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# Remedial Approach For Learning English Language & Its Applications

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**Abstract**— English language has become indispensable across the world. In today's era of globalization and information technology, the ability to converse effectively is the need of the hour for students and professionals as well. It is a matter of great concern that majority of Indian students and professionals fail to make an impact in the global market, mainly because they lack the required linguistic competence. This research paper intends to ascertain the problem areas and suggests remedial approaches to overcome such a chronically incompetency, in spite of studying from well and known schools. The online survey was prepared, keeping in mind to address the above issues pertaining to English language in various schools and colleges, through a set of relevant questions based on awareness of English language and its applications, with the help of online survey and responses of the students. It is suggested that through the proper teaching methodology to teach English language may certainly help any non native speaker to learn English language much faster and to have good command over it. For majority of students and professionals, it only becomes a dream or fantasy to learn and speak this language and some take a number of years to learn and still juggle with it. Furthermore, this paper motivates students to learn English language and suggests appropriate tips to learn the language comfortably with a love for this language forever.

**Keywords**— English, Grammar, Language, Speaking skills, Teaching style, Communication

## I. INTRODUCTION

‘Communication is like salt in a dish, thousands of ingredients remain tasteless without pinch of salt, similarly hundred good qualities in an individual remain meaningless without good communication skills.’ It is commonly experienced that still now for the desire or want of better command over English language, many parents send their students to English medium schools such as CBSE or ICSE and spend huge amount of money till their college to add this requisite skills to strengthen their academics further. One of

the major reasons to do so is that to develop Teamwork, Communication Skills, Critical thinking, Interpersonal skills and obviously hard skills as well. Confident knowledge of English and speaking skills has become indispensable; particularly those who want to excel in certain fields of human endeavor [15]. Various researchers state that ‘We are hired for our technical skills, but are fired for the lack of soft skills i.e. mainly communication skills. According to a [Leadership IQ study](#), nearly half of new entrants (48%) fail within 18 months. Just 11 percent of those failures are, due to a lack of hard skills and the remaining (89%) curtailed from a lack of soft skills. This study paid attention on why new hires fail at such alarming rates, which has been certainly an emerging trend. Communication may be defined as the systematic process of understanding and imparting information effectively to make others understand easily. It can be achieved by honing verbal and non verbal communication skills as per, [8].

In addition to this, developing communication skills can certainly help in many aspects of anyone’s life from social aspects to professional career. The key components of English language are Listening, Writing, Reading & Speaking. If anyone of the key aspects of the language is missed out, then it is not possible to have good command over the language. Writing is the basic medium of cultural communication. The mechanisms of writing are grammar, syntax and vocabulary. At the primary levels of writing, the learners are helped to construct meaningful sentences. Next helping students produce written texts for a particular audience [4]. Proper and complete instruction of grammar into the revising and editing process helps students make immediate applications, thus allowing them to see the relevance of grammar to their very own writing. [7].

Keeping in view the importance of communication skills and good command over the English language, the open –source online survey was conducted at schools and universities level from various regions of India, mainly Dehradun, Delhi, Roorkee, Haridwar, Saharanpur, Calcutta and so on. The set of ten specific questions, pertaining to the English language was penned down, in order to know what is the perception of the students for the English language and what challenges do they face while adopting this language, being non native speaker of the English language? The research took place at Graphic Era Hill University, Dehradun, India, in collaboration with Professor, Associate Professor & Assistant professors, from Department of English, Mathematics and Commerce. Around 200 plus participants filled up the online questionnaire with a great enthusiasm. The research paper aimed at developing the interests of the students for the English language and ascertaining the problem areas wherein students are lagged behind and found remedial approaches to learn this language comfortably and confidently.

