

PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING COMMUNICATION SKILLS TO THE UG STUDENTS IN GOVT. DEGREE COLLEGES OF TELANGANA STATE -A SOCIOLINGUISTIC STUDY

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Abstract

The main objective of writing this paper is to explore various reasons for lack of communication skills to the government degree college students and various steps to be taken to develop communication skills to the students. Therefore this paper will examine both the problems and guiding steps to be taken to enhance their skills so as to enable them to improve a good communication skill which plays a vital role in getting employability opportunities in this highly competitive job market. I also attempt to focus on their socio and linguistic background of students which is one of the major reasons for lack of communication skills. Teaching with new and latest technology in the class room and with different methodology and approaches is also very important to enhance their communication skills. Therefore this paper will discuss various problems and steps to overcome the same.

Keywords: Communicationskills-socio-linguistic back ground-teaching-methods-opportunities in the job market-government college.

Introduction

Graduation lays a strong foundation to the students' career as well as establishes them as a responsible and competitor in the job market. Because, graduation is right qualification and with this students are eligible to write any competitive examination to get job. Many students settle down in their career after completion of graduation and some other continue their studies. Students who are financially weak they stop education and settle down in their career. But due to lack of communication skills they are unable to get good opportunities in MNCs and high profile jobs.

Generally, students consider that the greatest fault is committing mistakes in English. Other reasons which slowdowns the learning of communication skills and ineffective speaking is due to cultural behavior, fear of self-exposure, and nervousness. Every learner of the English language is expected to develop skills and aptitude. It is the means to develop oneself both efficiently and within society. Skills and training add to efficiency and competency to the students.

Communication skills

'In a survey conducted by katz business school at the University of Pits Burgh, organizers rated communication skills as the most important factor used in selecting their management staff. The study found that oral and written communication skills were important in predicting job success, as was the ability to communicate well with other in work place'.

‘Communication is the art and process of creating and sharing ideas. Effective communication depends on the richness of those ideas’.

Language is the gift of God to human race. It is the verbal mode of communication. It is purely human and a means of communicating ideas, emotions and desires with the help of a system of voluntarily produced symbols. The emotions and feelings of human beings are best expressed only with the advent of language. Be it the language of the men of Africa or the sophisticated and enriched language like English, language is necessarily the carrier of thoughts, ideas, messages and emotions. Noam Chomsky (1957) linguistically defines language as:a set of sentences, each finite in length and constructed out of a finite set of elements (p: 9) It is difficult to define language as it is to define life. The best way is to study the characteristics of language rather than making an attempt to define it.

Education in Government Colleges

In Telangana about 131 government Degree colleges are existing and majority of the students in these colleges are from poor economical back ground and mostly from remote areas where proper facilities are not found. Therefore students from these areas have no aware communication skills and exposure. Most of the students study in government to earn outside support their family financially. Of late this kind of attitude is changing students are striving hard to learn enhance more skills and getting opportunities in different streams. Teachers are playing a major role to motivate and encourage the students to sharpen their skills.

Some of the major Problems identified

Lack of exposure i.e. most of the students come from village and vernacular background therefore they are weak in verbal and non-verbal communication. Cultural and linguistic barriers which keeps them away from the main stream society. Therefore lacking behind in communication skills Examination system which is based on marks or grades rather than enhancement of language tools i.e. Listening Speaking Reading and Writing. Psychological feeling that, English is difficult and only passing the examination is enough not considering its importance in getting the job. Lack of awareness on career guidance and opportunities in the job market Practicality is lacking in the class room and emphasis is laid on coverage of syllabus and examinations. Most of the students are first generation of learners hence lack of awareness about English and its role in career growth. Lack of guidance from parents and timely overseeing the performance of their children To meet their financial expenditure, majority of the students work in part time or full time jobs and look after their family and attend the classes seldom. Giving more importance to qualification rather than enhancement of competence and performance Lack of facilities in government colleges and traditional teaching methods in class rooms.

Suggestions to encounter the problems

As it is said that non-verbal communication takes place about 70% in our day to day communication their gestures, postures, body language, eye-contact shaking hands and dress sense are to be explained and the role of these in selecting any job.

Short term training programs should be conducted to enlighten and guide the students towards career development and opportunities in the job market.

Activity based teaching having rapport with the students makes them to overcome their inhibitions. Skill based and innovative activities are to be conducted to improve and avoid their inhibitions and misconceptions about communication skills. Students' social and linguistic background should be taken into consideration and accordingly special measure to be taken. To overcome their inhibition proper motivation by the teachers and parents should be given. Competent students should be given employability based on their level of competence at various levels. Students should be given assurance about career after completion of their graduation by conducting various job drives. Examination pattern should be changed and practical knowledge and skills are to be given more importance rather than marks. More focus to be laid on enhancement of skills rather than passing the examination and getting grades. Short term self-employable courses are to be conducted so as to enable them to establish their own business or any institutions. Conducting oral and written tests such as, JAM, Group Discussions, Pair work, seminars, projects elocutions and other periodical tests and activities to overcome their inhibitions. English is considered difficult because of its varied pronunciation so students should be encouraged to speak intelligible English and avoid inhibitions of English language.

Communicative language Teaching (CLT)

Communicative Language Teaching is best considered as an approach Rather than a method. Since its inception, CLT has passed through a number of different phases as its advocates have sought to apply its principles to different clemencies of the teaching and learning process. The following are identified by Johnson and Johnson (1998) (cited in Richards et al, 2001) as core characteristics that underlie current applications of communicative methodology. Appropriateness: The appropriateness of use of language in casual as well as formal situations. Message focus: Focus on information sharing and Information transfer. Psycholinguistic processing: To engage learners in the use of cognitive and other processes that are important Factors in second language acquisition Risk taking: Learners are encouraged to learn from their errors. Free practice: Encouraging the use of "holistic practice" Involving the simultaneous use a variety of sub skills in the class room

Conclusion

In the end I would suggest that there are various factors involved in lack of effective communication skills. Therefore students of government degree colleges are not less than private and corporate colleges but they need proper insights, motivation and guidance. Moreover there is certain psychological aspect which hampers their communicative skills. Therefore in future students will become more aware of these skills despite various hurdles and obstacles. Teachers, Parents and students all have to do level best to make the students good at communication skills.

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