

The Delineation of English Language Teaching and Learning in the Contemporary Framework

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Abstract:

Language is a natural tool to prompt joys, sorrows, feelings, emotions, and tribulations of people. Many languages have evolved across the world with subtle distinctions. In the diversified world of languages, English is the most extensively used language in most parts of the world. Its reputation in the contemporary situations cannot be overlooked or downplayed. It takes greater patience, confidence, and continuous efforts to become fluent in English. Non-English learners often believe that they will never learn and become proficient in English, either in speaking or writing. They are prejudiced and exhibit this kind of propensity toward acquiring English skills. Most students learn English with an eye toward passing exams. As a result, they are not able to construct a simple sentence which is free from grammatical errors. Furthermore, students do not get enough practice to advance fluency in the English language. But proficiency in English language has become a dire need of the present situation. Hence, this research paper attempts to delineate the method of English language teaching and learning in the contemporary framework.

Key Words: Delineation, English, Language, Teaching, Students, Proficiency.

Introduction:

The word 'language' is derived from the French word 'langue' or the Latin word 'lingua', which means a tongue. It is the expression of humanity and celebration in words, whether in written or spoken form. Communication has become eloquent with the help of diverse languages that have emerged in every nook and corner of human existence. People are bestowed with the reward of diverse languages to communicate their inner voice in the form of ideas, thoughts, feelings, and emotions. The acquisition of language skills has facilitated to distinguish and place human beings above animals. The nature created planet has given birth

to many wonders, and language is one of the most diverse creations by nature. The beauty of a nation is reliant on the uniqueness of a language spoken, articulated and understood by its people in sundry provinces. In “An Introduction to Linguistics”, Syal and Jindal states:

Language is a system of conventional spoken or written symbols by means of which human beings, as members of a social group and participants in its culture, communicate. It is a purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions and desires by means of a system of voluntarily produced symbols... It is undoubtedly a kind of means of communication among human beings. (2008)

The world is a platform where many languages are vocalized to articulate the insight of culture, tradition, and heritage. In many nations, the usage of language paves the way for identity creation and identity assertion. Thus, language has become the ambassador of social and cultural uniqueness. Millions of people speak certain languages, whereas only a few thousand speak others. In the contemporary situation, English is the most recognized and extensively employed language because of its structure and vibrant eloquence. The importance of English language cannot be overlooked, downplayed, or underestimated in any circumstance. This language has been leading the way in several fields, including education, medicine, science, technology, and engineering. As the dire need of the hour, conversing in English is essential for achieving a wide range of academic goals and personal objectives.

The Background of English Language:

The success or failure of an individual is mainly dependent on the acquisition of language skills, both oratory and written. English has become a momentous tool for people to ascertain success in the competitive world. The word ‘English’ is derived from the Germanic language, but it has more Latin influences. Its pattern of grammar and core vocabulary is inherited from ‘Proto-Germanic’. A significant portion of the English vocabulary hails from both Roman and Latin sources. Conventionally, English is considered as the prime, dignified, and prestigious language of England. Over time, it has evolved into the primary or secondary language of many former British colonies, including the United States, India, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and many other nations. The credit should always go to the historical effects of the British Empire. In “Skills for the 21st Century”, Bialik and Fadel writes:

English language and globalization act as mutual pull factors. It plays a significant role in the ongoing globalization and is becoming more significant due to the globalization of the commerce and the increasing diversity of the workforce with different values and attitudes. (2015)

Earlier, most of the countries used English language to accomplish success in the field of academics. But in recent times, it is extensively used in commerce and cultural domains dominated by the nations. These are considered as the direct results and influences of British imperialism. People of the United States and United Kingdom had greater acquaintance with the English language. As the concept of globalization erupted, it gained momentum in almost all nations of the world to the supreme extent. With the advent of technology in the banking and finance segment, it has become the language of business world, attracting more financial clients. It is not just limited to few fields; even the most popular medium, the celluloid world, managed to reach a large number of audiences across the world, mainly Hollywood.

As such, knowing the English language is beneficial and even required not only for professionals but also for the common folk of society. Today, many languages are spoken by people, but these languages have also incorporated English words in their conversations. People have reached the stage where they cannot speak any language without using English words in their day-to-day conversations. Such is the coverage and vibrancy of English language witnessed in present society. This language is spoken by more than 1 billion people globally. Moreover, English is declared as the official language of 67 diversified nations. Additionally,

it is also the official language of 27 nations as a subsidiary language. Educational institutions in most of the nations have started to provide impetus to the English language. They have realized that the inculcation of 'English Skills' (Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing) would definitely help the student community to feel the flavour of success in their career development.

