

TROUBLES AND PRODUCTIVITY OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING IN TECHNICAL EDUCATION OF INDIA

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Abstract— The success of any nation largely depends on the capability, efficiency, knowledge and skill of its human resources. The whole education system is for the fulfillment of this future need. In this case, the present education is the future possibility of development of any nation. Presently, technical education is heavily leaned towards its capability to enrich students with knowledge and skills in obtaining a lucrative job. The technical education is driven towards commercial competition, which is imposed by economic forces. Engineering colleges are started growing like mushrooms throughout India and especially in Gujarat. Most of the students have acquired their school education in regional languages. They learned English but only as one paper to get some good marks. In these circumstances, English is an ambiguous language for the regional language students. They tend to commit grammatical errors in their understanding, writing and conversation. In Technical education, students need to learn English only in 1 or 2 semesters. Though, later on they pass out their engineering, they then find it difficult to converse in English. They may be good in their core branches; they find difficulty in conversing and passing their knowledge and ability. Most of the colleges are opened up by private investors. So, to cut the expenditure, they appoint English teachers on temporary lecture basis. Due to lack of clear policy by the government, both students and English teachers have to suffer. The quality of the most of the engineering institutes is questionable. Due to the failure of giving employability skills, students particularly and nation in the large context have to suffer.

Key Words: English Language, English Teaching, Technical Education, Diploma Engineering, Degree Engineering.

Introduction:

The advent of new machines and technology brought unprecedented changes in all walks of life, society and in our nation. The world is considered as global village. Many multinational companies come to India in last two decades. They establish huge production plants. Some Indian companies also establish their production plants in India. In the production plants, they need large trained work force. This cycle has tremendous impact on education, especially on technical education of India. Diploma Engineering and Degree Engineering provide good opportunity to have a high salary job. Engineering field is able to give handsome salary immediately after acquiring the qualification. More and more students are attracted towards Engineering field. Most of the students have passed their school education in regional medium.

Growth of Technical Education in India: A Brief History

Technical education does not have long history like literature in India. The first engineering college established in U.P. in 1847, for the training of Civil Engineers. More three Engineering Colleges were opened in 1856. Later on, Pune College of Engineering and Guindy College of Engineering were started in 1858. After 1880, the demand for mechanical and electrical engineering arose, but only apprenticeship classes in these subjects were introduced. The Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute, which was started in Mumbai in the year 1887, offered such apprenticeship classes. Its objective was to give training to licentiates in Electrical, Mechanical and Textile Engineering. In 1915, the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, introduced Certificate Programme in Electrical Engineering. The credit of first starting degree classes in mechanical and electrical engineering and in metallurgy goes to the University of Banaras in 1917. Many engineering colleges started after August 15, 1947. It is due to the realization that India has to become a great industrial country, and would require a far large number of engineers. During the last two decades, a well organized and a wide network of technical institutions offers different types of programmes like craftsman courses, technician (diploma)

courses, graduate and post- graduate courses, etc. In last two decades, engineering colleges are started growing like mushrooms throughout India and especially in Gujarat.

Importance of English Language:

Any language is medium of communication. C. L. Wrenn defines language in the following words:

Language is the expression of human personality in words, whether written or spoken. It is the universal medium alike for conveying the common facts and feelings. (Wrenn: 2001; 38)

Though English is merely one language as other languages are. But in recent time, English becomes the medium of communication all over the globe in the age of globalization. One cannot survive in this competitive world without English and computer knowledge. One cannot think of higher studies without the knowledge of English. One cannot communicate his or her ideas, feelings and thoughts without the help of English to the huge mass. English becomes a widow of the world in true sense.

The knowledge of English language is one of the basic parameters in the recruitment criteria. As

In the Indian context, an engineering student's success in the on-campus recruitment is mainly based on their demonstration of communication skills. According to the National Association of Software and Services Company (NASSCOM), only 25 percent of technical graduates are suitable for employment in the outsourcing industry because of their lack of abilities to speak or write well in English. (Karnik, 2007 as cited in P'Rayan 2008:1).

Scenario of English Language Teaching:

Most of the students come from the regional background. They learned English but only as one paper to get some good marks. They don't have any person around them with whom they can converse. The four parameters of Language learning, those are reading, writing, listening and speaking are not at all fulfilled. If some person tries to converse with the student in English, he hardly can converse. In these circumstances, English is an ambiguous language for the regional language students. They tend to commit grammatical errors in their understanding, writing and conversation. They have very good knowledge of other subjects, but their proficiency in English is very poor. Below are some reasons for the poor proficiency in English of the students.

Problems faced by Students:

- Students come from regional medium schools.
- Parents cannot understand and speak in English.
- Even teachers cannot communicate in English in classrooms.
- Less importance and emphasis is given to the English language in the study as compared to the other technical subjects.
- Students also take this subject for just getting passing marks.

Problems faced by English Teachers:

- Over strength of the number of students in the classroom.

- Teaching speaking skills is very complex in the large classes.
- Students take English Language teaching taken for granted.
- Only for 1 or 2 semesters is the time for teachers to teach English.
- Most of the students are from regional medium, they expect from the lecturer to teach English in their regional medium.
- In most of diploma colleges, there is not Language Laboratory facility.
- Least importance is given by the students and by the whole system to the proficiency in English.

Impact of English Language Teaching:

In above circumstances, it is very difficult both, from the student side and teacher's side to justify English subject. Students are unable to communicate in English. Gradually, they give up their studies in English. They strongly prefer to learn only in their regional medium. By this way, they shut the window of the world. They limit themselves to certain boundaries. They are not ready to expand themselves limitlessly which is the main aim of whole education system. On the other side, multinational companies need people who can give complete package, meaning knowledge, efficiency and proficiency in all fields. Though students are good in other subjects, due to lack of English knowledge, they don't get good jobs after the completion of degree.

Scope of Improvement:

Firstly, we have to accept that teachers need to acquire specific teaching strategies for addressing students in the English language class rooms. English is always a challenge for regional medium students. They lack confidence in face to face communication. It is very essential to create a method through which students can use English as a part of everyday life without afraid of English. We should try to give them learning environment in the education institute. The importance of English should not only be requirement, should be the necessity. The most surprising aspect is that none of us are taught any kind of communication skills anytime in our life, not in our schools, colleges, home or society. As an English teacher, we should think out of box to teach the students. We should encourage the students to listen English News, participate in group discussions, to present something, should do role plays, to read comprehension, to write essays, to write various types of Letters, Reports etc. All these activities definitely improve students' English. Literary texts, like novel, short story or poem, may absorb and grip the attention of the students. Interesting stories may involve students in the process of reading and learning new words and expressions from the text. With the rapid development of science and technology, with the use of multimedia technology and its application like audio-visual effects, animation effects should also come in English class. Multimedia technology may play positive role in promoting activities and initiatives of students.

Conclusion:

Recent newspaper analysis says that of every hundred interviews, only five qualified for employability. It is not because they lack in technical skills, but they lack in communication skills. English is very important for technical qualified youngsters. In the world of globalization, the employee is expected to deal with the global clients directly. The command over the language plays vital role in the recruitment process. It is very important to have good command on English language along the technical knowledge of the respective branches. Interesting English teaching-learning process will somehow solve this problem. More weight age should be given to the English subject.

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