

IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION & ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN THE PRESENT ERA

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Abstract

In this paper I have highlighted the importance of education and English language. English is a globalized language in the present scenario. It shows the way to exhibit our feelings, emotions and for better communication. Education and language are combined terms. Educated people are also unable to speak in English due to lack of exposure in English. Our parents give importance for education and English. Indian English teachers as well as students are poor in pronunciation. English teachers must update their knowledge in teaching skills. Teachers should provide opportunity to expose their talent. Listening, speaking, reading and writing are key skills.

Key words : Education, Language, Motivation.

Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom.

- George Washington

According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary Definition runs thus, "Education is a process of teaching and learning, especially in schools or colleges, to improve knowledge and develop skills."¹

Education in its general sense is a form of learning in which knowledge, skills, and habits of a group of people are transferred from one generation to the next through teaching, training, research or simply through auto didacticism. Generally, it occurs through any experience that has a formative effect on the way one thinks, feels, or acts.

Etymologically, the word education is derived from the Latin word eudcatio. It means a breeding, a bringing up, a rearing. Man has created education, yet it has become indispensable in his life, for man seeks education for the betterment of his/her life, both inward and outward, and even for survival. It is no wonder, therefore that the UNO in its universal declaration of Human rights, proclaims: Every one has the right to education. (Article 26).Not only this, educability now considered as one of the capacities which distinguish man from other species. Man is educatable, where as other animals and birds etc are not, although some of them can be trained to do certain things.

Hirst and peters rightly state: “ we distinguish now between training and education, where as previously people did not. We would not now naturally speak of educating animals and we would never speak in this way of plants. But we do speak of training animals and of training roses and other sorts of plants.”²

Education is an essential basis of good life. A man becomes a human being in the real sense when he is transformed from primarily an animal being into a human being. Education is the process of instruction aimed at the all round development of boys and girls. Education dispels ignorance. It is the only wealth that can not be robbed. Learning includes the moral values and the improvement of character and the methods to increase the strength of mind.

Language:

Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary denotes, “Language is the system of communication in speech and writing that is used by people of a particular country or area.”³

The word language seems to have been derived from the Latin word lingua which implies tongue. Language is the entire complex of phenomenon associated with human vocal and auditory communication of ideas. It includes the first cries of the baby, the most improved forms of human speech and all connections with physiology, psychology, history etc.

Language displays two levels of structures. The first level is made up of sounds and morphemes that combines into words. These words are combined into meaningful chunks or sentences at second level. In other words, the first level deals with compounding sounds and the second level deals with the compounding of words into sentences.

For example a+l+l=all

e explore and creat(Compounding of sounds)

L+i+k+e=like

I+c+e= ice

C+r+e+a+m= Cream

Second level

(Compounding of words) All+of+us+like+icecream

These two levels of structures or patterning are what make human language superior to other means of communication. The scope of language study can be seen in the following areas like scientific study of language, phonetics, and writing systems, paralinguistic features , semantic , human language.

Importance of Language:-

“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.” – Nelson Mandela

The importance of language is essential to every aspect and interaction in our everyday life. We use language to inform people around us of what we feel, what we desire and understand the world us. We communicate effectively with our words, gestures, and tone of voice in a multitude of situation. Being able to communicate with each other, form bonds, teamwork, and it is what separates humans from other animal species. Communication drives our lives and better ourselves. As a parent, teacher or other type of care giver, you shape a child’s language development to reflect the identity , values, and experiences of your family and community. Strong language skills are an asset that will promote a life time of effective communication.

The current multidisciplinary language discourse in law, politics, sociology, anthropology, and linguistic on the importance of language reveals that language is important at least three ways.

Firstly, language is a medium of communication, mirrors one's identity and is an integral part of culture. Secondly, language is a means of expression and allows a person to participate in community activities. It can be used as a medium of fostering a democratic transition.

Secondly," language is an integral part of the structure of culture, it infact constitutes its pillar and means of expression par excellence. Its usage enriches the individual and enables him to take an active part in the community and its activities. To deprive a man of such participation amounts to depriving him of his identity."4

Thirdly, languages are also valuable as collective human accomplishments and on going manifestations of human creativity and originality. This is buttressed by UNESCO's argument for a language preservation that the world's languages represent an extraordinary wealth of human creativity. They contain and express the total pool of ideas nurtures over time through heritage, local traditions and customs communicated through local languages.

There is something which I found very interesting in mythology there is a story from various races, religions, or culture which is actually almost the same. Here are a few examples, the Hebrew Bible tells a story of a common language spoken by all humans. The people decided to build a Tower which they called Babel which they intended would reach heaven. God was angry at this and confused their languages so they could no longer understand each other and work together. They formed groups and moved away.

