

# “English Language as an Apparatus for Success: Language of Communication in Multilingual Nation, a key to social Uplift aka Status Symbol and in Vogue from Ages”

Prof Neetu Shrivastava

Asst Prof.

Department of Humanities,

IPS Academy Institute of Engineering and Sciences, Indore (MP)

## Abstract

In India, the English language not only opens the door to the professional horizon and monetary affluence but also gives social upliftment in society. Parents belonging to an upper and middle class, boost their children to get an education in English medium school only, they consider knowing English means having knowledge and proud feeling. It is still one of the status symbols in all the strata of the Indian society from the ages. Even in Indian literature and cinema, we find many references of “English being treated as a status symbol”. In this paper, we probe into how the English language is key to economic prosperity by analyzing certain case studies. We will also try to prove the fact that though India is a multilingual nation with its rich heritage of different -different languages and culture, English language enjoys higher status and most effective language in our country.

Key Words: English Language, Economical, Status Symbol, Effective, Communication.

Introduction: In Rabindranath Tagore’s story ‘Samapati’<sup>1</sup> the female protagonist Mrinmoyi met her would-be mother-in-law for the first time. When her mother-in-law asks her about her studies and household work she has no up to the mark answers. But with proud Mrinmoyi says that her father speaks in English with British officers. From ages, English language has higher status and still is on the top of the list whether it comes to usage, effectiveness or status symbolisms. English is the third most spoken language in the world. “How to learn English” keywords are searched on Google monthly and 44.9% (55.364) people searching in India. If one has to survive in today’s cut-throat competition one should have a command over English. English has become very important in today’s world due to its international importance. The world has become a global village and to communicate effectively and exchange ideas, belief, technology there is no better medium than English. The importance of the English language is because of the fact that it is the language of the two most important and progressive nations like USA and UK. Since both these nations directly or indirectly control the affairs of other nations worldwide so their language is also important. English people had colonies throughout the world; their language was adopted by the natives. Like India, many countries were colonized and being the language of Educated and colonizers it left a mark on the people across the globe. India too was colonized by Britishers for more than 200 years. In India, William Bentick made English the medium of higher education after the recommendations of Macaulay. English was used by the Britishers as a medium to instruct. They educated Indians in the English language so that Indians could communicate well and serve Britishers well in various departments. Till the time our country got freedom English language was incorporated into various fields and hence it was not possible to take this language out but to use it well because of its growing need and influence. India being a vernacular country, it

is difficult to use one common language officially and for communication. Many attempts have been made to make Hindi the official language of state and government but it is still far-sighted. According to Article 343(2), the constitution of India provides for the use of English for all official purpose for a period of 15 years. The Union Government took upon itself the promotion and the development of Hindi as the medium of expression during the period of 15 years. But it created serious language controversy throughout the country. Consequently, the parliament led to pass the official Language Bill in May 1963 allowing English to continue for an indefinite period. The constitution also provides that English will be the language of the High Courts, the Supreme Court and Acts of Parliament etc. The corporate sector employs people who are confident and speak fluent English apart from the basic skills required for the job. Even if one has got a perfect resume, education and experience that makes one eligible for a job but lacks in English will certainly not get his/her dream job. If you desire a good and a well-paid job it's very important to have good command in English. Globalization has turned the whole world into a small village and has resulted in lots of international business and bilateral deals. Almost all the countries use English as a business language so by communicating effectively one can make better business partners. India is a developing country and most of the developed countries that India deals with use English so it becomes necessary to have good command in English. Most of the technologies that are used in India is received from English nations so to use technology well, English is mandatory. To get good scores and understand the matter well students should be taught well in the English language. It has been seen that many students in India suffer because of this as they do not have a strong foundation in the English language. So, if Indian students have to compete with students in their country and across the globe, a good knowledge of English is a must. Knowledge of English is must qualify the competitive exams in India. When coming to economically grow in countries like India English language play pivot role. Here we will discuss two case studies which will prove how the English language plays a vital role in their careers.

