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An Experimental Study on English Language Competency in Senior Secondary Schools of Dewas District (Madhya Pradesh) with Respect to Smart Classroom Teaching

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Abstract

English language competency is essential for effective communication in English and can be categorised into several areas, including communicative, linguistic, disciplinary, interpersonal, strategic, and self-regulated learning competencies. Assessing English language competency is crucial for language learners and language teachers to identify areas of strength and weakness and to develop targeted language learning strategies.

The current study tries to explore and identify the hidden reasons and factors causing the weakness of the undergraduate students competence in the English Language Furthermore, this study is to help in finding some of the impediments and solving some of those problems, supporting the teachers and students with a number of better and more forceful procedures regarding this field of study. This chapter introduces the whole dissertation of the study. It sheds some light on the importance of the English Language as a global language and gives a brief background about the English Language in. Besides, it provides information about the statement of the problem, objectives, significance, hypotheses, and the methodology employed in collecting the data of the present study. The results of the study admitted that students suffer a lot from weakness in their communicative English competence that affected badly in their communicative performance. Hence, the present study seeks to develop learners' English competence and performance in English and identify factors and causes behind this. The importance of the English Language.

Keywords: Control Group, Experimental Group, Smart Classroom, Competency, Reading Competency, Writing Competency, Speaking Competency, Comprises, Sample, Data Collection, Data Analysis, Language Competency etc.

Introduction

“A competency is an underlying characteristic of the person that leads to or cause effective or superior performance” – Richard Boyatzis

Language is a fundamental part of individual life as it is the method of communication. It is a human's greatest achievement that distinguishes them from animals.

Humans are therefore rightly called a 'talking animal'. Birds, insects and animals make specific sounds on particular occasions, but these sounds cannot be termed as speech. One observes various things in the world, meets different kinds of people, and uses various words, sentences and phrases, to correspond with others. It is only through the language that human beings are able to learn, think, feel and express themselves. Language helps the past to come to be true in terms of the present.

English is an international language and it is an acknowledged fact that everybody knows now-a-days. In this world of competition, a large number of young people who are desirous of achieving excellence in specialised courses are required to have fluency in English. As it is very convenient and very useful to learn English, the number of those who want to learn English far exceeds those who wish to master any other foreign language. This fact keeps English in the front line.

The English word 'Language' comes from the Latin word 'Lingua' which means 'tongue'. 'Langue' is a special form of speech. One can recognize it by its usage 'Language'

The main aim of the study is to evaluate the nature of English language competence of teachers and students' achievements in English Medium Senior Secondary School of Dewas. In order to shed light on these factors,

an effort has been made to examine the learning environment in the Senior Secondary Schools of Dewas District (Madhya Pradesh).

India is a country of many languages. In any multilingual society, a decision has to be made about the role of the language to be used in communication. It is an accepted fact that an individual can function best through his mother tongue i.e., the language that he acquires through the environment. The social aspirations of the people can be fulfilled best when they are allowed to function through the mother tongue. It is quite natural, therefore, to think of using the mother tongue for purposes of education. However, in the interest of national integration, it is necessary to have a common language for the whole nation. For a multilingual country, it is a different problem to reconcile the use of the regional languages with that of a common language.

English is the language of industrialization, modernisation and globalisation. Mother tongues are regional languages, which have failed to attain market value like English has done. Knowledge of English is seen as the key to the Economic prosperity. Parents especially those belonging to the middle and upper classes expect that their children should get the best type of education and they conclude that it is possible only through English medium. People from lower classes emulate the model-setting behaviour of the middle and upper classes. Therefore, we find that English Medium schools are opened everywhere in the countryside, but the English language competence of teachers of these schools are not up to the mark. Because for the last few decades, a major part of this country was following regional language as a medium of instruction. Their fluency and pronunciation of English language are not in the standard form. This is one of the major obstacles of teachers while transacting different school subjects through the English language. So, a bilingual approach is used for teaching in English Medium Schools. While recognizing the importance of learning English we have to admit that it cannot occupy the same place in the school curriculum as it did in the past. It is now realised that this state of affairs cannot continue and that the teaching of English should be made more practical and language oriented in order to achieve the objective of imparting foreign language knowledge. The official language commission appointed by the Government of India clearly indicated the position of English in our educational scenario.

English language competencies refer to the skills and abilities that individuals possess to effectively communicate in English. These competencies are essential for successful language learning.

“Competency is the sum total of skills, knowledge and attitudes, manifested in the student’s behaviour. Competency provides a very open space to the learners in order to develop competency among learners.

