

Problems in Teaching and Learning English

S. Sathishkumar, II M.A. English
=====

Abstract

People are passionate towards English. They try to learn the language through education by putting some efforts like attending the Spoken English classes and such. But in practice there come some barriers in teaching and learning English. We must rectify those barriers. If we analyze that, we may be able to identify some problems. The major problems are: Proficiency in language, Environmental structure, Lack of interests and so on. This paper deals with the problems of the teachers and learners in English.

Keywords: barriers to learning, language proficiency, spoken English, learners' problems.

Introduction

English language is inevitable for communication in this modern world. It is the most commonly spoken language in the world. Some people learn English as a second language. Some are learning that language since they wish to. But it has some unique features that set it apart from other languages. Even though we all try to learn that language, there are some problems the teachers and students face while learning and teaching English

Objective of the study:

This paper helps to identify the problems of teachers and learners while learning and teaching English.

Hypotheses

The following is the hypotheses of the study: Is lack of interest the main problem in teaching and learning English?

Research Questions

1. What is language?
2. Why people have the interest to learn English?
3. Why English language is important to everyone?
4. What are the problems in Teaching and learning English?
5. What are the solutions to rectify the problems?

Discussion

Language is the most valuable single possession of the human race. Language is a tool for communication. All the languages have their own unique features. People make use of language in order to communicate their thoughts and feelings. Language plays a major role in communication everywhere. "A person's voice serves at least two functions in communication. They are:

1. Linguistic
2. Non-linguistic.

Language varies from one place to another. English language plays a major role in communication everywhere. Some countries accept English language as their secondary as well as the primary language of the country. All over the world English language is known by most of the people. Some countries accept English language as their official language. English language has attracted so many people and they have much interest towards learning that language.

Sometimes language becomes the individual identity. Here language serves as the identity to people. All people have their own nations and their national languages. Some people don't have their national language, because they might have migrated from one place to another place in their childhood days. They have followed one language even though they lead their lives in another place away from their native lands. So, language does play a vital role in everyone's life.

English is a foreign language for Indians. The role of English language is inevitably vital everywhere. English works as a link language in so many countries. As a link language it connects various countries like India with foreign countries. It is the language of International politics, trade, commerce and industry. English is one of the six official languages of the U.N.O. It is also the link language of commonwealth countries.

English has been rightly described as a gateway of the world's culture. It is a window to all scientific, technological, legal, socio-cultural and medical progress that is constantly taking place in the world. It is not merely the language of the Englishman only, but an ancient, well developed language spoken by nearly half of the world population. According to Gandhiji,

"English is a language of international commerce. It is the language of the diplomacy and it contains many literary treasures, it gives us an introduction to western thought and culture."

No one can easily deny that English is a beautiful language. It is a flexible vehicle of thought. Its literature is wide and varied as life itself, giving the student power to reason and judge with crucial balance and equity. According to Tagore,

"I have no love for Englishmen, who were out to exploit us, I have no love for their outward glittering civilization which is mirage. If at all I love anything of the west, it is the English language with its galaxy of literary talents"

Every people want to learn English, because of its unique features. Nowadays English language is very important school students. They are all advised to learn English as the second language. If they refuse to study that language the impact of the language will spoil the career of the student. Some of the parents want their children to know English. And the language has got a very important place in our country.

When it comes to teaching and learning process, some problems arise. Teaching of the English language is a hard task for the teachers, because it is dependent on the students' interest. But the teacher of English is considered the most important personage who can make the study of English successful. An English teacher must have very good knowledge of English. If they have poor grammar and poor English skills, they cannot teach with confidence.

Some teachers fail to give more attention to the weak students. They concentrate only on the high marks scorers, so the minorities are affected while learning English. The atmosphere of the school also plays a vital role in the teaching of English. If the class strength is high the teacher will not be able to work comfortably or confidently with them. The teacher should work without any tension. Some teachers show their anger or frustration towards the students because of their personal problems. At such times the teachers will not be able give their best.

Some teachers prepare well, but the students may not have the interest, and the teacher should be able to inspire them to learn English in the best way possible. Then only they can really start their teaching. Let us suppose the teachers fail to understand the student mentality or mind surely it will spoil the day for both the teaching and learning processes. So, the teacher must understand the students' mind, interest, current situations and problems of the individual. These are some of the problems faced by the teacher in teaching English.

The teacher must be optimistic. They should not try to dominate anyone in front of the class. This will spoil the image of the teacher and then the students will not be able to listen in their classes. The teacher should encourage everyone, work for everyone only then the real success of teaching will be attained by them. Teachers may get irritated by the naughty students in the class; at such times the teacher must warn them, and the teacher can separate them into different groups to turn their attention. Then after the class is over the teacher must call them and talk to them about their interruption. This helps towards the good relations between student and teacher.

Lack of interest is the main problem in learning English. Students must have the concentration while learning. They should know the value of the language. Everyone thinks that English is the hardest language compared to their mother tongue. Students should be encouraged to change this kind of thinking from their minds. English is the most powerful language in the world.

Most of the problems arise due to the interference of mother tongue while speaking in English. Both the teachers and the students are very fluent in talking their own mother-tongues, but they seem to forget the essence of pure language is already gone. When they speak in their

mother-tongue they many times use English words in the midst of sentences. They forget that every language differs in stress, intonation and pronunciation.

Summation

Learning English is an art. In that art the teacher is to be the sculptor, while the student must be the sculpture being molded through the teaching and learning process. In the present scenario, English language is an inevitable tool for all communication and social and business interaction. A good English teacher should have good knowledge of English. The teacher should know the mentality of the student. The teacher should go along, understand and encourage the students for the success of the teaching process. The students should have the interest to study English and they should cooperate with the teachers for the success of the learning process.

=====

References

1. Teaching of English by Dash B.N Published by A.S Saini for Dominant publishers and Distributors. Printed at orient Offset, Delhi-110053
 2. <https://owlcation.com/academia/Teaching-ESL-10-Common-Classroom-Problems-and-Solutions>
-

S. Sathishkumar, II M.A. English
Ayya Nadar Janaki Ammal College
Sivakasi
Tamilnadu
India
sathishdsp083125@gmail.com