



RESEARCH ARTICLE



THE IMPACT OF GLOBAL LANGUAGE ON PASTORAL STUDENTS AND MEHTODS FOR ENHANCING LANGUAGE SKILLS IN 21ST CENTURY

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, my aim is to focus on English language to turn it as an interesting language. The reason for writing this article is, in many Engineering colleges English is treated as a useless language. Not only are the students, management of various Engineering Colleges concentrating on English only for job orientation programmes. From first year till third year, they are concentrating on their department theories and practicals. Even extra classes and coaching classes are given only to their technical subjects. They do not have time to think about the importance of English. Ofcourse, colleges from popular cities are having English fluencies and placement in best companies. But colleges from under developed areas are not having a proper guidance and channel to express the value and importance of English. So that students, after finishing their final year will definitely have good marks in theories and practicals. But will not get job in best multi-national companies. This will definitely put their life in the hands of sorrows and suicides. This situation should be changed. To know the value of life, students first of all should come to know the importance of English. English should be taught in a very interesting form. It should not be stressed or pushed into the students. We should carry it in a very easy way by diverting the teaching through famous novels, films, pictures and the life history of popular celebrities. So that the students will listen interestingly, and try to express their situation, styles, stories, pictures, themes, and characters in their English. This will develop their English fluency which will help to develop their personality.

In this paper I have said about the importance of English, the techniques of teaching English, position of Engineering colleges from under developed cities and at last I have related my paper with one of the novel named "To the light house" by Virginia Woolf. Through the styles, symbols, images and techniques of this novel, students can easily understand the story, sufferings of the characters, importance of symbols and the techniques which are used by the author.

Learning language is an art. Learning language through literature is a thought provoking language art. Though English is a foreign language, it has occupied a standard position in India. In our society, English got a high-status spot after Independence. On 26th January 1950, our Government decided to follow English as an official language. "In 1956 The Central Advisory Board of Education and in 1966 The Kothari Commission suggested that English should continue as a medium of instruction and if the language was removed from the curriculum, it would be harmful for India" (11-12). This formula was approved by the Chief Minister Conference upheld by the National Integration Council, led to the Language Act passed by the Indian Parliament in 1963.

In 1971 The Human Resources Development Ministry spelled out that: "A student should be able to understand the paragraphs of prose written, with his experience he should understand the subject of the prose, while speaking and writing, a student should use the language correctly" (16). Now a days, in schools and arts colleges teachers are concentrating much on grammar than spoken. Teaching in English will help the students to achieve a good command over the language. English is taught as a subject in schools. In arts and science colleges, students can take English as a major subject and develop their skills. But in engineering colleges, students are not able to use English effectively in day-to-day communication. They are only concentrating on technical subjects. So that students are not able to understand the importance of spoken English. Of course, teachers will not present a successful class. For a valuable training, a classroom should have a minimum number of disciplinary students with teaching aids like audio and video.

"A teacher who himself has difficulty in speaking the language he teaches is not going to succeed in giving his pupils a command of spoken English" (22). A teacher should be confident that his teaching is apposite to the class, well prepared and motivating. A teacher should have a professional training in handling Direct Method and Audio-Lingual Method. She should be familiar with pedagogy which is concerned with class management, lesson planning and teaching strategies. The Direct Method signifies a deep-seated adjustment from literary language to the day-to-day spoken language. Here English language is taught, without using mother tongue. Macnee has, rightly stated, "The Direct Method of teaching a foreign language may be defined as a method in which a new word or expression is connected in the pupils' mind directly with what it stands for and not through the medium of the vernacular"(Web). It involves a lot of spoken languages with good pronunciation. Audio-lingual Method is based on the principles of behavioural psychology that witnesses language learning as routine pattern. Here the students repeat the grammar with the teacher. Audio visual aids are used to teach vocabulary, pronunciation and grammar etc.,

Now a days students of engineering colleges, does not know the value of speaking English. They are giving importance only to technical subjects and not to English. They feel that, through technical subjects they can score higher marks and through campus interview they can get into multi-national companies. Job without communication English can be compared to "a house with only foundation". If a student understands the value of English, will definitely give importance for communication English. English is the most commonly used language among foreign language speakers. When people with different languages come together they commonly use English to communicate. People who are seeking for a job in foreign countries should know to speak in English. Mother tongue languages cannot be used in abroad. Also English is a language of science. Also to stand out in science we need to know English. Speaking English openly and fluently, can unlock the opportunities quickly. Students, who are fluency in English, are earning more money than non-English speakers. In many countries, English is pushed as a second language in schools and colleges. But it is spoken as a first language by more than 500 million people. Also it is an official language for fifty three countries. Many websites are using English as a standard and customary language. Of course, we can say it as a "language of Internet".

If we connect English language to English Literature, English language will exceed to an extreme level which will be a very complicated and toughest language in the world. When we go into literature, students should give complete importance to story, characters, themes, styles and techniques of the novel. This is common to dramas, poetries and fictions. "Learning Language Through Literature is a fully integrated language arts program that teaches grammar, reading, spelling, vocabulary, writing mechanics, creative

writing, thinking skills and more" (Web). It helps the students to understand the value of real life and relates the texts to their cultural, social, historical and political life. Poetry, fiction, novel and drama engage the students to broaden their vocabulary and grammatical talents and demonstrate their stories using pictures, charts and diagrams.

