

OVERCOMING LANGUAGE BARRIERS: STRATEGIES FOR ACHIEVING ENGLISH PROFICIENCY AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Dr. T.V.S.Padmaja¹ & Dr. Uma Rajmohan²

¹*Principal & Head, Department of English, Valliammal College for Women, E – 9, Anna Nagar East, Chennai – 600102*

²*Assistant Professor, Department of English, Valliammal College for Women, E – 9, Anna Nagar East, Chennai – 600102*

ABSTRACT

Acquiring proficiency in English as a second language (ESL) is a complex and multifaceted process. This paper explores the challenges faced by ESL learners, effective strategies for improving language skills, and the outcomes of successful language acquisition. A review of existing literature highlights the importance of linguistic, cognitive, and socio-cultural factors in ESL learning. The paper also discusses the role of instruction, practice, and feedback in facilitating language development. Furthermore, it examines the impact of motivation, anxiety, and learning styles on ESL learners' progress. The findings of this study have implications for ESL teaching, learning, and assessment, and provide insights for educators, policymakers, and language learners.

KEYWORDS: *Language, ESL Learners*

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INTRODUCTION

Today with the global market one has to work in multinational globalised environment, a place beyond the borders of our home town, situated in our very native land. Those organizations come across challenges of diversity among employees, customers or both. Hence the organization goes out in search of employees who would be able to view issues from a perspective outside their own cultural bias which is very much prevalent among the youngsters. English is neither a second language nor a foreign language as it has been a part of our education system for more than a century. It has been taught in schools based on the traditional methods. Grammar is dealt like mathematics and the tutor displayed her skills at or lecturers where by the learners are reduced to passive audience. With umpteen languages in our fold in India, Indians are taught to translate material into English verbatim. Rather than the presentation, importance is given to imparting of rules of grammar and the holy book referred was the Wren and Martin. It was never a learner friendly book, and was only used by the teaching fraternity as a motherboard.

In the current day scenario given the size of the class and the limited space, it becomes very difficult for teachers to hone the listening and speaking skills of their students. he or Though this is not an appropriate methodology, keeping the number in mind this line of attack is being continued because of lack of amenities The focus rather on the teacher not on the learner as this is one-way learner process she can start enjoying her own expertise.

Education which is a medium or a mode of transportation for the learner to reach the ultimate goal which is like settling down in a reputed organization where one is to be competent enough in every sense to handle the pressures of day to day dealings. Thereon the language is also a transporter for further augmentations in life to reach the pinnacle. Clarity in diction and flow of flamboyant language helps the learner by taking him up the social ladder within the country and plentiful opportunities the world over.

The rich and grandiose language which had done justice in couriering the legends from Chaucer to the twentieth century to the present day is highly venerable but the need of the hour and the expectancy of the present generation is too technically inclined and look forward to matter of fact solutions. Today learning English has rather become imperative on the Indians. Decades have gone by the language which belonged to the elite and educated has now become the gateway to the world. Hence the foreign language which we associate more with the British and their grip over us is still friendlier than the country and is there to stay. But the alien language mingling with our culture and tradition, trying to master is Herculean.

With the advent of so many state of art facilities like the mobiles, cars and IT companies finding congenial atmospheres and potentials in India the job opportunities are burgeoning. For this raison d'être that is to create and nurture successful professionals is crucial that our work force remains world class, through continuous improvement in order to remain competent, competitive and successful fine tuning of communication skills is highly essential. As Edward R. Murrow talks about "Communication" is the process of exchanging information and ideas. An active process, it involves encoding, transmitting, and decoding intended messages. There are many means of communicating and many different language systems. Speech and language is only a portion of communication. Other aspects of communication may enhance or even eclipse the linguistic code. These aspects are paralinguistic, nonlinguistic, and met linguistic. It is the transmission of information so that the recipient understands what the sender intends.

What the entire learner learns during his tenure as a college student will remain with him throughout his career as professional. Basically professional need to write a lot of reports, letters, have to attend meetings, conferences, address the customers have interactive sessions and so on and so forth. Hence communication is very essential means a lot of things for many people, more so for professionals. Thereupon it is the function of the professional to be ingenious, come up with good ideas and make them work in practice. On the whole no professional works in complete isolation, therefore there is no point in having vibrant ideas alone if one is not able to communicate it. The consequence of poor communication is, it can create ambiguity and even disaster, for that matter the barest of the minimum trouble it would cause is that of a bad impression. Once the trust is lost, it is difficult for any professional to rebuild and gain back the confidence. When so much is at stake, one has to kick start oneself and do the needful to equip oneself to face the competitive world.