Case 1: Mrs. Neha Singh is a yoga teacher. By qualification, she is masters in English Literature and Business administration. She is convent educated. Her medium of education is English throughout. She is a fitness freak all her life. She started her career as an English teacher in middle school in Indore. After that, she switched to an upcoming coaching institute "Mathematica" for the preparation of entrance exams. There she taught English and logical reasoning. But her interest always remains in fitness and workouts session. She learned yoga from some local teachers initially. Then pursuing her passion for yoga she learned Yoga from Sivananda Ashram the well-known ashram in India and become Yoga Shiromani. She shifted her base to Chandigarh as her husband is an Army Personnel posted there. She started taking classes of yoga in clubs and gyms. Slowly she started getting opportunities. She started taking classes for corporate groups. She is now a well-known name in Chandigarh for yoga. Neha's hard work and skills and passion all amalgamated in her success. But one more reason that she gives credit to his success is her communication skills. And she very well communicates in the English language which helps her to pursue her dream job successfully in Punjabi speaking state. She says that my communication skills and that too in the English language helps me a lot in my professional life. I can survive anywhere any state both personally as well as professionally due to my command over English.<sup>6</sup>

Case2: Mr. Ankit Yadav had completed his education from a well known and reputed convent school from a small town. He has done his graduation and Masters from DAVV University again reputed colleges. While doing his masters he got placed with high package. A very common success story of today's youth. But here the important point is that Mr. Ankit not even got placed but also grabbed good marks. He gives the credit for all this to hard work of course but also to know the English language better than his peers. Many of his peers didn't get placed or are less successful because they don't have command over English.<sup>6</sup>

There are billions and trillions of success stories prevail all over the country which proves that in India the English language is the door to economic success. This fact further got proven by probing into thousands of coaching institute for spoken English exists at every corner of the cities, towns, metro cities and villages. The impact of the English language remains preset from ages. Though there are many exceptions those survived and are successful even not knowing the English language. But if we go in-depth of the cultural and economical influences of English colony even after they left the countries ruled by them, it shows the impact they have on these countries. English language because of its ease and widespread use across the globe has its importance in India also. As all the literature, science, technology, and means of communication are in English itself none of the countries ignore its importance.

Knowing the importance of the language at all the fronts, the government of India has been taking diverse measures to uplift it at the very elementary level. Many model schools have been established giving instruction in English medium. The experts advised introducing English language at the elementary level to be acquainted with it for higher education. So, this proves the fact that the English language remains at a higher position and needed foremost for economic prosperity. Not only economical prosperity but also remains at the top as a status symbol even in the world of gadgets and fashion. The English Language still enjoys a higher status.

David Graddol(2010) Has made a very interesting observation on the role of English as the language of prestige and power. He maintains, "Throughout India, there is an extraordinary belief amongst all castes and classes, in both rural and urban areas, in the transformative power of English. English is seen not just as a useful skill, but as a symbol of a better life, a pathway out of poverty and oppression. Aspiration of such magnetite is a heavy burden for any language and for those who have responsibility for teaching it, to bear. The challenges of providing universal access to English are significant, and many are bound to feel frustrated at the speed of progress. But we cannot ignore the way that the English language has emerged as a powerful agent for change in India."<sup>2</sup>

There are many examples in Indian Literature and cinema as well as showing the English language being treated higher. In one of a very popular movie namely, 'Biwi Ho Tu Aesi' protagonist role played by well known Indian actress Rekha. In this movie, the protagonist is showing illiterate throughout the movie. But in the end, when the character transformation takes place in the plot the protagonist starts speaking fluent English in a set up where many people observing her and are shocked to see the transformation. To show that the heroine is well educated she has given dialogues where she speaks fluent English. The body language of the protagonist change and she appears so effective just changing her language. A sense of proud is clearly evident on her face. The other characters also have change attitude towards her. As it is being said that cinema is a mirror of the society, this scene is an exact replica of the Indian society.

English is the unifying language. It acts both as a national and international link language. The trade and commercial correspondence from one state to another state is mostly conducted in English. The dialogue between persons of different states is also conducted through the medium of English. Thus Jawaharlal Nehru rightly remarked: "If you push out English, does Hindi fully take its place? I hope it will, I am sure it will. But I wish to avoid the danger of one unifying factor being pushed out without another unifying factor fully taking its place. In that event, there will be a gap, a hiatus. The creation of any such hiatus or gap must be avoided at all costs. It is very vital to do so in the interest of the unity of the country. It is this that leads me to the conclusion that English is likely to have an important place in the foreseeable future."<sup>3</sup>

Conclusion: In a vernacular country like India where at every 10 km the dialects change, where there are more than 122 major languages and 1599 other languages according to census 2001, English remains as a

bridging language for communication. It not only paves the way to economic success but also is a status symbol. Due to diversity in languages English proved to be the most effective medium of communication in India.

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