



Use of English for multicultural societies

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Abstract

Language has immense potential to make man good and noble or bad and ignoble. The free exchange of language among people like the exchange of currency, lays the foundation for society and social groupings, countries and colonies, nations and governments. Language is complex system with many subsystems which leads towards Contentment of man. It is true to say that English has become one of the major languages of the world, and Indians can neglect its study at their own risk. It is through English that we have shared the wisdom of the west and the west has shared with us our intellectual and spiritual heritage. As we see that how English become a link language in India we just want to throw light on the condition of English at higher Secondary level and its multicultural uses for human beings. It is a rich store house of knowledge. There is hardly anything important in the world that has not been translated into English. English is rapidly becoming a world language it is the first language of the United Kingdom the United States of America Canada and Australia in addition it is spoken and read by many millions of Europeans Africans, Chinese, Indians, Japanese and South Americans. In Indian Schools, the place of the English Language is at Third stage whoever in English Medium Schools it is at Second Level. Status of English Language, we should try to change the scenario of the teaching English Language from primary to Higher Education. The basic motto of this paper is to face the problems mentioned by the higher education should focus the suggestions highlighted through this paper.

Key Words: *Multicultural Use, Scenario of the Teaching, Groupings.*

Introduction:

Today's world is world of Globalization. Every person requires communicating with each other. Hence, we require language and its strong use. As its global world we need English to master over it. In the words of *Bloch and Trager*, A language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols by means of which a social group operates. In this era of globalization and Information and Technology, English has a special and predominant role in the communicative sphere of the world. This language is present taught everywhere in the world. This language enjoys most prestigious reputation in the world. It has a special identity in the field of education. We know it very well that teaching of any subject is a social and cultural activity. First of all we should know how English is a link language? In my opinion a link language is one by which a man, belong to any social, national and international strata to express himself in a better way. Now if we see in modern scenario English has become such a language which is used to give expressions to thoughts and feelings of a social group not only in India, but also in this planet. In other words, English has become indispensable for us. It works as link among all people of the world and creates among them a feeling of "universal brotherhood". English gives us glimpses of the various developments taking place in the world. It provides us distilled essence of modern knowledge in all fields of human activity. The paper argues that language learning is one of the most important components of a good education. If we focused on present situation is given as an example of the universal need for language skills. Not least, it is emphasized that the world has changed dramatically as a result of improved telecommunications, rapid transport and the increasing movement of people around the globe as a result of migration and tourism. International treaties and education policies are cited that endorse the importance of language learning. English is of particular importance as the dominant international language.

Meaning of Multicultural use in Societies:

The meaning of „multilingualism“ is easy to define and impossible to classify precisely. The OED treats „multilingualism“ as a simple noun requiring only eleven words to define:

The ability to speak many languages

The use of many languages

Anyone with experience of the phenomenon, however, knows that no eleven words could possibly explain the complexity of the concept. Every multilingual region in the world is, like

every single speaker, unique. Multiculturalism relates to communities containing multiple cultures. The term is used in two broad ways, either descriptively or normatively. It is a mixture of diverse ethnic groups, each with their own distinct culture and sometimes their own language or religion.

Importance of English for multicultural purposes:

Once upon a time, *Vishnu Shastri Chipalunkar* said “English is the milk of Tigris” the importance of this statement can be highlighted by saying in contrast that though it was considered as difficult subject in past now it is the need in present. So the importance of English language can be stated as “*the Research suggests that the English language will be used by 50% of the world’s population by 2050*”.

English as a link language for multicultural society

- Being a link language:- English is a link language in India it is the only language which is understood in all states though Hindi is our national language yet it has not been successful in taking the place of English in the absence of English a person from Tamil Nadu is not able to communicate with a person from Haryana apart from being a unifying force within the country English is our link with the countries of world it is only through English that we have established social economic cultural and political relations with other countries of the world
- English being an official language administration:- English has been the official language of the country for more than 200 years it has been declared as the associated official language of the union for an indefinite period by an act of parliament in 1963 as such it dominates the administrative work done in English throughout the country
- Being a language of the court:- English still continues to be the language of the courts so far there is no other suitable language for legal business not only at the supreme court but also at the high courts and district courts cases are presented and judgments given in all these courts
- In social life- English plays an important role in the social life of the country the highly educated and sophisticated sections of our society find it more convenient to talk in English they write letters in English ceremonial like marriages and other parties’ invitation cards are mostly printed in English most of the educated people put their signatures in English

- Being a window of the modern world: - Pandit Nehru has rightly said English is our major window on the modern world. English is a window through which we can see the scientific, technological, agricultural and commercial development taking place in the world. English is the only language through which we have distilled the essence of modern knowledge in all fields of human activity.
- Being in education: - English plays an important role in the field of education. It is taught compulsorily in most of the states in the country. It is the medium of instruction in the public schools, technical, medical, law and other institutions. A large number of English medium schools are coming up. There seems to be a sudden increase in the craze for such schools. Several English departments of education are attempting now to introduce English in the third year of a child's education.

Multicultural use of English at Higher Secondary level:

For improving language status and their skills, it is essential that English should be taught as a second language with these skills that are given below:

- **Reading** - the ability to comprehend and interpret text at the age and grade appropriate level.
- **Listening** - the ability to understand the language of the teacher and instruction, comprehend and extract information, and follow the instructional discourse through which teachers provide information.
- **Writing** - the ability to produce written text with content and format fulfilling classroom assignments at the age and grade-appropriate level.
- **Speaking** - the ability to use oral language appropriately and effectively in learning activities (such as peer tutoring, collaborative learning activities, and question/answer sessions) within the classroom and in social interactions within the school. Hence, the teacher should keep in mind while teaching English as a second language to the students.

Suggestions to improve standards of English at Higher Education:

English is considered as a difficult subject in Indian schools. Many students fail in this subject. Teaching of English is not satisfactory in our schools. *Ramamurthi committee (1990)* observed that "the standard of English teaching has been going down". As it is taught a

second language in most of the schools, it does not receive the proper attention the failure in English has an impact on the overall results. In many good schools a large majority of students fail in schools. There are some of the suggestions for raising the standards of English in India they are as follow -

- i. The policy regarding the place of English in our education system should be well defined. This should be determined keeping in view the national and international importance of English.
- ii. The teacher must keep in mind the aims of teaching English. There are enable to the student to understand English when spoken, to enable him to write English, to speak and read English in proper manner.
- iii. Special efforts should be made to ensure that the teachers of English themselves possess a good command of English. Some content courses like grammar must be included in the B.Ed. syllabus.
- iv. There should be subject experts at the district level to provide guidance to the teachers of English.
- v. Necessary audio-visuals aids should be made available to schools the teacher should know how to prepare inexpensive aids. He should also know how to use certain aids like tape-recorder, film strips .etc.
- vi. The teachers must be made thoroughly conversant with the principles of the structural approach. They should give due importance to pattern practice, drill work and situational approach in their teaching.

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