



IMPORTANCE OF ENGLISH INTERACTION AND ITS REMEDIES FOR THE ENGINEERING COLLEGE STUDENTS COMING FROM RURAL AREAS

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ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Received 14th August 2017

Received in revised form

20th September, 2017

Accepted 18th October, 2017

Published online 29th November, 2017

Key Words:

Language Acquisition,
English Communication competence,
English Language Lab,
Computer Assisted Language
Learning, Group Discussion.

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Citation: Rahima, G., Mohammed Gazzali, J., Abdul Bashid, J. and Mohammad Giyahudeen, R. 2017. "Importance of english interaction and its remedies for the engineering college students coming from rural areas", *International Journal of Development Research*, 7, (11), 16981-16983.

ABSTRACT

The English communication for engineering students from the problems faced by them during academic as well as professional life and its possible remedies. Most of the students in engineering colleges from all areas. They do possess intelligence necessary for getting admission for higher education but they lag behind in the English communication competence. So, during academics and career they face a lot of problems. To be successful in studies and campus interviews, Group Discussions, it is important to achieve English communication competence. The Professor and students need to make integrated efforts which include initiative and active participation of Professor and students in teaching and learning method comprising question answering session, Role plays, Language Lab session, Group Discussion.

INTRODUCTION

Importance of English language is the current lingua franca of the engineering and technology, aviation, banking, computing medicines, international business, and tourism. About one fifth of people all over the world know more or less about English. It is spoken by 1.8 billion people in the world and the number still increasing. Almost every single university in the world is conducting scientific studies in English. Total 60% of radio and television programs are broadcast in English, more than 70% of the content or address of mailing letters are written in English, important role in the world. In most of the people in the world agrees with what Alexander V.Sandoval claims in his essay, 'The Importance of English' on www.eagleforum.com, "English is becoming the world's language of the 21st century.

Most of the world's population, about 70% speak English or know it. And more than 80% of all stored information in the world is written in English or translated into it. The man who speaks fluent in English. Will not get lost in the world where there are people. Foreign language skills, and in particular the English are a good tool in work, school, on vacation, when building a career or promote your own business." With experience of teaching English to young students in different colleges, so many problems of rural area engineering students have been observed. It highlights the importance of learning English as a key language of international business. It tells that English can be learnt by the students from rural areas by integrating different methods of language acquisition.

Importance of English interaction for engineering students: Engineering and technology is the biggest field of study in the world. First of all English is a tool that significantly

affect Engineering students in academic life. While most of the theories in engineering are taught in English, it requires having good English communication competence. In academic life, engineering students have to deal with the countless English Lectures, Labs, Tutorials and Project reports. Most engineering college professors in various universities are also conducting lectures in English. The most convenient source of information i.e. Internet provides most of the information in English. During the Engineering job seeking process in Written Test, interviews and *Group Discussion*. It is but of crucial importance to achieve mastery in English proficiency. After securing the job they are required to work in groups since their task rarely be solved by an individual. So, being an engineer requires to co-operate and communicate with different people from different part of the world. English is used as the working language on large extent. In order to co-ordinate with the colleagues, engineers have to speak fluent English.

The rural areas engineering college student faced the problems

In our country, about 75% students of the engineering are from rural areas and most of them are coming through regional language medium schools. No doubt that as they have entered into the engineering colleges, they do possess intelligence i.e. necessary qualification for higher education and bright future. But, at every walk of life and career English becomes an obstacle in their way of career.

Socio Economic Background of family

Classroom contains students from different strata of the society who possess different grasping power and English communication competence. It is found that the English communication competence of the students whose parents are literate belongs to higher middle class is better than that of the students whose parents are illiterate and belong to lower middle class. The fact for this situation is the literate parents can provide more exposure to their child to English as they are aware of the importance of English competence. They consult the teacher about child's progress and guide him/her at home to perform better. Infact it never happens with the second group as they lack parental supervision and guidance from to the higher education

Education System

The other important factor is the traditional education system which affects English language learning and Acquisition. Basically it requires four skills i.e. Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. (LSRW). Our students are being trained in reading and writing for long ages and listening and speaking skills are neglected and ignored which are very important. Learning is the one basic skill which makes speaking possible. Our education neglects the importance of listening which results in lack of skill of speaking. Lack of modern and advanced technology in the process of language learning also affects the language acquisition. E.g. use of computers and internet, power point presentation, Overhead Projector etc.