The Importance of Studying English Language:

'Which is the most used and spoken language in the world?' This question can be answered easily even by a layman in any part of the world. The immediate answer would be 'English'. Such is the importance and competence of English as underscored by the people of this techno-digital world. Approximately 15% of the population can speak, articulate, or comprehend English. It provides us with an overview of the diverse advancements in various fields occurring globally. A person who can read, write, and speak the English language fluently is placed in the best position to witness, understand, and perform well. More books, reading materials, and electronic gadgets can be used only by people who have intellectual access to the English language. Therefore, it is also referred to as the primary window on the world.

The Prejudiced Mindset of Students in Learning English:

English is an easy language to learn, but most of the students are prejudiced that it is a difficult language to read, understand, write, and speak. The majority of sub-continent students, especially from rural areas, view the term 'English' as 'magical' and 'mysterious.' They become uneasy as soon as they hear something uttered in English. When speaking in English, one can easily notice their fear, hesitation, and shyness in the process. Even after twelve years of classroom instruction and three years of college study, they do not become proficient in English. It is also ironic that most of the imparters are not trained systematically to teach English. Hence, English is not taught properly in schools or colleges where they are enrolled. The bilingual approach is used in most language sessions, and the majority of students are from rural areas. This bilingual approach partially accelerates the learners, but one cannot expect the actual learning process in its entirety.

To feel the flavour of success in English learning, it requires greater patience, commitment, dedication, and continuous effort on the part of learners. As a result, students often believe that they will never be able to become fluent or skilled in the English language. Students who always exhibit this kind of propensity and negative approach are not able to learn English. Since most of the students learn English with an eye toward exams, they are not able to construct even a simple sentence free from grammatical errors. Moreover, students do not receive proper guidance and enough practice to become proficient in the English language. This is especially true in the cases where underdeveloped and developing nations have not made sincere attempts to train both teachers and students. The concerned authorities should hire faculty who possess better language and technical skills. If this is met, then students will place themselves in a position to seek jobs in the global competitive scenario.

The Important Reasons to Teach and Learn English Language:

Nowadays, the world has realized the ominous need of English language for the overall development of personalities. A person may emerge as a graduate or postgraduate from a reputed university. But he/she they do not possess communication skills in English, the obtained degree will never come to the rescue of learned scholar. The 'Deeper Knowledge of Subject' and 'English Communication Skills' should act as two faces of the same coin for achieving desired goals in the competitive world. 'One' without the 'other' will not permit the learned scholar to flourish in academics. Thus, the teaching and learning of English language, and gaining momentum over communication skills, is typified as the calamitous need of the hour. Hence, the following discussions are considered as important reasons to teach and learn the English language as foremost priority.

- **English as the International Language:**

English is acclaimed and acknowledged as an international language because of its valuable approach in the advanced world. It acts as a challenging task for teachers to impart and a difficult task for learners to embrace the communication skills. Being an observant teacher, one should look into the intellectual as well as the societal background of the learner. The interest, word power, intelligence quotient, emotional quotient, and a few more academic traits of the learner have to be properly understood by the teacher. The students are required to show maximum commitment and dedication in learning an international language. If the responsibilities are delivered by both the teacher and the learner, then the learning of the English language will make a positive move to ascertain the dream of pronouncing an international language. Therefore, acquiring proficiency in English is crucial as it facilitates seamless communication for individuals across the globe.

- **English as the Foundation of Education:**

English acts as a strong foundation not only for the learner but also for the complete development of a nation. Education is another important sector that requires proficiency in English. Students are taught and encouraged to study English as a second language in many nations, including India. Many curricula in the fields of science, technology, and engineering are framed in English. To make the curriculum more accessible to foreign students, university students in several nations study all the topics in English. Most of the educational institutions continue to employ English as the primary language of instruction. A significant amount of literature is composed in the English language. There is a greater wealth of literature written, portrayed, and articulated in English. Moreover, English-language publications document a large number of recent scientific and theoretical findings.

- **English as the Primary Language of Internet and Press:**

Most of the webpages on the internet are written, designed, and made in the English language. It is estimated that more than 560 million people use the internet every day, and more than 50% of the content is created in the most prominent websites. The program writer can frequently translate websites, even those that are written in different languages. Computer teachers should assist students in creating e-content in English and making it available for other learners. English is the major language of press; more books and newspapers are written in it than in any other language. People can find some of these publications available wherever they are placed in the world. There are few magazines and periodicals that publish their writings online as well. In fact, they will find more information about almost every subject if they can speak English because it is so prevalent in international communication.