## II. PROBLEM AREAS

It is absolutely true that every problem has a solution and if there is no solution then it is not a problem. Through the online questionnaire, the various responses of the 200 plus participants from different corners of the country were recorded and discussed those issues, particularly with the Assistant Professors of the Department of English and the English language Specialists. The rigorous study was made, including the already written research papers on the same problem one way or the other and then all the problems pertaining to the same were compiled first. One of the problems was encountered through the given questionnaire that the students, being non native speakers of English feel low motivated and keep negative attitude for the language, because of their careless attitude, many teachers also feel discouraged while teaching them. The similar experience was stated by [14]. The study of Non-English lecturers’ reading competence in Central Java also suggests that lecturers, especially the Non-English lecturers, have poor English reading habits, because of negative attitude and low motivation towards English reading. The most of the students lack vocabulary and due to less knowledge of the words they run short of the words that results in distortion of the message and leads to poor impression hence, Poor vocabulary mastery can

be the result of poor language input the language learner acquires [10]. Majority of the students are not aware of syntax of the English language, they feel that just speaking skills is enough because of this confusion they always remain in dilemma, whether they speak correct English or incorrect and it becomes common a problem globally, according to [5], the second aspect language problem dealt with syntactic issue, namely how words and phrases are constructed to make them meaningful.

The role of grammar in writing has always been controversial and challenging for almost all of the students. It is because many students misconceive that speaking and writing skills are alike and they certainly miss out the rules and techniques of academic writing without knowing the proper use of grammar. Another alarming issue was addressed through the responses of the majority of the students that students neither self-study grammar properly nor they are taught detailed grammar in their respective classes or curriculum. It is assumed generally that they had already studied grammar in their previous class and their basics are clear, in spite of knowing the fact. According to [3], in second language writing, grammar acts as a resource in shaping effective communication as writing strengthens vocabulary and grammatical structures. Since grammar has been given a paramount importance by many authors in various research papers pertaining to English language, many students experienced that important topics are skipped and some important concepts of grammar and writing skills are not emphasized in the classroom and moreover syllabi seem unchanged for eons that results incompetency in the students. [2], they raised the concern that, although the administrators or academicians are attempting to revolutionize the process of education by shifting the attention to the acquisition of English, lack of sufficient training to the teachers of English foreign language in linguistics, ineffective curriculum and orthodox society has to be harnessed, in order to achieve the goals of imparting knowledge and fluency in English.

A major psychological factor was also recorded in the process of the compilation of the pitfalls that stop students from practicing their speaking in English class. As argued by many theorists, a fear of mistake becomes one of the main factors of students' reluctance to speak in English in the classroom [11, 17, 13].

### III. REMEDIAL APPROACH

Having well understood the perceptions of the students for the English language through the online survey, their responses were recorded, as per their candid responses, in terms of their actual problems and interests for the language. On the basis of the above mentioned problems pertaining to the language, the remedial ways have been explored and advised to overcome such problems for forever and to create interest in the students for the English language by holding a firm grip on it. One of the key areas for the improvement of the English language could be watching English movies, as it not only creates entertainment but also helps learning the language. Movies project audio and visual aids that make the students understand the language faster with some non verbal movements also by [9]. Another problem was diagnosed that majority of students lack grammatical skills and moreover in many institutions it is just overlooked and taught just speaking skills.

The language skills cannot be improved without good knowledge of grammar, supported this statement by [12], defined the features of speaking competence, as it helps students enhance their speaking skills, the teachers must facilitate students to improve their grammar, vocabulary, and handle conversations, in terms of who says what, to whom, when, and about what so the conclusion is that once grammar along with vocabulary is strong, it naturally improves speaking skills with a great confidence.