Reading: Ability to understand written English, including texts, articles, and academic papers.

Writing: Ability to write coherent and well-structured texts in English, including essays, reports, and emails.

Speaking: Ability to communicate effectively in English, both in formal and informal settings.

English language competency is essential for effective communication in English and can be categorised into several areas, including communicative, linguistic,

disciplinary, interpersonal, strategic, and self-regulated learning competencies. Assessing English language competency is crucial for language learners and language teachers to identify areas of strength and weakness and to develop targeted language learning strategies.

It has become a recognized fact that the English Language has become a link language for communication worldwide whereby people can get access to the up-to-date development in many fields. Besides, the English Language has become a necessary tool in order to obtain a job, get promoted and perform effectively in the world of work. Many countries, therefore, have introduced English in their education program as the best foreign language. No doubt, English has become a world language rather than the language of only English speaking countries such as the U.K., U.S.A., Canada and Australia. This is because the number of people who use English as a means of communication exceeds much more than the number of people who speak it as their mother tongue. A great number of non-English speakers as well as native speakers use English as an important medium of international communication all over the world. In countries like India, English is a second Language. The current study tries to explore and identify the hidden reasons and factors causing the weakness of the undergraduate students competence in the English Language. Furthermore, this study is to help in finding some of the impediments and solving some of those problems, supporting the teachers and students with a number of better and more forceful procedures regarding this field of study. This chapter introduces the whole dissertation of the study. It sheds some light on the importance of the English Language as a global language and gives a brief background about the English Language in. Besides, it provides information about the statement of the problem, objectives, significance, hypotheses, and the methodology employed in collecting the data of the present study. The results of the study admitted that students suffer a lot from weakness in their communicative English competence that affected badly in their communicative performance. Hence, the present study seeks to develop learners’ English competence and performance in English and identify factors and causes behind this. The Importance of the English Language.

The English language has become the most important language all over the world. Whenever you want to do anything you have to be able to speak English, whenever you want to travel you have to be able to speak English, whatever you want to study you have to be fluent in English and even when you think to join a good occupation you have to be excellent in so many fields. Language is a means of communication among people regardless of their different tongues, races and colours. It is the code we all use to express ourselves and to communicate with others. People use a language as a medium of communication. English Language is one of these Languages. It is the most widely spoken language in the world. d. A great number of non - English language speakers as well as native speakers use English as an important medium of international communication all over the world. English is no longer the language used solely in English speaking countries, rather it is internationally used. In addition, a good command of the language can help students improve their professional development, academic performance and personal effectiveness. No developing country can ignore the

importance of the English Language in improving its international profile and prominence.

The importance of English is not just in how many people speak it, but also in what it is used for. It is the major.

Language of new media such as the Internet and Electronic Mail that define the communication challenges and needs of corporations. The majority of new technological and scientific advances are written in English in order to reach as many people as possible.

In fact, English is now no longer the language of the English people only. It has become an international language. A language helps communication in most countries of the world. Even those countries, which had no connection with England or the English people, are also now learning English very fast. In this regard, India is placed in a very fortunate position, as most of the educated people here know English. Japan, China, Myanmar and the Middle -East are now making all efforts to learn the English language. It is a reality that there are thousands of Indians employed in various parts of the world. This is all due to the advantage of knowing the English language, which they possess. All advanced knowledge regarding science, technology, medicine, space research and nuclear field, is enriched in the English language. In this way, one can see that English has a very important role to play in national and international affairs.

This is a research in which a sample comprising 160 students (80 girls and 80 boys) of class IX selected from two different schools (1 school of smart class teaching and 1 school of non - smart class teaching) of Dewas District. The data will be collected through Dr.S.K.Mishra and Ruchi Dubey for the English language competency test (ELCT) will be taken by researchers and a self made questionnaire related with reading, writing and speaking competencies for class IX teachers is made by researchers.

Importance of Competencies (Reading, Writing, Speaking)

“Teaching competence is the ability of the teachers to accomplish the goals of education and is measured best by the examination of previous experience or demonstrated level of achievement” (Howard and Biddle, 1964).

Teaching competence is the efficiency of the teacher which helps him to acquire skills for understanding classroom situations as well as personality skills and to adapt himself to different situations. Like a leader, a teacher is a person who guides, directs and motivates his students to achieve the highest goal of education. Teaching competence even transcends bad surroundings to produce good consequences. The multifaceted role of teachers demands that they need to be the masters not merely with academic competencies but equipped with the skills that help them to cope with 2 their varied responsibilities. Hence a powerful teacher should own organisational citizenship behaviour, valuable teaching competence and leading managerial skills.