English is a flexible language constantly capable of accepting new words and expressions. English style of communication and what is supposed to be considered correct is changing steadily. The ability to communicate well can enhance ones personal life as much as ones professional life. Good communication has astounding effect no matter whatever form it takes. The one liner of good communication for technical and non technical learners' is 'to be clear' and precise in conveying the message. When one writes or speak one should have specific, factual and clear-cut concept to convey the message intended. If one is not clear what the path or the course of action is, the process gets impeded. Being competent in the subject alone is not enough; the individual should have the talent to communicate it perfectly to the receiver without any loss of precision. Good communication is like an embellishment to the professional who can put forth

his ideas in a very coherent manner. There are no short cuts for success; similarly mastering the language is also no easy task. Learning the language is not just learning the language it is learning the “skills of language” Lado

Language is never learnt. It is acquired. If one wants to acquire language, he/she should follow natural way of learning things. One must see how an individual learnt one's Mother Language (MT/L1). As a child, one 'Listened' to language spoken around oneself for 3 years. At the second stage, he/she 'spoke' in broken words and sentences for couple of years. At the third stage, he/she 'read' some picture books. Even alphabets were remembered as pictures. It is only in the last and fourth stage that we learn to 'write'. Thus, to say, L-S-R-W is natural way of acquiring language. “To be competent in using a language, one must develop these skills”

Listening and speaking skills suffer the most because they particularly need individual practice. The large size of the class also creates problems for the teacher in terms of workload vis-a-vis checking and marking homework, assignments, tests and exams. Besides, they have to cover the syllabus and doing that with a very large class presents problems. As a result, those who want to learn English find the going quite difficult. Given the background communication skills stand predominant today. More so because of the umpteen number of technical experts being churned out every year. Whatever is the career one chooses to get hold of a job, thereafter for promotion, augmentation in salary and as a final point for a professional prestige, all these lines basically in the potential of an individual to put in writing and orally communicate effectively? Whatever is the competence of the learners when so much is at stake a simple road map which will lead the learner towards writing excellence is the boon where fore academicians have formulated books like technical communication., business communication so on and so forth. As far as technical communication is concerned it is a generic name given to all written and oral communication based on the occupation perspective whether based on business, industry and any other profession. It is very much identified with documentation in technology, science health profession and for that matter any other field which demands specialized vocabulary.

Reading involves physical, intellectual and emotional reactions and demands decoding of graphic symbols and vocal sounds also. It is easier said than done to read without these faculties. The learner has to understand symbols and correlate with the context. To become highly proficient, a learner should be able to read fast, comprehend as much as possible whether the text is simple or complex, know or unknown. The learner must be able to skip and skim with proper understanding. Reading professional or academic subjects call for slow reading assimilation of the whole in proper proposing. A learner should be able to read fast, comprehend as much as possible.

The foremost aspect of writing involves the purpose for which it is written. The purpose for which one is going to write should be clearly established. Whether it is just conveying simple information or a memo or is a persuasion. The individual's knowledge to content should be greater than that of the reader. Next the most important is the evaluation criteria where clear and simple organization of ideas should be formulated caters to the needs of the busy and matter of fact readers in pertaining to the medians of depth, logic, clarity, unity and grammar. Finally comes the Revising stage where in the editing of the mechanics, grammar, and style and finally adjusting the content will wind up the process of any communication.

The learner is to a large extent now has to achieve and the success he achieves is mostly individual attempt and a kind of self-processing. With very little experience and vague guidance they are expected to decipher ways, sources from authentic sources. It is felt that knowing English is like possessing the license or some kind invisible aid to cross the gates. Having excelled in all the high tech subject matter alone will not suffice if they do don't take up the amour of language skills along with them they only land up stranded.

Summing up, the emphasis should be one simple principle, which is one should learn to write in the best possible manner possible by doing as much writing feasible. The learner should start identifying the need as soon as possible and he/she should be provided with consistent, easy to follow guidelines for writing all types of writings, whereby it paves the way to global communication and ethics. And this is not the end of the road and the learner should continue improving oneself as a communicator.

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