Lack of Exposure to the english communication

The rural area students lack the exposure to the English communication in the family, society as well as in the colleges. As a result of this even the merituos gold medalist

fail to achieve success during personal interviews due to lack of communication skills, soft skills, interpersonal skills and personality development. During academics also lack of confidence of being unable to communicate in English leads to feeling of inferiority complex, as a result students keep themselves lonely and isolated.

Lack of skillful professors

The other important factor is the education system and lack of skillful teachers. Most of the Professors at all the learning levels are untrained they are unaware of the current trends and advanced techniques of English Language teaching The condition is same with the regional medium as well as the English medium primary, Secondary and higher secondary schools in rural or semi urban area. Again teaching learning process is much. Exam result oriented. And the exams do test the memory power alone. Even the parents are craving for the marks than skills or knowledge. So, Professors make students to habituate by heart method, and as a result, English seems to be a dreadful demon for the students. This fright remains in the mind till higher education because of lack of proper guidance. Again these exam oriented students give prior importance to their technical subjects than to the communication competence.

Remedies

- Faculty is expected to fulfill their assigned responsibilities. But apart from that they should think it as their moral responsibility to take more efforts to provide more exposure to English language for students as to achieve communication competence. The students when forced to learn communication on their own, they find it as a herculean task. So, they expect assistance and warmth understanding from teachers. Now days a comprehensive course which focus on both writing and speaking skills is introduced in most of the universities in Maharashtra. So, during the interactive sessions the students should be encouraged and helped to talk .So, that the students can built an ability to participate in various activities such as paper presentations, Group Discussion, mock interviews, role plays etc. to develop English communication competence. It is necessary that Students Talk Time should be higher than Faculty Talk Time.
- Students from the secondary and higher secondary level should be given dictionary of technical words with their meanings in regional language for use. The technical teachers should help students in Understanding the technical words in English and their equivalents in regional languages. Again they should help the students to understand the meanings of long and complicated sentences in technical subjects. Grammar should be taught in the form of application of it in day to day life. When we learnt first language, it requires a lot of time .We get a lot of exposure to it as our entire communication deals takes place in the regional language. So, it is but natural that it does not require learning the grammar of regional language. Unfortunately it does not happen with English which is a second language. From the experience, it is essential to learn grammar of English as second language for getting confidence of speaking and performing the best in all walks of life.

- In this modern era, new trends and methods of teaching are emerging in the learning of the English language competence which involves the use of Computer assisted language learning in the Language Labs. Most of the students are tired of the traditional way of teaching and are more interested in doing exercises on a computer than by hand. This system works more effectively when the ratio of computer and student is 1:1

Computer assisted language learning in the Language mostly includes:

- Interlingua ion method-Listen and see clippings in regional language and English.
- Language Learning-vocabulary-synonyms and antonyms.
- Use of Audio /video clips.
- Grammar.
- Role plays-Speaking task.
- Translation.
- Fluency Task.

By this method of learning students are provided a lot of practice and exposure to the English language. This method leads to individualization of learning, where Professors acts as mentor, trainer and aspirant to facilitate learning. The teachers should be aware of the latest technologies, explore new ideas and have certain amount of specialization in the subject. Refresher courses for these Professors at national level can help in achieving proficiency in use of Computer assisted language learning in the Language. Students on their own should make use of English journals, television programs, newspapers, magazines, English language Resource centers to acquire the English communication skills.

Conclusion

English communication skills are recognized as the important element in the academic life and career of the Engineering students. It requires to make use of integrated methods to facilitate advanced communication skills, which is the demand of industry as well as society. The rural area engineering students should effectively make use of the faculty, education system and the amenities provided to them in combination with the self efforts, to emerge as a competent user of English communication to become successful in life and career.

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