Competency is “An underlying characteristic of an individual Competency is often realised as the calibre to perform efficiently”. It is the sum total of all the activities, behaviours and wisdom exhibited by the teachers while discharging his responsibilities. Competencies of a teacher are related with knowledge,

abilities and beliefs , a teacher owns and uses all these during the teaching learning process.

Reading Competency

Reading is mainly a receptive skill and a decoding process.

Encoder (Writer) Message Decoder (Reader)

The encoder encodes the message, and the decoder decodes it and understands it. Reading activity comprises perception, recall, imagining, reasoning, organising, and evaluating application and problem solving. The goal of all reading is the comprehension of meaning. Effective reading includes not simply a literal comprehension of an author’s word. It is also an interpretation of mood, tone, feeling and attitude (Dechant and Smith, 1977). Gray (1967) is of the view that when people read something, they understand it at three levels. First is the purely literal responding to the graphic signals only with a little depth of understanding. The second level is at which the reader recognizes the author’s meaning. The third level is where the reader’s own personal experiences and judgments influence the reader’s response to the text. These three levels can be summed up as “Reading the lines, Reading between the lines and Reading beyond the lines”. Reading aloud is closer to pronunciation than to comprehension. The reader shares information that the members of the audience want. The “real-life” purpose of reading aloud to others is to convey information to them, to entertain them or to share a good story that they do not have . Silent reading is supposed to be a “see and comprehend process” and not a simple “see, say and comprehend” process. Buswell (1947) noted that silent reading must be a process of association between perceptual stimulation and meaning “without a mediating subvocalization”. Silent reading is focused on comprehension based on background information, some visual data, and predicting and confirming strategies.

Skimming and Scanning are two important and useful advanced reading skills. Skimming is a reading skill which demands top- most speeds. It is a method of quickly acquiring information. Learning to skim is a valuable academic venture. In scanning, the reader runs his eyes down the page with the purpose of finding an answer to a particular question. In skimming the reader does not attempt to excavate the answer to any question. Skimming is a rapid reading technique and scanning is a technique to learn the facts in a very fast manner.

Writing Competency

Writing is a productive skill. It is a multi-dimensional skill that involves many processes such as

Prewriting ----- Drafting Revising

Writing skills are a crucial part of communication. Good writing skills are vital for effective communication. They allow communicating one’s message clearly and easing to a far larger audience than via face-to-face or telephone conversations or any other medium of communication.

Writing is a means of communication made possible through graphics symbols, arranged as per established conventions to form words which are subsequently arranged to form sentences. The sentences are logically and grammatically connected to form a piece of writing. Writing involves numerous activities. Writing, like listening, involves a writer (producer) and a reader

(receiver). Writing necessarily involves interaction between the writer (encoder) and the reader (decoder). Communicative writing means the use of orthography so as to construct grammatically correct sentences which communicate a meaning effectively to the reader.

Speaking Competency

Speaking is a productive skill and a muscular activity. People use speech organs to make sounds. In learning to speak our own language, we learn certain specific muscle habits. Where sounds of a second language vary from those of our mother tongue we have to acquire new muscle habits Understanding Attributes ----- Describing the Situation

----- Oral Practice Activities

The ability to use oral language is appropriate and effective in learning activities 'as peer tutoring, collaborative learning activities and question or answer sessions' etc., within the classroom and in social interactions within the school.

Speaking, however, is only a tool of communication. Actually understanding what the sounds and the written text mean during the communicative act is also a significant portion of communication. Speaking involves more than pronunciation and intonation. At the functional level, speaking means making oneself understood. At a more refined level, speaking necessitates correct and idiomatic use of the target language. A newcomer in a foreign country learns to communicate to obtain the essentials of life; first using gestures and gradually picking up words and phrases.

Conclusion

It is known that English competency is a very important skill for one's survival and development in today's world. English skills include reading, speaking, and writing.

Language is absolutely central to your learning: without it, you cannot make sense or communicate your understanding of a subject.

You will need to develop your language competency skills, and specifically, your academic English, in order to: understand and make the most effective use of your study materials develop the specialised language and vocabulary relevant to your subject interpret assignment questions and select relevant and appropriate material for your response write well-structured and coherently presented assignments, without plagiarism, communicate your needs to your tutors and work productively with other students.

Competencies improve Self-Esteem. Learners should look at their own solution for the problems and their own products and see what they are able to achieve.

Competencies can lead to genuine communication and cooperation between teacher and students.

Competency is an important skill in real life, it is a part of our survival strategies and it is a force behind personal growth and the development of culture and society.

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