- **English as the Language of Business and Travel:**

The contemporary world has provided greater emphasis on tourism, which in turn multiplies business transactions. But these business transactions are feasible when both the hosts and tourists can communicate in English. For foreigners, English acts as a linking language, making attempt to seek easy aid and support everywhere in the globe. Proficiency in English will also benefit many in any business endeavours they decide to pursue. In addition, online purchases or transactions are done through Amazon, Flipkart, and a few more online platforms. Even most of the software is written in the English language. Thus, the role of an English teacher is not just to facilitate the student with communication skills. They should try to impart recent technical and business jargons in the English language effectively and prepare students to fit into the present world.

- **English as the Language of Cinema World or Television:**

Entertainment has not just remained as entertainment, but has undergone greater transformation both in making and perseverance of cinemas and television shows. Because of globalization, most of the English movies are screened all over the world. The teacher should concentrate on the oratory skills and accent of the various movies. Then, the audience will be

able to grasp the pronunciation of varied English accents. Lengthy dialogues, songs, recitations, and fast narrations have become common in cinemas. Here, both the teacher and student should deliberate it as an opportunity to witness, learn, and expose themselves to the diversified use of English in cinemas, serials, and news channels. If learners can digest the English of the cinema world, they may find job opportunities in the world of entertainment. English is even more important if they hope to exert in the world of entertainment.

- **English as the Way to Understand Other Languages:**

English-speaking people are found in every part of the world. It is a boon for learners to visit places, observe cultures, and understand different languages of the world. Because an individual will always benefit a lot in the process of learning while knowing cultures. The teacher can impart ideas to learners when conversing with people of unknown languages. In such situations, they can use signs and symbols, access their cell phones to browse, and show images of items. But in order to apply the above conventions, the learner should be in a position to inculcate the so-called universal language, English. The history of English is lengthy and intriguing, encompassing global influences, invasions, and battles. Modern English has been influenced by the cultures of diversified nations. Because of this, it is a composite language with elements of Latin, Romance and Germanic influence.

- **English as the Easy and Flexible Language:**

The versatility of English is considered as the real strength in typifying the ideals of communication skills. Learners should understand that no other language is as easy as English to teach, learn, and comprehend. Its extensive vocabulary often allows the inculcators to come up with numerous methods to express the identical perception. The vocabulary is easy to understand and has evolved through the course of learning many languages. Every dictionary coin, adds, and comes out with new words at regular intervals for the betterment of English word power. The world of English language is just managed with 26 letters, either by the imparter to impart or by the learner to learn. As a result, everyone should assert themselves to learn the most simple, sensible and flexible language to uplift themselves as well as to proclaim identity in the anthropological creation.

- **English as the Language of Literature:**

Literature is one of the most fascinating subjects to deal, assert and understand the world as it is. It reflects the predicaments of human beings portrayed by great authors across the world. From the days of William Shakespeare to the contemporary writers, the narrations are acknowledged for illuminating the intellect of readers. The thought-provoking outputs of literature are encapsulated in a vibrant language called 'English'. The art and heart-rending plots of Shakespeare shake and shackle the insight of passionate readers who chew, swallow, and digest the classics of English literature to the core. A teacher should enjoy literary works to sow the seeds of love, kindness, ethics, values, moralities, chastisements, philosophies and moreover, the English communication skills to learn a language through literature. Then, a teacher can unmask the students who suffer from fear, hesitation, and shyness to learn the easiest and most refined language of the universe, - 'English'. In "Culture, Language and Literature", Z. Patil opines:

Learners should learn about the relationship between language and culture as literature is the bridge to combine those two. Though both culture and language are two inseparable items, still, the bridge of connection is necessary to create creativity. (2021)

Conclusion:

The embodiment of human life always stands as the top priority to acknowledge the humanitarian apprehension. 'How can one show or display humanity?' 'Is it possible through food, money, pleasure, and materials?' A person with greater exposure, experience and sensitivity can only assert that, "it is possible through words". Yes, the words are part of a

language. An emotional human individual can be consoled with sympathetic and empathetic words that would certainly boost the morale to free himself/herself from dilemmas, steeplechases or complications. If a person speaks, he/she can share their problems, and a third person can afford keys to unlock the problems and pave ways for the betterment of life. All these emotional acquaintances are quite conceivable only with the submission of a modest and lucid language. Hence, the practice of English language for both teaching and learning obliges the persistence in a fruitful method.

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