GROWING IMPORTANCE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT

ENGLISH IS A LANGUAGE WHICH HAD BEEN SPOKEN FOR CENTURIES TOGETHER. IN INDIA, ENGLISH IS KNOWN AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE IN INDIA BUT AT THE SAME IT HAS BEEN ENJOYING A GREAT PLACE. THE BRITISH WHEN THEY PUT THEIR FLAG ON THE INDIAN SOIL, TRIED TO LEARN ALMOST ALL THE INDIAN LANGUAGES. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN THEY WERE THE RESIDENTS OF ONE PARTICULAR REGION, THEY EASILY PICKED UP THE LANGUAGE OF THE PARTICULAR REGIONAL LANGUAGE BECAME A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE INDIANS AND THE BRITISHER. SIMILARLY, INDIANS TOO BECAME WELL-VERSED IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN BOTH SPOKEN AND WRITTEN.

MY ARTICLE ENVISAGES THAT HOW THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE HAS BEEN OCCUPYING THE INDIAN CORPORATE DEEPLY AND BEGAN PENETRATING IN ALL DIMENSIONS THE EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS WERE PRESCRIBED AND EACH AND EVERY DOMAIN BEGAN THRUSTING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE. ENGLISH MEDIUM WAS THE CONCENTRATION IN THE EDUCATIONAL SECTORS. KINDER-GARTEN SCHOOLS BECAME POPULAR AND THE PARENTS WISHED THEIR CHILDREN TO BE FAMILIAR WITH ENGLISH LANGUAGE FROM THE TENDER AGE OF THEIR WARDS.

BUT, NOW, THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IS DOMINATING THE ENTIRE GLOBE IN THE NOMENCLATURE OF INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE.

INTRODUCTION

So far, there was a conception in the minds of the Indians that English was a language exported to India by the Britishers to capture India and to make the Indians as slaves. Though, after the Independence, Britishers left India, but we must realize that the language which was spoken by them is still alive in India which gives a pride and prestige to the Indians, but not to make us as slaves, as we were earlier. It could have been well realized that Indians are very well in picking up any language whether it is of Indian origin or otherwise.

In the ensuing sentences, being a Trainer on Soft skills, I am endeavoring myself to put forth the few requirement for the benefit of the Students’ community in India. It is realized by everybody that without English Language, the present day cannot move further, especially in the field of Education. Though the importance of Mother Tongue (MT) is talked about at length and
breadth, one cannot keep aside English Language at all. That doesn’t mean that we are ignoring our Mother Tongue (MT) and praising someone else’s Language/Mother Tongue.

ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

No one can deny that English is bridging the gap as far as the exchange of communications is concerned, globally. It is felt that though we belong to various Vernacular, we are constrained to take extra efforts in understanding and learning and to an extent a mastery. One cannot say that entire global is well versed in English Language. For example, China, Russia, France, Italy, Germany etc., are not on the influence of the English Language as in India, from the time the English Language was born. It’s a well known fact that English Language is a mixture of various other languages such as Latin, Greek, French etc., that is why it is called as Phonetic Language, but during the present days’ English Language has gained it’s maximum momentous.

ENGLISH AS LANGUAGE OF COMMUNICATION

It has been widely spoken that next to the British, Indians took evince interest in understanding and learning the English Language. That helped the Indians to have a close conversation with the Britishers during the war of Independence. The greatest and famous leaders and eminent men of India, like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawahar Lal Nehru, Sardar Patel and so on, had the verbal skills in English to have the dialogue with the British. In turn, British were also gaining the Spoken Language skills of Indian Regional Languages such as Hindi, Tamil, Punjabi etc., by seeing the growing tendencies of the Indians to acquire communication skills in English language, and the Indian Scholars were on the opportunity of moving very closely with the English men. It could have helped certainly to get some of the problems mitigated during the British rule. It helped Indians to put forth their ideas to the English men in order to solve and sort out certain problems of those days during the War of independence.