Many Students complain that they have been unable to speak English, in spite of studying it since school time. It was observed through study that students learn English, but actually don't bring it to the practice. It therefore, indicates that applying a language is more important than just knowing about it, because there

is no point of knowing a lot about language if you can't use it. The simple reason why our Indian students take so many years to learn the English language is that variance among boards such as CBSE, ICSE and Hindi medium. Moreover, late introduction to English in the primary curriculum particularly in Hindi medium that results inferiority and superiority in the students regarding their knowledge in English .In Saudi Arabia as per [1]. In Saudi Arabia, the ministry of education did not leave any stone unturned to plan out a practical and comprehensive language prescribed syllabus in the pursuit of achieving command over English language. English is introduced from the primary level in the schools, and it is a compulsory subject. The ministry is very vigilant over the syllabus and textbooks, which are updated upon the necessity. The last but not the least remedy to improve English language is that, students should make proper notes on techniques of tenses, parts of speech; active and passive voice, narration, finite and non finite verbs, and a stock of words i.e. rich vocabulary, once it is done ,every student get enough confidence to speak and write this language confidently. It is possible only when teachers and students show equal involvement from both the ends. According to [6], attention-grabbing materials result in very momentous increases in vocabulary growth. To provide interesting materials, [16] opines that the teacher must involve students' daily life in the learning process.

#### IV. RESULTS

The following questions were asked to the students, in order to reach the results by their various responses, as per their interest and knowledge for the English language:

**Table 1: Questionnaire for Evaluating interest and knowledge of the English language**

<p><b>Q.1</b> How often do you practice or learn English language yourself at home?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Very Much</li><li>b) Average</li><li>c) Below Average</li><li>d) Rarel</li></ul> <p><b>Q.2</b> Being Indians &amp; non native speakers of English language, English should not be the only medium to converse globally.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Strongly Agree</li><li>b) Agree</li><li>c) Neutral</li><li>d) Can't say</li></ul> <p><b>Q.3</b> Being a non native speaker, how much interest do you have in learning English.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Very Much</li><li>b) Average</li><li>c) Partly</li></ul>
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d) Rare

**Q.4** Teachers of English language certainly facilitate you in improving your interest for the same in a better manner, one way or the other.

- a) Agree
- b) Semi agree
- c) Neutral
- d) Can't say

**Q.5** Does Grammar play a significant role to improve English Language?

- a) Very Much
- b) Average
- c) Neutral
- d) Very less

**Q.6** Have you ever been taught essential components of Grammar to learn English language, such as detailed parts of speech, tenses, finite and non finite verbs, direct and indirect speech , active and passive voice, vocabulary and so on, either at school or college in good amount of lectures?

- a) Very much
- b) Average
- c) Good
- d) Very less

**Q.7** One of the ways to have good command over English Language could be translation from Hindi to English language.

- a) Agree
- b) A bit helpful
- c) Neutral
- d) Can't say

**Q.8** In spite of studying in English medium schools, many students are unable to hold good command over English language and somehow it prevents them from going ahead in their respective careers.

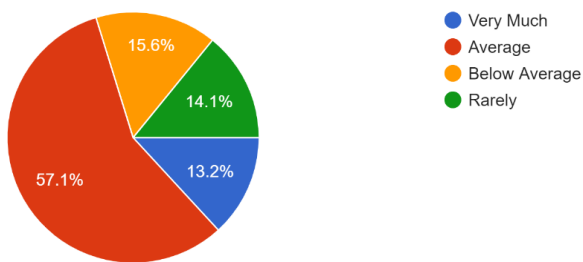
- a) Agree
- b) Semi Agree
- c) Neutral
- d) Can't say

**Q.9** The uttermost fear remains Grammar in the students & professionals, while learning English language.

- a) Very much
- b) Average
- c) Neutral
- d) Can't say

**Q.10** English medium students have better command over English language than Hindi medium students.

- a) Agree
- b) Up to a certain extent
- c) Neutral
- d) Not necessarily

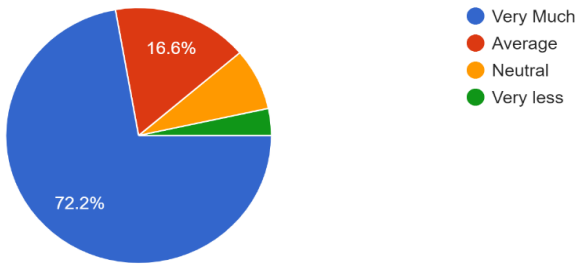


**Figure 1 Learning English Language at Home**

From figure 1, it is clear that only 13% candidates are proactively able to learn English language themselves at home and 57% candidates show that average pattern of students just try to learn English language at home. It means most of the students do not practice themselves to learn English language at home.

