020 for which we need leaders amongst our citizens rather than followers. The best weapon for this dream to come true in our hands is EDUCATION and education is spread around in the form of English where this language plays an important role from scientific background to its history.

Creativity comes with English and for learning English one needs to have interest in it. Not only writing or reading but English is equally important while speaking where one can express his or her view on basic research and inventions according to technical point of view. Naturally first grammar

is taught and then it is used to form various sentences. Which is not a fond method to learn English for many people, however grammar can be taught by telling stories in an effective way.

II. HISTORY

The ancient legacy of the building of Babel is overcome: the English language has reached its spread all over the world. People from Europe, Africa or America are linked with one language i.e. English. English has been used in ESL countries as instrumental, for formal education; regulative for government, administration and law courts; communicative; occupational; creative.

As for the introduction of English in India it was initiated by great scholars who tried to persuade members of East India company to teach or instruct Indian people in English, claiming it was good for young Indians to be exposed to scientific knowledge of the west. English was a medium through which they had planned to modernize and raise India's status in terms of science and technology. Raja Ram Mohan Roy considered India to be inferior to Europe in terms of the scientific knowledge: he claimed that one should use available funds for employing European gentlemen of talent and education to instruct the natives of India.

III. WHY ONLY ENGLISH?

Generally, any normal person will prefer his/her own vernacular language to understand any concept in a better way. But then why do we have to learn it all in English? We know the basic reason behind that, it is because English sharpens our analytical skills. This is the language which is common around the globe and an influencing one. It's the language that helps us to communicate with people around the world.

The aims of teaching and of learning English language have been changing fast. The emphasis is shifting from a study of English literature to the acquisition of language skills. There are these prevailing beliefs regarding the learning process and the nature of the language. With the emergence of the new technology it has led to the shifting of language teaching/learning out of the classroom. It has facilitated language empowerment through multimedia which is



becoming more interesting and efficient. The reasons why one fails to learn English in an effective way is due to overloaded syllabus, lack of innovative teaching methods, teacher centered methodology, lack of amenities etc.

The importance of English in the present scenario can't be neglected. The process of learning English for Indian students or vernacular students is slow. Now, in order to make ESL more interesting for the students, it is compulsory that teachers create interest amongst students for learning it. There are two common ways of learning English in today's scenario: traditional and practical. The traditional way emphasizes on learning of grammar for speaking a better English whereas the practical application of any language is important too. A child learns his vernacular language without knowing proper grammar, just by listening to other people speak.

It is a fact that grammar is life and soul of any language but practical situation can't be neglected. Grammar should not be an end in itself. The command over English language helps students not only of technical fields but of every field to get success in their career. As far as professional and general courses are concerned, this fact can't be denied that in recent years the growth of technological study in India has touched the skies and it would not have been possible for any professional courses to do it without English.

IV. INCULCATING ENGLISH

In Indian classroom, unluckily English is taught in a mechanical way. There is a need to concentrate on functional grammar(descriptive), which prefers function over the structure of English. Indians as non-native learners of this language have been learning it since primary grade, yet they have not achieved the proficiency over it. It is observed that a person needs three years sufficiently to learn any language. It is said that language is a vehicle and grammar is a machine. The role of grammar can be stated as above:

- To understand the function of structures to learn the language.
- To know the underlying things as well as an abstract significant in a language.
- To have a logical sense.
- To understand its significance for written communication.
- To influence learners to write and speak correct English.

Basically, grammar in English is necessary for second language learners. It is so because a meaningful communication depends on one's ability to speak correct and effective language.

V. WAYS TO INCULCATE ENGLISH

First of all, the way to teach or learn ESL is motivation. One needs to be motivated enough to learn English, the motivation here implies to the will power. One has to have will power to learn this language which might work as a plus point when failing to learn the language at an attempt or getting stuck in middle. One needs to keep a positive attitude to learn English, those who do learn it easily how so ever people who keep negative perspective regarding learning of the language mostly fail to learn it.

These are different ways in which English can be learned effectively:

A. *Speaking in English*

Use of proper pronunciation in speaking English words.

- Use correct stress and intonation while speaking.
- Speak English grammatically correct.
- Use proper vocabulary at proper place.
- Speak English fluently.

B. *Reading in English*

- Read words correctly
- Read English with proper stress and intonations. To read sentence properly.
- Other factor is knowing how to form sentences properly.

C. *Listening in English*

- Listening to English words properly.
- Listening to words with meanings.
- To give response to any talk in the group.
- To recognize the word and its meaning.

D. *Innovative English Teaching Tools*

Here are some basic English teaching tools:

- ✓ Mobiles
- ✓ Blogs
- ✓ Audio-visual aids
- ✓ Computers
- ✓ Social networking
- ✓ Language lab
- ✓ wikis



“Good instruction is the foundation of any educational program. Audio-visual aids are component parts of that foundation” says Noel.

E. Use of Literature to Develop Speaking Skills

Literature provides learners with tools for their own creative activity. Prose, poetry and drama are the basic tools we are talking about over here. Linguistic and conceptual aspects are explored through literature. Literature helps learners to unravel the many meanings in a text. Literary texts have an important role in raising moral and ethical concerns. Literature normally helps one to express their views which ultimately leads to speaking about it.

VI. CONCLUSION

In this way, the paper presents why and how English is important, ESL in India and ways to make the language speaking more efficient. This paper projects about how one should appreciate teaching/learning strategies. Availability of training programs and a wide range of resource books is a

must for people who want to learn ESL. Any language is connected to social and cultural values, so does English.

REFERENCES

- [1] Mora, R, Martinez, J., Alzat, Perez, L. , Gomez-Yepes., R., & Zapata-Monsalve, L(2012a), Rethinking WebQuests in second language teacher education; The case of one Colombian University.
- [2] Rajagupalan.K, (2004) the concept of world English and its implications for ELT.
- [3] Widdowson, H.G., Practical stylistics. P.87., Somerset: Oxford University Press, 2011 Jeffries, Lesley, DanMacIntyre, Teaching stylistics, P, 128, London: Palgrave Macmillian, 2011.
- [4] Black, Elizabeth, Pragmatic stylistics., P.124.Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2006.
- [5] Verdonk, Peter,stylistics., P.62 New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.