IMPORTANCE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING FOR MECHANICAL ENGINEERING STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT
The aim of the present research is to explore the importance and essentiality of English Language for engineering graduate students, especially, for the Mechanical Engineering students in Tamilnadu (India). Students used to prefer English as a second language among the other regional languages. It is essentially important to bring out the reasons behind the selection and also to resolve the practical difficulties and improbabilities. The specific and general English for Engineering students and the related issues are the focus.

Keywords: English language teaching, purpose of learning and ICT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. English – a global language
English language popularly called to be as Lingua Franca (common language). It has attained a so prominent status and relevance around the world. English serves a link language and communicative language between the persons of different Mother Tongue and varied vernacular languages. Consequently English become the Lingua Franca. It is a language of trade, business, literature, science and on. Other world languages are spoken by the native people whereas English has widespread users, around four million people speaks English all around the world. The arrival of globalisation and global economy resulted in the rise of English to such an extent. English is widespread in almost all the walks of life. People prefer English; the choice of language is of course because of its simplicity. In the contemporary world English is the most probably selected third language. People and students prefer to learn and speak English primarily because of it easy understanding and flexibility. English
comes into light only after the emergence of British Empire as a vital power. The colonial expansion concept spread English a lot. The colonised nations are forced to settle with an official language i.e. English. Another remarkable reason for the reach of English is the Second World War. The influence of western countries and America had a great impact. Along with the said war scientific growth, inventions, industrialisation and other related issues placed English in a predominant position. Soon with very short span English attained a position global trade and commerce language. With the economic power of and cultural and technological exports from the USA, and the UK in a lesser degree, the English language slowly became the predominant language of international correspondence and communication. (Walters, 2002) The arrival of many technical devices and in particular the network and internet bring English much closer to the every doorstep. Throughout the twentieth century technological inventions and developments such as the telephone, fax, and most importantly computers and the Internet, have brought closer people from every continent and helped spread English as the most convenient communicational tool. (Godwin Coury, 2001) As a consequence, English enjoys the prestige among other languages, which can easily be seen from the number of people of all ages studying English compared to those studying and taking interest in other languages. (Walters, 2002) Role of English in the contemporary life is pivotal. It is the language of business, economy, trade, sports, science and technology.

The scientific inventions and innovative research findings were presented in the English language. It plays a significant role in the information providing and data storage. As for as concern almost all the text books are in English. The engineering students’ especially mechanical groups have to learn from the technical engineering books in English. The importance of English language is mainly concern with the placement. Job interview is a ice break for many mechanical engineering students. They are technically sound but they are poor in their English communication. Mostly they are familiar with technical English but they are in lack of the business English.

1.2. English – An Academic Language
The role played by English as an academic language is preponderant. The English Language Teaching has its role not only in the classroom but also in the framing of curriculum. The role of English is obvious. Engineering pupil prefer English not only for its simplicity but also its reach in the global scenario. English is a foreign language but it became an unavoidable thing in daily conversation and communication. Any language learning is really a merit and value added to an individual. However the status of English in the current scenario made the Engineering students to opt English. The field where they are to work is equipped and empowered by English. Engineers need English to learn new things or for the exams or to the projects, research works or even in the field of marketing. Fluency in English and usage of English in the Business field amalgamate with the academics. Engineers have to go through scientific and technical English to obtain sound subject knowledge.

English learning is necessary in the academics. The language acquiring is a natural process, it includes four basic skills listening, speaking, reading and writing. The purpose of learning English apart from the interest can be divided into three general, specific and social purposes. Jordan describes the purposes. The learning purpose becomes general if it as no specific reason. It can be defined as TENOR – Teaching of English for No Obvious Reasons. The learning for social purposes includes the communication purposes. It includes understanding, responding and presenting ideas in the spoken and written modes. English learning for specific purpose is common.
2. IMPROBABILITIES IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

The focus on English Language Teaching for the mechanical engineering students brings out the certain points. The students require necessary and adequate language skills. The evaluation and recognition of the students’ language ability, framing of the approaches or the way to teach English are the things to be noted. The exact and the appropriate dosage of input for successful learning and attainment; fixing curriculum based on the educational needs of the engineering students are to be fixed. It depends on the various things like, previous knowledge of the pupil in learning English. The different educational and environmental background of the pupil has a remarkable impact. The above mentioned points are the improbabilities in teaching English to the Engineering students. The prime objective of Mechanical Engineering students for selecting English is to get good placement. It has specific academic purposes. The listening and reading skill are quite easy to acquaint, whereas speaking and writing threatens them. Proficiency of language includes all the four skills and teaching English should also focused on the four skills. The specific and general English teaching is also a challenge in the English language teaching. Specific challenge is to increase the understanding ability of the pupil right from the computer instructions, scientific terminologies, and mathematical, chemical and physical theories. Out of all understanding the needs of the students and their choice of choosing English should be kept in consideration.
3. ICT A WAY OUT FOR TEACHING ENGLISH

For the language teachers there are certain difficulties in teaching English like the strength of the classrooms, learners with different learning background, various learning abilities, fewer hours for teaching and other related issues. The effective solution for the afore mentioned problems is ICT (Information and Communication Technology). The implementation of ICT is interesting, motivating and attractive. ICT based learning and teaching is much effective since it utilising the advantage of computer and internet facilities. Surfing, browsing, videos and power points support both technically and authentically. The learner can learn individually. The four skills of language learning blended and learned through technological applications. Online training, course materials and practice can be added with the classroom teaching removes the improbabilities in teaching and learning English.

4. CONCLUSION

Learning English is a primary concern for each and every individual. Mechanical Engineering students should learn English which is the need of an hour. The overall development of the Mechanical Engineering students in the academics and the job availability will be increased with the help of ICT. The students may have specific reasons to opt English; the ultimate aim of the teachers is to uplift the pupil to the global demands.

REFERENCES