INFLUENCE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN INDIA

We, Human beings, sometimes feel very happy if a person belonged to other region either trying to converse in our Regional Language either speaking fluently or attempting to speak. Might be the same Psychology adopted between Indians and English men on those lines. Therefore, English is widely spread-over today and the importance of the Language is pervading in every walks of Indians’ life. Therefore, one is unable to say “NO” to English Language either over the tongue or from the bottom of his/her heart.

MOTHER TONGUE INFLUENCE: (MTI)

It is practiced in every region of India that the Regional Languages is being spoken in different pronunciation and accent, even though the language is one and the same. If we take any language for example, there is a history behind it. For example, our National Language- Hindi is being spoken in different tone and style in the Hindi speaking belts itself. The men in Hindi-Speaking States like Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar etc., are not conversing the language in an uniform pattern. The accent, the pronunciation etc., are varying from one State to another. Similarly, the non-Hindi speaking States such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, Orissa, West
Bengal etc., though Hindi is being spoken, but in a further different tone and no uniform way of communication, pronunciation, accent etc., Likewise, English is also being spoken in India with different tone, accent, pronunciation etc., as practiced by the regional population.

A person, as per his accent and pronunciation, is clearly understood by others, from which state or the language he belongs to. The Mother Tongue influence is at times dominating an Individual, if a proper practice in English is not initiated. During the utterances in English, he/she is pronouncing the words as if his/her Mother Tongue is being spoken. To a maximum extent, the minimum care also is to be taken to avoid the Mother Tongue Influence (MTI) gets mingled while speaking English Language. Of course being Indians, who are learning that Language cannot absolutely be like an English man but, to our endeavors, it is expected not to mix up our Mother Tongue with the English Language.

**FLUENCY, ACCENT, VOCABULARY & VOICE MODULATION DEVELOPMENT**

English Language can be acquired through a general study of a book which is prescribed for the purposes. Also the Students don’t take any initiative during their college days to acquire the fluency and skills, but they feel that it could be possible after the completion of curriculum, which is a wrong notion absolutely. To attain fluency in English Language, one has to listen to the English conversations from various sources. The voice and accent, correct pronunciation, the grammar etc., and above all a good memory power is required while conversing with others which also requires a constant practice. The memory power must be enhanced while speaking in English Language. If the English words are not coming to our memory with correct grammar the fluency cannot be acquired. This requires a constant practice. Regarding Voice Modulation, it is expected always to speak the English Language by using the tongue, teeth and lips but not by using a heavy tone from and through the abdomen.

**READING HABIT**

Reading the English passages by maintaining the speed, voice modulation, pronunciation, accent, familiarity with the words, meaning, etc., are the prime factors to improve the fluency. Reading a passage from Newspaper is of the choice of the individual which will certainly promote the fluency in English Language. Listening to neutral accent which is being telecast through various Indian and foreign channels of Television will also help an individual to fluency development.

**WRITTEN ENGLISH**

Written English is also equally important for a Student during and after the curriculum. While writing in English, the grammar, the spelling, the vocabulary, punctuation marks etc., are to be given much importance. It has been observed that many persons/Students though do speak reasonably good English, but they are unable to put their ideas in writing. The Spoken English is totally differing from the Written English. Therefore a meticulous practice is very much essential for a student in writing the English language correctly. Writing skills should be enhanced gradually, which is next to spoken skills.
INDIAN ENGLISH

It reminds me of the speeches delivered by Swami Vivekananda and Dr. Radha Krishnan on the American soil. These two eminent personalities were appreciated, applauded commended and praised by the Americans for their eloquence in English Language. It was also felt that the utterances fluently made by the above unique and eminent personalities made the Americans to go “spell bound” totally and were struck with “awe”. Keeping this in mind, the English speaking Indians could try to influence others while speaking English. But it requires a constant practice always.