A student should be uplifted to remake a story, prepare them for a story development effort. He must focus on real life importance such as Isolationism, Identity crisis, Illusion of power, Immortality, Love and sacrifice, Loss of innocence, Female roles, Facing darkness, Facing reality, Displacement, Empowerment, Quest for discovery, Quest for power, Motherhood, Nationalism and so on.

In colleges, very often teachers will have minimum days to complete their syllabus. In addition, they come across English books as passage writing and deals with textual questions alone. This should be discouraged. A teacher not only should cover the book, but also explore the moral and social values of life. They should train about the good and bad of human beings, come across their personal experiences like devotion, tolerance, self-control, respect and responsibility by relating with the life of well-known personalities. So that, they can compare the styles, themes, techniques, and symbols of the stories with their real-life. Through this paper I would like to convey, how a teacher elucidates the different varieties of symbols, techniques and the style of novel exposed to the students through the novel *To the light house* by Virginia Woolf

As we all know that students are much interested in sea, parks, waves, theatres, shopping mall, etc. If a novel is having such interesting places, a student will definitely get responsiveness to read a novel. In this novel Virginia Woolf has given importance to symbols like sea, lighthouse, waves and windows which are related to teenagers. To flee from classes students enthusiastically pick these varieties of places. Through these symbols students can easily understand the story of the novel. Lighthouse is a symbol of chaos, disintegration, illumination, stability and permanence as opposed to darkness. It is the most significant and dominant symbol in the novel.

"It was still day, hazy; the Lighthouse looked this morning at an immense distance the other had fixed itself doggedly, solidly, here on the lawn. She saw her canvas as if it had floated up and placed itself white and uncompromising directly before her. This folly and waste of emotion; it drastically recalled her and spread through her mind a peace, as her disorderly sensations" (147).

The sea with its waves is heard throughout the novel. It symbolizes the eternal flux of time and life. It sounds soothing and consoling like a cradle song. The wave symbolizes serenity, anguish and human life which cart us towards the shore.

"How's that? How's that? Of the children playing cricket, had ceased; so that the monotonous fall of the waves on the beach, which for the most part beat a measured and soothing tattoo to her thoughts and seemed consolingly to repeat over and over again as she sat with the children the words of some old cradle song, murmured by nature, 'I am guarding you – I am your support'" (20).

If we are upset concerning our personal problems, we of course spend time standing near the window. Virginia Woolf has also chosen the window for the characters, standing at a window, gazing at the street, at the sky and at the landscape. It symbolizes revelation, integration and the imperfection of our knowledge. It is a screen between reality and consciousness.

"The window on the landing was open, for that she had opened herself. That windows should be open, and doors shut – simple as it was, could none of them remember it? She would go into the maids bedrooms at night and find them sealed like ovens, except for Marie's the Swiss girl, she had said that last night looking out of the window with tears in her eyes." (30).

In this novel most of the characters are dipped in sorrows and are always hang around in these symbols which can be easily linked with our personal problems. Through Stream of consciousness technique, writer expresses the over flow sufferings of the characters which is compared to a constantly flowing river,

that destroys our life one day or other day as a tsunami. Thoughts go on passing through our mind, but they are connected to each other. Unless a student thinks deliberately on a topic, his thoughts are not systematic and coherent. Sitting inside the class he may think of his family members or girl friend. There will be no connection between the lecture and his girl friend. A river flows only in one direction. But our mind flows between present and past.

“Something that had been gay twenty years before on the stage perhaps, had been hummed and danced to, but now, coming from the toothless, bonneted, care taking woman, was robbed of meaning, was like the voice of witlessness, humour, persistency itself, trodden down but springing up again, so that as she lurched, dusting, wiping, she seemed to say how it was one long sorrow and trouble, how it was getting up and going to bed again, and bringing things out and putting them away again” (122).

Hence *To the Lighthouse* is one of the novels which analyze and explain certain inexpressible aspects of life and characters through symbols and techniques. Human relationships are necessary for a happy life. Of course a relationship between a student and a teacher is also very important in our school or college life. To have a useful and enthusiastic class, a teacher should handle according to his taste. She should explain the classes linking with many interesting topics with instances. Through these interesting places, of course a student will get interest to read the novel and will understand the characters and problems faced by them. So that the students can easily imagine the situations and the characters in their mind and can share the stories with his friends in his own language.

Classroom teaching and language exercises allow the students to listen, speak to one another and try to share ideas in English. The teacher can encourage the students to read many books. This is to ensure that students with less proficiency will find something worthwhile to read and understand, and students whose language skills are well developed will find something interesting and challenging to read.

Last but not least, I would like to conclude that teachers are the light house, a blue sea and a window for the Engineering students who should encourage them to enlarge their English fluency which enhances their opportunities in multi-national companies.

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