

## ***Rethinking the Learning of English with the Present Context by Applying ICT Tools in General English Classes***

**Prakash V Vekariya**

*Associate Professor, Dept. of English,  
Smt. C. R. Gardi Arts College, Munpur, Dist.: Mahisagar  
Email: prakashvekaria94@gmail.com*

### **Abstract**

*Place and Space of English Language in the Present scenario.*

- *Need and Necessity of Learning English for our Students in India.*
- *Difficulties of Teaching English in India.*
- *Importance of Teaching English to the Students of rural Gujarat.*
- *Challenges for the Teacher of English teaching General English Classes in interior rural and tribal Areas.*
- *Use of ICT tools have their crucial role to play for the techno-savvy generation*

*Teaching English to a General Class in an undergraduate college is not considered to be an enjoyable job for the teacher of English in India. A teacher teaching to an undergraduate general English class faces certain challenges before him. In a multilingual country like India, a teacher knowing single language finds it very difficult to interact with his heterogeneous class. One more thing that makes the thing worse is the poor condition of school education. Students come to a general English class with very limited knowledge of the language. This is perhaps English is considered to be a difficult language by the students. This impression of difficulty takes hold of almost every undergraduate college in India. With the help of sound knowledge of the latest teaching tools and resources available, this tedious task may be made easier and enjoyable. This may bear the fruitful results for the students of the general classes residing especially in the Mofussil areas whose knowledge of the language is not at the par with their counterparts studying in the urban colleges. Therefore, it is quite necessary for the teachers of English in the colleges in such areas to polish their teaching assignments with the help of the latest instruments and so as to help their taught who study English as a second language.*

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## **Introduction**

### **The Place and space of English in the Present World of Knowledge.**

There is no doubt about it that English is the most important of all the languages in the age of communication & technology. Since the whole world has been transformed into a small "global village", people have got a lot of opportunities and challenges to communicate and to interact with one another. The field of the trade and business is flourished with the marketing and advertisement. Internet facility has made this world a web interwoven with all the other 'nets' of the world all around the globe. In such kind of scenario around us, one can understand the importance of the medium of communication one chooses as his tool. In all these circumstances, English has come out with the most effective tool as a link language all over the world. It has been rightly proved as "the window of the world".

### **The Need and Necessity of Learning English for the Students in India.**

Lord McCauley offered English Education to the Indians with a view to produce "a class of people, Indian in blood and colour, but English in taste, in opinions, in morals and intellect". It is quite clear that the English Education of the British was aimed at producing cheap clerks to help the East Indian Company. However, this did not only remain as it were thought to be. The benefit of English language to the people might have assumed. The history is the witness of this that the Freedom Struggle got the benefit of this medium of communication among their comrades residing in different states.

With the expansion of the science and technology, the need for the information became the first priority among the elite. The field of the knowledge and education got the challenge to provide the demand. The people from the world over wanted to communicate to each other. They not only come closer for this purpose. They started sharing their views and ideas regarding their culture, their socio-economic problems and their language and literature. All this exercise had to have the medium of common tool that can link them and understand one another. English came to their rescue coming out as the most widely utilized all over the world. The government of India although realized the fact well in advance and made English the official language. This has borne the fruits then after. India has edged over the neighboring countries in many fields thanks to this only.

The expansion of science and technology and the IT in India has proved that English has very much helped the experts and the students in many ways. Even the other branches of knowledge have also got advantage thanks to this international language called English. With a view to the above fact the students studying in the colleges and universities in India must realize that they cannot afford to stick up with their mother tongue only if they wish to override over other counterparts and as a result taste the fruits of the 'global tree'.

### **The Challenges of Teaching and learning English in India.**

English language in India has its existence (presence) for above 400 years. It has almost become the language of the people of India. It is one of the official languages of India. It is a link language between the people of the different status of the nation. The Indian writers in English have shown that they are not lesser than the native authors. The world has accepted this fact as the works written by the famous writers like R. K. Narayan, Raja Rao, Salman Rushdie, V. S. Naipol, Amitav Ghosh and Arundhati Roy have received an international recognition. In spite of such a brilliant impact of the English language on the Indian Psyche; it is surprising to note, here, that it is still a difficult language to learn and to study for the most of the students studying in the universities and colleges in India. The students still consider the language a foreign tongue and a kind of a compulsory task to perform while doing his or hers respective academic course. Though, the insatiable desire always remains in their hearts to be a fluent speaker of English and to impress their fellow mates with the use of the language in their interaction with one another.