PROFESSIONAL ATTAINMENT

Now-a-days, since we are on the global scenario, every professional and the aspiring professional must be on the good eloquence in English Language. With this quality, he/she would be very much capable in bridging the gap in his professional spheres. It is helping to wade through various circumstances in order to reach his peak. The Professional English is the talk of the day. That doesn’t mean that one must be acquiring a Post- graduate Degree in English Language and English Literature. But it is expected to know the” in and out” and” ups and downs”. That’s enough for a Professional.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Particularly for the Graduate Students this skill is very much required in order to appear for various Entrance Tests such as, GMAT, CAT, ICET, EAMCET etc., Few of the or many of the Students in a particular region in the Country of India are lacking in understanding and to converse in English Language. This is owing to their lack of motivation which was not initiated by their faculty members in the graduate colleges. The awareness to the Students was not established. Adding to this, though a Student is from an English Medium Curriculum, he is not in a position to get thorough exposure to learn the language either within the college campus or out of it. The Student is not realizing that he/she must acquire that skill during his/her studies only. An apathetic attitude gets developed in his/her mind by conveying to others that he/she belonged to a particular Medium of Instructions, but not from English Medium. When he/she enters into a professional course after the graduation, he/she finds himself/herself as a fish out of water. The parents of the Students also do not realize that the communication skill is the one which is going to elevate their wards to achieve the excellence either in a competitive examination or in a job entrance test or job market.

Therefore, every Student must be acquiring the communication skills during the days of his/her curriculum days only and should not take a deep breathe that the skills could be attained and acquired after the professional studies are over. Educational Institutions must also to ponder over this issue in order to elevate that quality of the Student and to try to eliminate such a notion that he/she could complete the curriculum and to acquire the skills at a later date and at out of the campus.

One should know that merely speaking in English Language does not mean that he/she possesses good communication skills.
GRE, TOEFL

These two are considered as acid tests to the aspiring students/professionals who are prompting themselves to secure a further study in US/UK. Teaching of English as a Foreign Language is a training and coaching programme and many English Grammarians are on the front to impart coaching to secure a status in English language.

INDIAN POLITICIANS & ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Few of the politicians of South India based, are on the state of mind that English should not be a given importance owing to the reason that it would ruin our Indian culture. Therefore, English Language should be kept aside and their beloved regional language which is considered as an ancient language should never be compromised under any circumstances. But the same politicians are very much careful in admitting their children in English Medium Instructions only. As because the Politicians have no efficiency in communicative English language and unable to be presentable in government related matters, they do not want to have the same situation to be experienced by their children. The double standards of them show clearly that they are hypocrites in their attitudes.

LAW MEN & ENGLISH LANGUAGE

In India, there are very many Law Men and Women who are well-versed in their communicative and drafting skills in English are dominating in their profession and the law courts are being administered in English Language. Such personalities are achieving a great status in their professional front. The Law men who are not well-versed in English language are reeling under a chaos and becoming blemished in the channel.

ENGLISH AS THE EYE-OPENER

During the studies, a Student must be aware of the professional on-goings, such as communication skills and further skills requirement such as selection criteria in a Corporate. To attain those, a student has to keep abreast of the changes taking place in the society. It helps the Student to know where he/she stands and what are the skill requirements to make him/her to face the competitive world. He/she is not supposed to expect whether his/her faculty members to get him/her updated, which is practically impossible. He/She has to expand his/her professional spectrum widely.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

Five to Ten years ago, nobody realized the importance of English language and the Students who took initiative in communicating in English language both in writing and in speaking were not even appreciated even by the teachers’ community. Even the Politicians who preached to the voting public that mother tongue must only be given importance and not the English language, as because it is the language of other Country men but not Indians. But their children are all in English Medium Schools/Convents only. But, now-a-days the entire scenario is changed. Even though one has a colourful First Class Degree with distinction and is unable to communicate in
English Language, his/her degree will be a rusted one though may be a knowledgeable personality. The Student community must understand that without English Language both in spoken and written skills, it will be very difficult for a Student to compete the job Market especially. For the next two decades, may be more, English Language is going to dominate the entire Universe, I don’t presume anything apart from this.