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WHY SHOULD ‘ENGINEER’S EVER LEARN THE QUEEN’S LANGUAGE?’

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ABSTRACT

Engineering is one of the fields of study in the world and many works of research and studies are recorded in English therefore, it becomes significant for all those non-native English users because it is widely spoken all around the world. For engineering students whose mother tongue is not English, mastering English becomes even more important, not only for their scholastic life but also for their prospective career. English language is the current lingua franca of international business, expertise and aviation defense etc. It is spoken by 1.8 billion people in the world and the number is still rising. Without a good command of the language, engineering students find themselves frog in a well situation, to understand the underlying concept or idea that the authors try to convey in their papers. Moreover, many elements in engineering require writing academic reports such as lab reports, projecting reports etc. Hence a good grasp of English language is not only beneficial but also a necessity and ensures capturing the corporate markets as well. It enables the candidate certain, self reliant, good communicator which is a need of the hour. The present paper will highlight the importance of a language genuinely targeting the budding engineers of the day.

Keywords- English Proficiency for Engineers, Primary problems, Remedies

1. INTRODUCTION

English language competence is a significant aspect of an engineering student’s academic life and prospective career. It is because the main mode of communication used and most of the teaching contents and the sources for information are in English. After graduation too, English takes its predominance because it is the official language used in work places global wide. The criteria to be a successful engineer depends not only on the ability to perform calculations and experiments, as in most other jobs, but mainly based on the ability to present his innovative, creative ideas convincingly. Hence proficiency in communicative English is very essential for an efficient engineer who has sound technical background to interpret the technical facts in the universal language which everyone in any corner of the world can understand. The present paper deals with the importance of English language competence in every walk of the professional life of an engineer for his bright future insisting that the engineering students should primarily focus on English learning and be competent with English communication skills so as to tap on the plethora of potential economic benefits that may be the ultimate result when English is taken over by them

2. UP-HILL TASKS IN THE ATTAINMENT OF LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE IN ENGLISH

In India which is highly noted for its cultural and linguistic diversity, the engineering students coming from varied backgrounds are facing great challenges, while taking up this professional course of their dream. With their entry into engineering colleges, most of the Indian students who had their education so far in their regional languages, start digesting the bitter truth that they have to keep pace with the others of better linguistic competence in English in a common set up in which there is no special consideration for their pre knowledge on English, the way in which English is ‘practiced’ by them or their linguistic competence in English. Unfortunately, even in this fast paced technological era, majority of students have not got the opportunity of learning English in a better way because of obsolete methodologies followed in most of the engineering institutions

3. REASONS FOR LACK OF LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE IN ENGLISH AMONG ENGINEERING STUDENTS

Learners personality traits, their learning strengths, styles and preferences are not taken into serious consideration before getting into a way to teach English as a communicative language for blooming engineers. Also, prior preference is given to specialized subjects by the students even at their very entry level in the engineering Communicative English: Why it is Essential to Emerging Engineers 53 institutions and in the later years of learning too, English is almost brushed aside both by the curriculum and by the students until the time of placement when it has to be reincarnated in the name of communicative English after a long phase. The main finding is that the majority of students use little English outside their program because they are mainly dependent on their peer group for their social-life and activities outside the academic context. Hence opportunities to use English are negligible. Another consequence is that the persistent lack of confidence in speaking English outside campus inhibits the students from developing social independence and it is greatly reflected in the interview, where they have to prove themselves chiefly with their English speaking skills. Their reluctance in acquiring the most needed English language skill generally results in lack of confidence in writing skills during their work on independent research projects where English writing skills are essential..

4. THE ROLE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE FOR ENGINEERING COMMUNICATION

Engineering is the biggest field of study in the world. First of all English is a tool that notably affect engineering students in academic life. While most of the assumptions in engineering are taught in English, it requires to have good English communication proficiency. In academic life, engineering students have to deal with the countless lectures, tutorials, labs, project reports and papers in English. Generally engineering professors in various universities are also conducting lectures in English. The most apt source of information i.e. Internet provides generally the information in English. During the job seeking process in interviews, GD's, it is it is mandatory to achieve mastery in English proficiency. After securing the job they are necessary to work in groups since their task seldom be solved by an individual. A Large number of Indian engineers have to now travel to many continents and work away from their domicile country. Also, among the scientists, technologists and business experts from culturally and linguistically different communities, English has become the prime language for communication. So, being an engineer requires co-operating and communicating with different people from different part of the world. English is used as the operational language on large extent. In order to harmonize with the colleagues, engineers have to speak fluent English. So, English communication competence plays an important role in the academic life and career of engineering students.

Status—International verses National ----How far can the queen's language go?

Speaking English fluently is an important criterion of the admission process and a candidate's ability to master this ability brightens their chances of admissions to foreign Universities. In National University of Singapore and in many other foreign countries students are required to pass Qualifying English Test to assess their proficiency of English language. To a certain level where students are not able to qualify, there is a inevitability for them to go for extra English module to brush up their English. Such measurements are carried out to make sure the students are able to write, listen, and communicate with proficient English in future. As far as the national status is concerned English becomes the most important function of a student being performed in his/her life social life. English language helps to build strong relationship and better understanding which are so vital in their personal and professional life. To be victorious in any field one need to know and understand how to communicate effectively. In the era of LPG (Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization), good communication expertise are the keys to unlock the doors of success.

5. CONCLUSION

A positive guidance and high motivation to channelize the students from vernacular background towards successful professional life is much needed from the side of educators of English for blooming engineers. This is because English builds in an engineer a great confidence to face his highly competitive, most challenging professional field. • Remedial measures in the form of unconventional methods like e-learning can be adopted for effective teaching of communicative and technical English. • Student-friendly or learner- centric environment will facilitate the learners of English at the crucial period of their professional education. • What is preferred today is a more holistic, dynamic approach that arouses the real interest and awareness in learning the universal language which will greatly support their engineering professional growth.

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