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Personality Development with English Language Acquisition

Ms. Jaspreet Kaur, M.Phil., M.A. in English Literature, B.Ed.

Abstract

Human beings have emerged as the most distinctive and brainy species of the world. Their organized patterns of attitudes and behavioral traits compose a good personality. Personality development has always played a very vital role in enhancing the thought process, temperament as well as the character of a person.

Personality development and acquiring English language to improve one's communication skills go hand in hand. The present paper focuses on the necessity of Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 14:5 May 2014 Ms. Jaspreet Kaur, M.Phil., M.A. in English Literature, B.Ed. Personality Development with English Language Acquisition

acquiring a language like English to enhance one's personality. The purpose of this paper is two-fold. On the one hand, it is hypothesized that personality is a dominant factor in achieving the desired goal in life and on the other hand the paper focuses on the dominance of English language to attain a good personality. This paper has also emphasized the relationship between the acquisition of English language and a good personality. It has also tried to give a few strategies to make it possible for those who are seeking to have a good personality, to acquire a few tips to learn English language adding a feather to their cap of personality development.

Keywords: Personality development, English language, Acquisition, Relationship, Communication skills.

Introduction

Personal development is the act of enriching one's own physical, emotional and psychological being. The personality of an individual is viewed as one's inner characteristics that organize one's behavior.

According to an article in Edu-Resource,

Personality development fundamentally means grooming and enhancing one's inner and outer personal to bring in the positive change of your life. Each and every individual features, a distinct persona that could be polished, refined and developed. This technique includes improving communication, language, speaking abilities and boosting one's confidence, developing certain hobbies, extending one's scope of understanding of skills, manners and studying fine etiquette, including grace and style, walks and talks and total imbibing oneself together with liveliness, positive outlook and peace.

(http://www.edu-resource.com/training-and-development/what-is-personality-development.php)

Undoubtedly, speaking fluent English is the most important factor that affects one's personality. As we all know that in this world of globalization, English is

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considered to be a universal language and is spoken in most of the countries as the first or the second language. In order to meet the global standards, it becomes mandatory to give English language the foremost attention.

Personality - A Dominant Factor for Success:

It is hypothesized that English plays a vital role in enhancing the personality of a person. A good personality is the requirement of the day and so personality development cannot be ignored. As substantiated in the following lines:

Success of a man's life depends on his appropriate personality development. University first rank holders very often prove to be utter failure in life, because they do not care for development of personality. According to Mahatma Gandhi 'True education is total personality development'.

(http://www.xavierinstitute.com/contributions6/php)

Hence, personality does not mean looking good and attractive. It takes into account both the physical and mental state of an individual. As stated by P.K.Manoharan:

Personality refers to certain qualities in a person's character which distinguish him from other people. Personality is defined as the organization of the psycho physical systems in an individual that moulds his thought and action.

Personality is the sum total of the physical, mental, emotional, and social characteristics of an individual. (Page 2).

In today's time of growing competition in all spheres of life, in order to survive one needs to have such a personality which overshadows others and influence them to the core. A unique personality is the call of the day. The kind and extent of success that an individual achieves, depends on his attitude, behavior and thoughts which as a whole form one's personality. It is important to have a positive outlook towards life. It will make one's life secure, prosperous and happy. An optimistic learner will have such a

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personality to take up any kind of challenge in life and overcome all sorts of anxiety in his communication. The level of success depends on the kind of personality an individual has. Only 5%-10% of a person's personality depends on the physical looks and appeal. His success depends on the other aspects of personality such as:

- 1. **Physique:** It is important to have a good physique in order to have a pleasing personality.
- 2. **Speech and Communication Skill:** Good speaking skills always act as an added advantage for a good personality.
- 3. **Body language:** One should have a positive body language. The posture, gestures, facial expressions etc. play a major role in enhancing one's personality.
- 4. **Courteous nature:** Presentation plays a vital role. It is not how one looks, but how one presents oneself and impresses others.
- 5. **Attitude:** A pleasing attitude is always welcome wherever one goes. One should wear such an attitude that everyone is mesmerized by the presence of that person.
- 6. **Positive outlook:** Being positive always brings out a good personality in a person.
- 7. **Confidence:** One has to be confident in whatever one does in order to obtain a better personality.

All these factors, be it physique, good communication skills, positive outlook, body language or courteous nature, are mandatory for a good personality.

Thus, it is substantiated in the following lines that:

Basic need to obtain success and happiness in life be it personal or professional is a good personality. You may be a great team manager or have higher educational qualification or may know all the latest techniques of your field, but none of these can help you to achieve your desired goal unless you know how to be a sensible person in life. First of all, you need to develop your skills as a person, and then you can use any of your other professional talent to impress people.