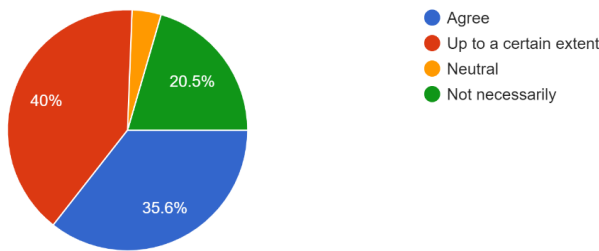
In our survey, it is concluded that we are non native speakers of English, so being a non native speaker; English should not be the language of conversation globally. In this survey 47% candidates agreed that English should not be the language of conversation globally while only 16% students were strongly agreed.

The response of our 3<sup>rd</sup> question of our survey showed that 58% students wanted to learn English language, because they all are non native speakers of English language.



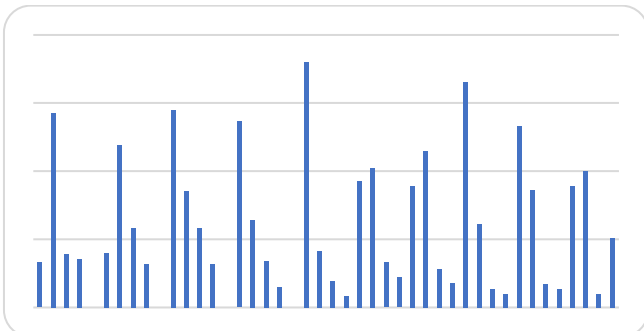
**Figure 2. Importance of Grammar in English Language**

Figure - 2 indicated that 72% students said that without grammar English language cannot be learnt. It is very clear that without grammar no one can learn or speak up. It means it is globally true, as various researchers also emphasized that without grammar, language cannot be learnt.



**Figure 3. Command over English Language**

From figure 3, it is observed that Hindi medium students can have good command in English language, which means the learning process can be developed by doing exercise. But 40% students stated that at the certain stage, English medium students have better command over English language.



#### **Figure- 4. Graphical Representation of All Responses**

From figure 4, we can observe the responses of all questions which were given to the students to complete our study. More than 200 responses were recorded and analyzed. It is ascertained that in most of the cases, teachers who teach this subject are not well trained in English languages. In such a manner, being non native speakers, students cannot improve their English language. It was also recorded that majority of the students do not learn or understand English attentively at home. This happens, due to low motivation for learning the English language. It was also analyzed that only 58% students show interest to learn English Language. It means our half of the population does not want to show interest in the learning of English language. It was also recorded that translation from Hindi or regional language to English is a bit helpful for non native speakers. One of most important factors was also analyzed that at a certain aspect, English medium students have better command in English than the Hindi medium Students because of the speaking English environment.

#### **V. CONCLUSION**

Based on the results of this research, this study discovered that the teaching English language is must, as English is a globally accepted language and it opens the doors to connect talents to worldwide. It has been very saddening to experience through the online survey that majority of students fail to make impact on it. Keeping in view this alarming issue, an online test was conducted on 200 students from various schools and universities to know their interest and challenges in the English language .Through their responses, it was observed that majority of the students felt that learning this language is really herculean task, as they pointed out many reasons such as lack of English environment, grammar, vocabulary, confidence, writing skills and sometimes lack of teaching support for the English language. Having gone through intensive research on the theme and analysis of the result, it is concluded that if proper measures are taken such as early introduction to English subject in the primary level, irrespective to boards or mediums, watching English news or movies, self practice, proper teaching of grammar with rules, vocabulary, practice sessions and deep involvement of faculty with students, English language can be learnt forever by anyone and this problem can somehow be mitigated at a large number.

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