There are certain problems of teaching English observed by the distinguished academicians and the reputed English Language Teaching Institutes in India. However, such institutes have produced helpful techniques and materials to learn and to teach the foreign language in Indian schools and colleges. These are namely new textbooks; cassettes and CDs, pictures, new methods of teaching etc. In spite of all these things, there are specific difficulties which hinder learning English for our students.

- (i) The confusion of applying single window method.
- (ii) The place of English as a subject in the curriculum.
- (iii) The lack of adequate infrastructure.
- (iv) Old method of teaching English.
- (v) Want of an ideal policy.
- (vi) No implementation of Good materials and high standard textbooks.
- (vii) No enthusiasm in using technology in the classrooms.
- (viii) Scarcity of effective teachers.
- (ix) Age-old examination system.
- (x) Faulty teacher training.
- (xi) No learner-friendly atmosphere in the educational institutes.

### **The Importance of Teaching English to the Students of Gujarat:**

This fact remains the same for the students almost all the states in India. The students studying in the colleges have to accept the reality as early as possible. And the students in Gujarat are no exception to this. It is rightly said that English is the window of the world. If the students of Gujarat have to pace with the modern world they will have to study English to improve their knowledge. They can only

increase the scopes for the employment if they learn to read, write, speak and communicate in English. They have to bear this in the back of their mind that they cannot afford to be out of the mainstream only due to the lack of their in English language. If they want to read the world literature, the books of Science written in English, they will have to be well acquainted with this foreign language.

In this kind of scenario, the role of a teacher of English has become very challenging. He has to find out the ways to solve the problems and solutions for the difficulty of the students during the learning process. He has not only to motivate them to learn this unknown language but also make them take interest in it. He/she has to draw out the road map to reach to their goal to use English efficiently. He may design his teaching assignment in such a way that the students regret to miss his classes.

### **The Challenges for the Teacher of English teaching General English Classes in the Mofussil Areas.**

Minimal exposure of the standard language therefore not very aware of using even their mother tongue properly and effectively:

- Illiterate masses around them:
- Fear of learning English:
- Attitude of passing the paper of English:
- Tendency to go away from the language:
- Lack of motivation and also the easy access of the language:
- Minimum exposure of English.

### **Use of ICT tools have their crucial role to play for the techno-savvy generation**

The students have some tasks and exercise to perform in order to use English as a second language. They will have to develop all the four skills of the language-reading, writing, speaking and listening. This may be done with the help of curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities done within and outside the classroom by the teacher. The teacher is supposed to create such a material keeping in the mind of the standard of his taught. Apart from the teaching formal syllabus he should understand the need of the students. They should be provided and facilitated with the material and exposure so as to make the learning useful and interesting. Some innovative material may be produced according to the need of the students. During the production of such a material, we should keep in mind all the four skills of language of the language. It is the role of a teacher to help the students solving their problems on their own and feel free to take the help of the teacher. Learning should not stop in the middle of it and therefore it is very important that the teacher keeps a close eye on the process.

In the age of science and technology, the younger generation in India is well acquainted with digital gadgets. For them, day begins and ends with any such tool in their hands. We as the teachers of English have to take advantage of this passion of the students for the electronic and digital equipments. These tools may make miracle for them to learn language. The introduction of ICT tools like computer and internet has transformed the atmosphere of today's classroom. The present day classroom is not only for the old style of one-way lecturing. Rather, the classroom of today has become a place for sharing many things, producing healthy interaction and creating even newer things for the enlightenment of learning within the group. It is very interesting to note here to have an easy accessibility of information and data. The learner has not to bother at all to go to library to refer a bulky book to have the source of the information he/she wants. Even the availability of books in e-form and in the traditional form is not a matter of stress as it used to be in the past. The online platforms like 'Flipcart' and 'Amazon' have made the thing easy for us to have any book at your doorstep within a day or two. Students and teachers use their smart phones regularly to be in touch with the world of information and knowledge. The social media has also a more important role to play to learn language. The thing is that we all have to rethink and introduce the techniques that can help our students learn English in an innovative way. The teachers of English will have to produce the digital materials in the forms of images, audios, videos and slides. Each and every teacher has his/her role to play to contribute his share.

#### **Conclusion:**

Man is a different from animal in a way that he is able to think. God has specially gifted him with the basic ability to think and to analyze the situation he undergoes. Over the years, he has been successfully in augmenting this special capacity to use language for the interaction with his fellow beings. It is the pious duty of a teacher of the language to create such a healthy atmosphere of his students to nourish this skill at all the levels.

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