ENGLISH LANGUAGE A GLOBAL PHENOMENA

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ABSTRACT

Teaching unlike other professions is more of a skill than job. Getting someone to know something is never an easy task and teaching language is really an uphill task. English is slowly turning into a universal language. It has become the language of all citizens. Knowing English has become an important prerequisite for almost all kinds of professions. Hence it is important for the teachers to make sure that kids are becoming well versed in English language. English language has becoming a global phenomenon slowly and steadily. If every learner wants to blend in international stream in terms of profession, family then he or she needs to be fluent and well versed in the English language. Whatever wisdom and knowledge they may have, if they don’t know how to express it at any alien point, then that would be a tremendous flow to one. Through language learning one can improve and qualify themselves. This paper deals with the English language how it has become a
universal language why it is necessary learn this language, moreover it portrays the features of the universal language, the different medium, standardization and the concept of universalities etc.

Key words: morphology; syntax; Treatment; prescriptive; descriptive; profound; phonetics; mixture; adhering; pedagogical; judiciously; exploited; flaw; prerequisite; Indian flavor; community; competence; prospective; takeover; methods;

INTRODUCTION

Language is a code, which used for communicating with human beings. English is a language used for communication between the people lives in different countries of the world. English language was part of Germanic branch of Indo-European family. The history of English language is divided into old English, Middle English and Modern English. Todays, English as a universal language for business, tourism and the internet world. The people lives in some countries are native speakers. For an example people lives in United Kingdom, Ireland, United States, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa etc. English has an official or dominant language of more than 80 countries in all over the world. For an example India, Pakistan, Kenya, Singapore, Ethiopia and Australia etc. Many people are interested to learn the English as second language. Because the people are, thinking that knowledge of English is useful for better career and advanced knowledge. English is very important in academics like business, school and curriculum and personal life like communication to other country colleagues travel for entertainment.

Nowadays, English is taught to the students in nursery schools where the students are children. At very low age the children store the new information easily. The children make
less effort to learn English language than the adult to learn English language. The main goal of teaching English is to make children grow up and get a multicultural education.

The knowledge of science and other things is not enough is the child does not have the correct knowledge of the language that is universally spoken. Communication with others is one of the most common things that come across professionals. For communication we need a language that is understood by everyone. So English becomes one of the basic needs for the people to grow in their respective fields. This is started from a basic level that is from the time when these future professionals are small children because that is the best time to learn something. That is the time when the mother tongue influence is less which a major reason for the discrepancies in the language around the globe.

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING (ELT)**

Learning other language other than native language is difficult to the people. At the same time by learning new languages we can also know the people’s cultures, trade, religions etc. There are many techniques adapted for teaching languages to the people. This second language teaching can be divided into four periods. There are Classic, Alternative, Current Communicative and Post-method Era.

The first period is known as Classical Period. In 16th century Latin was the popular language in Europe. The main reason for learning this language is to understand the classical text, grammar and translation. Since this was the first method of teaching it had inefficient sides also. For example it did not give importance to oral communication which is more important than written communication. This method is also known as Grammar translation method. The second period is called as direct method. Of course this method is better than Grammar translation method since it concentrated mainly on oral communication. It was
introduced in United States by Sauver and Maximillan Berlitz. It has some opposite ideas to Grammar translation method.

The next period is known as Alternative Period. During the World War II the U.S people needed to have people who had fluency and accuracy in other languages other than English. It was necessary to accomplish some special training. Then comes the communicative period where there has been development in various ways. It showed greater focus on the communication. In the silent method sounds are coded as colours. The feature of this method is teacher’s silence. But this is not useful always. It may be confusing for the learners. It is not a method and it is an approach which crosses the limits of other methods.

In post method era, we have Task-based language Teaching. The aim is to teach language by giving a task that will urge students while dealing with it. But this method can be used to the people who have good proficiency in the target language. Another important method is multiple intelligence method. It aims to teach language by using every person’s dominance intelligence.

