

ROLE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT

The British Council says “English is the main language of books, newspapers, airports, air traffic control, international business, academic conferences, pop music, science, technology, diplomacy and advertising. Over two thirds of the world scientists read in English. Three quarters of the world’s mail is written in English. 80 per cent of the world’s electronically stored information is in English. 40 million users of the internet, some 80 per cent communicate in English”. Language is knowledge and in our world today language is one of the key factors in competitiveness. Brains and knowledge help in creating the prosperity and growth. For the last few years millions of people across the world, share common interests, communicate with each other and exchange ideas, it is due to one factor --they share a common language. According to Encyclopedia Britannica -- Language is a system of conventional, spoken or written symbols by means of which human beings as members of a social group and participants in its culture communicate.

KEYWORDS: Role, Interest and Language.

INTRODUCTION:

In today’s era it is very essential to know the language for communication. English is one of the most important language in the world. It is considered as a universal language because it is the only language which is easy to understand and link the whole world together .It doesn’t mean that other languages are in any way inferior to English. All languages have their own flavour, aroma, richness and strength of expression.

English language in India was imposed upon Indians by Lord Macaulay with the solitary aim of serving the British administration in India. Even after Indian Independence, English language remained the principal language of communication in India. However, it was, given a status of an ‘assistant language’ but it still persists as one of the national language which has proved beneficial in the context of globalization and job avenues. English plays a key role in our educational system and national life.

English is learned everywhere because people have found out that knowledge of English is a passport for better career, pay, advanced knowledge and for communication with the entire world. In this computer age English is bound to expand its domains of use everywhere.

In 1950, when the constitution of India was framed, it was decided to continue English as the official language for 15 years. Tremendous efforts were made to develop Hindi as the national language of the country. But the people of south did not accept it. Ultimately the parliament passed a bill in 1963 according to which English was declared to be the associate official language of India for an indefinite period. In 1968, the National Policy on Education adopted by the Government of India stressed, "Special emphasis need to be laid on the study of English and other International Language. World knowledge is growing at a tremendous pace, especially in science and technology. India must not keep up his growth, but also make her own significant contribution to it. For this purpose, study of English deserves to be specially strengthened". Some of the states adopted Hindi as the official language. As our country is multilingual so Hindi could not serve the purpose of link language between the different states.

To establish link between various states of India, English continues to be a unifying factor. It is essential for establishing cultural, intellectual, economic, commercial and political relations with a major part of the world. The latest and novel discoveries and inventions in science and technologies are being made in the Universities located in the U.S.A, U.K etc where English language is the means of scientific discourse. F.G French says "anyone who can read English can keep in touch with the whole world without leaving his own home". English is the only language which prevents people's isolation from the world because it mirrors to us everything in the true sense. It is through this window we can keep and have pure essence of modern knowledge in all fields of human activity.

In India English served as a great unifying factor, as it has brought people of different states together embedded them in a string of universal brotherhood and encouraged national integration. It is the most eloquent and perfect language for trade, commerce, industry, business relation, day to day state matters national policies, discussions and other activities. English is not a threat to Indian languages because Indian languages are vibrant and enshrined with rich literature and knowledge. Moreover, we can develop

ourselves culturally and materially so that we can compete in the world of mind and matter. It is undoubtedly, a language of modern scientific culture, historical heritage, in addition to our languages.

English is a language which can be studied by all from the primary level. It is of great importance for a developing country like India. This language is a store house of social and political knowledge. According to constitutional law makers, English language in India is lent the status of subsidiary language after Hindi, but today English language has turned out to be the 'Identity Representation'. It is now realized that teaching of English should be made more practical and language oriented to achieve the desired objectives. English has to be learned by one and all in the schooling period. Moreover, a common medium of instruction is also required at University level to prevent the country from a dangerous fragmentation of academic life.

At the individual level English is a language of opportunity and any individual seeking a good job in any part of the country should possess communicative competence. The main purpose of learning English was not the acquisition of knowledge of culture of the people who spoke it but to get the ability to get along in the day-to-day situations of ordinary life moreover the main aim was to achieve accuracy of expression to meet the demands of globalization and job avenues. Despite all the problems and hardships India is seeing explosive growth in economy in several sectors like IT, ITES, BPOs, Mobile Telephony, Consumables, Space Technology, Various Media etc.

The ongoing boom in the Indian economy has further increased world mobility and also widened the opportunities of job for those who are English graduates or pursuing English language. A graduate in English may start his career as a translator/interpreter in media houses, research institutes, industrial houses and government agencies like Ministry of External Affairs and Embassies of Foreign Countries. They can be as online content writer, technical translators and decoders. English graduates and post graduates can take up teaching in schools and colleges, start their own private tutorials and institutes for English language. Not only this they have possible careers as a desktop publisher, news analyst, reporter, mass media (radio and TV), advertising agent, hospitality organizer, book and magazine publisher, secretary, tour and travel agent. English has helped tremendously to modernize India. We can hardly bear dispensing with it from our mother land. If some people say that it is a difficult language and cannot be

taught well in our country, it is their weakness. Now, we have to put our efforts to make English as a living language. In the end, I would like to quote the words of Roland J. Berton, a geolinguist from the University of Paris, “The spread of English may be seen as positive development which saved resources and makes cultural exchange easier. After all, it might be said, the advance of English is not aimed at killings off local languages but is simply a means of reaching a wider audience...”

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