(http://www.speaktoday.com/learn-english-speaking/)

Dominance of English Language for a Pleasing Personality

As stated earlier, there are many factors that highlight a good personality, but the

most important factor is speech and communication skills.

By speaking better, it does not mean using bombastic words and giving speeches

like orators. It means to have a simple and decent manner of speaking. One should use

such a language which is understood by all. English, being a global language, is one such

language. If one does not have a grip over this language, enhancing personality will be a

very difficult task, as presented in the following quote:

English is without a doubt the actual universal language. It is world's second

largest native language, the official language in 70 countries, and English

speaking countries are responsible for about 40% of world's population. English

can be understood almost everywhere among scholars and educated people, as it

is the world media language of the cinema, T.V., pop music and the computer

world. All over the world people know many English words, their pronunciation

and meaning.

(http://www.omniglot.com/language/articles/engunilang.php/)

English is the lingua-franca; one cannot ignore its importance in one's daily life.

The need of fluent English is felt at the very beginning of one's growing up, at the school

level, university level or in one's career. In countries where English is not a native

language, the problem of not being able to converse in the language is felt very

significantly. Everyone needs to communicate with different types and cultures of people

in their personal and professional lives. Knowledge of English assists a lot in this regard.

Relationship between English Language and Good Personality

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Knowledge of English language and good personality go hand in hand. Nowadays, more and more people are interested in learning English language. If a person has a pleasing personality, he would automatically have the confidence to enhance it by learning English. Furthermore, if one has a good command over English language, it will have many doors open to enhance the personality.

If we take into consideration the people who have good command over English, they can enhance their personality with great ease because when a person is fluent in English language, it gives him courage and confidence to speak openly, in groups, among friends or colleagues. If a person speaks well, others are more interested in listening to what he is speaking and no attention is paid on how he looks. When such a person moves among different kinds of people, he learns new ways and is very good at adapting them. Such nature will undoubtedly enhance his personality.

Let us consider those people who have a good personality, are very outgoing and social, but they cannot converse in English. Nonetheless, the knowledge of not knowing English will not stop them from learning the language. Such people are known as extroverts. It has been seen that extroverts are better language learners as they are very sociable, like partying, have many friends, and need many people to talk to, and they take chances and accept challenges in life. So they accept learning English as a challenge. As they are more sociable, they are more likely to join groups of people who converse in English. Furthermore they may be inclined to engage in conversations in order to practice the language. They don't feel shy as they are confident about their personality. They emerge as better English speakers in the course of time.

Strategies to Make Acquisition of English an Easy Task

In order to learn good English speaking, one must lay a lot of emphasis on grammar. Building sentences without any grammatical errors is very important. It is necessary to speak the language correctly in order to have a good command over it, as suggested in the following lines:

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To learn English as a language is different from speaking it. The speaking ability comes with practice and that what lacks.

(http://www.speak today.com/learn-english-speaking/)

One must keep these points in mind while learning English language:

- 1. Love the language in order to learn it.
- 2. Think in English, because if one thinks in one's mother tongue and then translate it, it will hinder the learning process.
- 3. Must converse in English as it will boost up the confidence.

English speaking practice builds confidence and gives ability to respond instantly in a live conversation, in an interview or group discussion.

(http://www.speaktoday.com/learn--english-speaking/)

- 4. Spend time in hearing how others speak English. See English movies. Hear English news and sports commentaries. It will help in improving the pronunciation and speaking skills.
- 5. Interact with people who are good and fluent in the language.
- 6. One should take English learning as fun and in case one has joined a language learning course, one should enjoy it fully and learn it with a positive attitude.
- 7. Learn about the cultural background in order to learn the language skills.
- 8. We need to learn not only about the cultural background, but also the manners, social skills and public speaking.
- 9. One needs to observe other people speaking the language and see how they interact and behave, so that one can know better ways of communicating and behaving.
- 10. Focus on the mechanics of the language, i.e., grammar, conjugations and sentence structure. This makes one aware of the ways it can be structured and manipulated.

If one keeps these points in mind while learning English language, one will see that English is one of the simplest and easiest natural languages to learn and understand in the world.

Conclusion

Thus, it is suggested that personality development has a very close relation with English language. An individual's personality enhances with the ability to learn English language and utilize it in his daily life. When one speaks about enhancing one's personality, one has to seek ways in which one interacts with the entire world and one another. And, undoubtedly, English is one of the most important ways to communicate.

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