Hindu mythology has a knowledge tree which grew up to the heavens. Brahma cut off its branches and threw them to earth where they grew into separate trees and created different languages and cultures. As you can see from this the thoughts and ideas from different nationalities are not very different at all. Infact, when you study other languages you will find that most are very similar. Often the main differences are the alphabets and the pronunciation, the syntax is the same. What I am trying to say is that the importance of language is how we use it to communicate? We should use it to show our understanding of the cultures and lives of our fellow men in other lands.

English is a part and parcel of our life. From childhood on wards we start speaking in English but we face some problems in English communication. Those are speaking in English; Listening in English. Every individual has their own problems in the perception of English language. It depends on class room management, teaching aids, motivation of the teacher, circumstances, peer group people, environment. In India, most of the teachers teach English theoretically other than practical English usage in the class room. English class room must be different from other subjects. Teachers should not threaten the student to speak in English.

English Teachers must apply some teaching methods based on Technology. LSRW Skills are helpful to the teacher and learners. By providing English CDs, classroom must be equipped with Technology. Pupils listen and enjoy the listening skills. He/She is motivated by that and develops speaking skills. Speaking and Listening skills are interrelated skills. If the teacher monitors the pupils, it leads to enrichment of English language. Small class room consists of 20to 25 members is enough to bring some change. Through children programmes, role plays, skits, movies etc is shown to students , teacher should observe the behavior of the pupils and record their body language and ask the pupils to enact some parts of the movie or skit. Through these activities pupil over come fear and inhibition.

An effective English Teacher must possess these 5I's : Imagination, Innovativeness, Interaction, Independent thinking, Interdependence

Imagination: A teacher who is imaginative can do wonders in the English class. Their new ideas break monotony and make students take lively participation in the class. Albert Einstein says that imagination is more important than knowledge. Teachers who are imaginative new things.

Innovativeness: An innovative teacher dares to go off the track in order to be on the track. Students like teacher who are innovative. Innovativeness means Introducing changes and new ideas. Being fresh always.

Interaction: A teacher who promotes interaction in the English class do justice to their profession by empowering learners and helping them develop their communication skills. Communication activities such as role plays, group discussion, mock interviews , etc.

Interdependent thinking: Thinking on your own, Being critical of what you see and hear. An independent thinker helps students develop the desire and ability to think on their own. Language learning tasks should aim at developing students thinking skills.

Interdependence: Interdependence is essential for a successful person. Taking students from dependent stage to independent stage and then to interdependent stage is very important. Man is a social animal and interpersonal relationship is the key to success in today's competitive world.

In the words of ELT resource person Albert P' Rayan Motivating learners is important. "Create warm atmosphere in the class room to promote favourable attitude towards learning. Interesting visual aids, such as videos, posters , or practice equipment, motivate learners by capturing their attention and curiosity. Know your students interest. Incentives include privileges and receiving praise from the instructor. Be generous in giving a pat on the back. Promote reading skills through computer games. Most learners do not have the reading habit. But , students love using the computer and probably do a lot of reading in English online."⁵

In India, showing proficiency in English is a great challenge for non-native speakers of English.

Pronunciation is a part of any language but it plays key role in English. If the native learners pay attention by listening BBC or VOA news regularly. They can achieve proficiency in the language. Dr. AlbertP' Rayan asserts his ideas "The Pronunciation App ([www. soundspronapp.com](http://www.soundspronapp.com)) is a great mobile English pronunciation tool for all those who are interested in improving their pronunciation in English. This app also has excellent features and one of them is the interactive phonemic chart which shows the 44 sounds of English.

Pronounce it right([www. pronounceitright.com/apppronounce it right.php](http://www.pronounceitright.com/apppronounceitright.php)) is a very useful tool for anyone who finds it difficult to pronounce unfamiliar names."⁶

Speaking is an important skill in the present job market. In every Interview an effective speaker's speech is characterized by accuracy, fluency and appropriateness. TOEFL, IELTS or BEC (Business English Certificates) are the standardized tests. In these tests one's proficiency is assessed. It has four components: Listening, speaking, reading and writing. If the person is proficient in all these four skills, the person can be considered as a competent user of the language.

English Language Laboratory provides opportunity to open up the young learners minds. Every English learner must be free from inhibition and fear. One way communication may be helpful to some learners in the class room. Two way communication between the teacher and students must take place. Interaction with the students in English, story telling techniques, brain storming, puzzle activities are helpful to enhance the knowledge in English.

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