ENGLISH IS AN INTERNATIONAL MEDIUM

Knowledge of English is must if a person goes to other countries like USA, Canada, Australia, UK etc. English is widely used in various fields like finance, air travels etc. English will make every person go and survive everywhere. If we go to airline terminal, railway station or any other chief office, the information displays will be in English language as well as with the local language. If we want to start our career by getting a good job with handsome salary in a multinational company then without English it is difficult most of the universities worldwide include English as one of their major subject. English is the language of
communication between people with difficult cultures. All advanced knowledge in science, medicine and technology is available in English. English is important to do business with developed nations like United States in some countries English is their mother tongue, other countries learn English as their second language. English is widely used in almost all countries of the globe. That’s why English is considered as the “Global language”. In some countries schools are divided into two mediums. One is English medium and the other medium in their own national language. Now a day’s people need to travel to different Nations due to business purpose. Then English will be very useful to communicate with the people of those countries. In order to get the projects from multinational companies, it is necessary to convince them by our speaking skills and fluency in English.

In an era of globalization and development, where students need to study or work in different countries, the importance of English as a global language cannot be denied.

According to recent study, about half of Indian population will be at Working stage by 2020, but in other countries, it will be less than half of their population. So, Indian government is emphasizing in giving technical and English training, so that Indians can takeover the world. Those students in developing countries who want to nurse education from prestigious foreign universities need to have command over English language as it is a global language. It is through English that we are able to keep ourselves updated with recent developments around the world. New age economies like software development and call centres have made learning of English compulsory for those who want to find a good livelihood in this competitive environment. English is also of utmost importance in case of higher studies and research in the fields of science and technology. For non-native English users, English is very important because it is widely spoken all around the world. For engineering students whose mother tongue is not English, mastering English is even more important, not only for their academic
life but also for their prospective career. In order to master the engineering knowledge and skills better, engineering students should own the English language competence. Most of the scientific papers or journals in the world are written in English. Most of the engineering graphs are also marked in English. Moreover, most engineering professors in various universities are also conducting their lectures in English. Hence, engineering students should at least master the basic English ability to deal with the countless English lectures, tutorials, labs, projects and papers. Finally, they have to submit their important theses, still in English.

When engineering students graduate from the college and become real engineers, they will find that English appears even more crucial than it used to be. Engineers usually work in groups as their tasks are cannot be done individually. An engineer needs to cooperate and communicate with different people from different part of the world. For non-native English speakers, unfortunately, most of the engineers speak English as the first language or the working language. In order to understand and coordinate with their colleagues and accomplish their projects fluently, engineers have to speak good English. All In all, non-native English engineering students should try hard to improve their English ability, which could help to make both their school life and career more successful and enjoyable.

English is important to doctors all over the world primarily because much of the medical scientific and literature is written in English. In addition, it is common for international meetings to hold their conferences in English. English is pretty much the language of the scientific community. As we know the importance of English we need to know the right way to teach English to students. That also varies in the English speaking as well as the Non-English speaking countries in the world. In the following topics these two cases are discussed in detail taking the example of both the cases mentioned above.
SECOND LANGUAGE STATUS

English is considered and accepted by the people as a common language of understanding and communication around the globe. It doesn’t matter whether a person is from an English-speaking nation like the US or England or from a non-English speaking country like India or China or Japan or any of the African and Middle-East countries.

Non-English speaking countries may be classified into those countries in which English is not the mother tongue. Countries like India, other Asian, African, Middle-East (Arabian) and South American countries come under this category. To sustain the basic point of the topic “How students understand English in non-English countries”, it is important that we first know about the status that people have for the language from a social, educational and professional level. This study can be done by taking the example of our very own nation “India”.

The sub-continent of India gets its name “Sub-continent” not only because of its size but also due its geographical, social and cultural diversity. It is home to people of different religions, cultures, traditions, etc. People from almost every state have a different mother tongue for example the mother tongue of the people of Kerala is Malayalam, Tamil in Tamil Nadu, Konkani in Goa, Marathi in Maharashtra etc. So basically children in their early years are more exposed to their respective mother tongues rather than English. This may or may not affect the student’s English further on in the future. It may affect their pronunciation, grammar or both. It all depends on the interest with which students learn English. Learning English only from their academic curriculum point of view will do no good in improving the student’s proficiency in the language. However, if a student really takes interest in learning the language that is paying attention to the correct pronunciation, usage of proper
grammar, communicating with people in English, reading English articles like magazines, novels, etc gives a real boost to the students’ English speaking and writing.

India basically being a non-English speaking nation has given English the “Second language” status from the educational point of view with Hindi as the “First language”. But in certain south-Indian states English has been given more priority in the educational system over Hindi. Some students in colleges and further on in professional fields find it tough to express and communicate with other people. This is a major reason for the drawbacks in their careers. From the social perspective, people prefer and tend to communicate with people in their mother languages and not in English. This is just human behaviour- doing things the easy way.

Basically, the seeds of English in the end of 18th century by the British and has stayed ever since. Over the years the way and style of speaking and writing has been modified with an “Indian flavour”. In the present world, English is given so much importance both in the educational and professional fields that there is a need to standardise the language at global scale.

UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE

Now let’s take a look at how English language is taught in west and how much it is different from the Indian pedagogical methods. They lay great stress on the language skills. The four language skills are: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Researches have shown that these four skills develop in children in the given order itself and neither parents nor teachers are supposed to alter the pattern. But if we take our country into consideration what we can find is that the first two linguistic skills are quite often completely neglected
and stress is given to the last two skills. This builds up undue pressure on children. This is the primary flaw in our system.

Another important fact that should be taken into consideration is that the size of the class rooms in the west is pretty small. Hence teachers get to interact with students pretty closely. This enables them to implement various techniques in teaching language like: games, role-playing exercises, problem-solving and group discussion. Children are encouraged to communicate right from the time they enter the class. Modern technology is also exploited judiciously for the same. For example plays are shown rather than taught in the class. Hence children find it easier to retain it in their memory. Students are also allowed to use technology and language laboratories to study independently. The modus operandi of western pedagogical system combines practical skills with a sound academic underpinning, all geared towards making students well versed in English language.

Now if we theoretically analyze the method of linguistic teaching we come across several methods.

- Grammar translational method: instructs students in grammar and provides vocabulary with direct translations to memorize.
- Audio-lingual method: was developed in USA around world war two. In this method students interacted intensively with native speakers and a linguist in guided conversations.
- The oral approach / situational language teaching.
- Communicative language teaching: emphasizes interaction as both the means and the ultimate goal of learning a language.
• Dogme language teaching: encourages teaching without published textbooks and instead focuses on conversational communication between the learner and the teacher.

There are several other methods. But the above mentioned five happens to be the most used among them. If we pay attention to Indians speaking English we can see that the regional language has a profound influence in our pronunciation. Even the teachers of English language who are very much familiar with phonetics tend to speak wrong. In the world of phonetics we come across two broad ways of transcribing. One is British and the other is American. In India we use a liberal mixture of both instead of adhering to anyone.

English grammar is the body of rules that describe the structure of expressions in the English language. This includes the structure of words, phrases, clauses and sentences. A text that contains more than one sentence is no longer in the realm of grammar, but is instead is in the realm of discourse. There are two approaches to grammar prescriptive grammar and descriptive grammar. Grammar is divided into morphology and syntax. The best method for learning grammar is practice rather than theory.

STANDARDISATION OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE

English is a language which is nowadays used as a global means of communication. Science, History, Politics, Technology and all the means need communication. And for this communication to take place and to spread it around the world we need some source of communication that is understood clearly by everyone around the planet, so that there is no barrier for the knowledge to spread and for the world to prosper. So that everyone gets equal and healthy chance to spread his ideas to everyone else and that he gets proper treatment.
Students as we all know are the future of the world. They are the carriers of the human race in the coming years. And we know these students are not confined in a specific part of the world. They are spread from the North Pole to the South Pole, from Australia to America. They may be from the English speaking countries or the non English speaking ones. But yes they all are important and every student is unique in one way or the other. They are provided education to bring out the genius within them, to make a difference to the human race and to prosper. As we have already studied the importance of English language in the life of the students around the world we also need to know the fact that the style of English used also makes a difference. There are so many types of dialects, accents of the English language that may cause a problem to the communication and so there is a need for setting up of standards that are understood and accepted all over the world so that no one has a disadvantage and everyone gets a fair opportunity to succeed in the race of life.

CONCLUSION

Now the question arises how these standards set around the globe are. As we have already seen that English has evolved as much has the world. So to work up a single standard that becomes acceptable is not easy because that may not suit all the people in the world. So that makes the job of standardisation much more difficult. As many people worked hard they succeeded in making a standard level of English around the world. Teaching of English in this standard globally accepted format becomes very important as that is what makes the student learn the language. They learn the way they are taught. So as we have already had a lot of discussions on how the language is taught throughout the world, we may not continue it here. Just one more thing that becomes very important is that the influence of mother tongue.
We know the influence cannot be avoided but that is what is the difficulty in the job of an English teacher is. They need to minimise this influence so that the students only understand and learn what is globally accepted so that they succeed in their lives in the future.

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