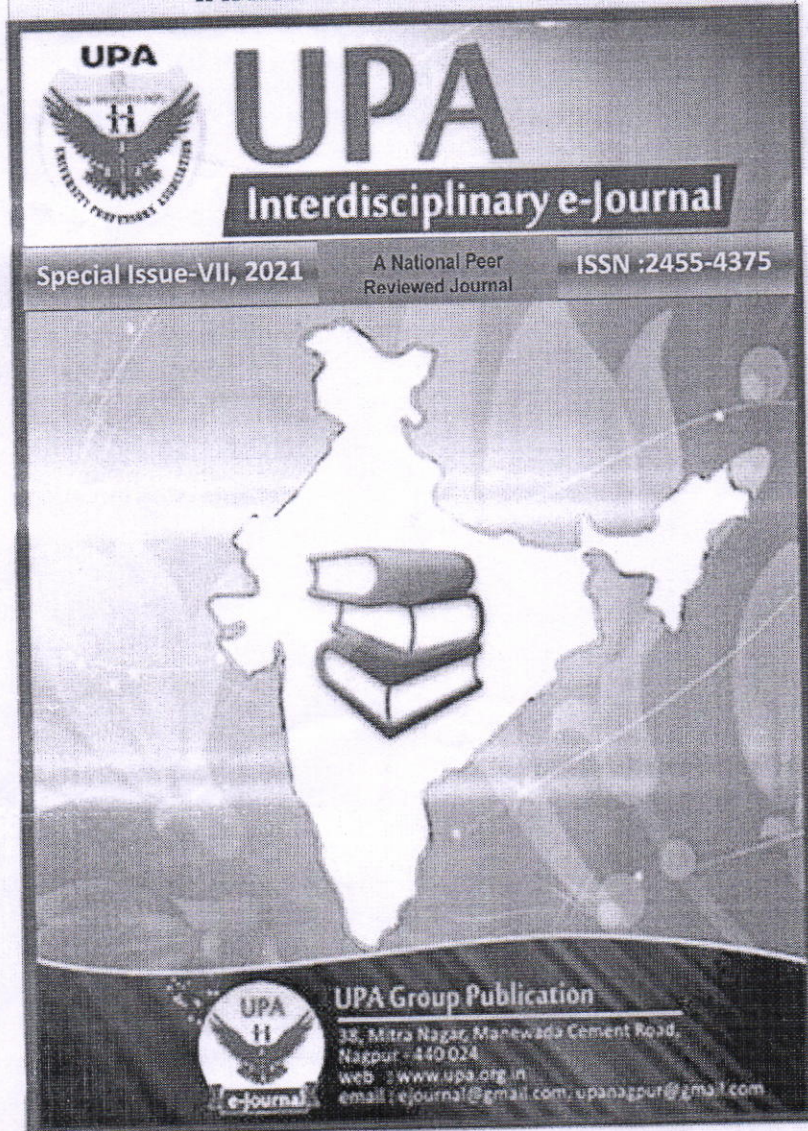


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INNOVATIVE WAYS TO DEVELOP FLUENCY IN ENGLISH: A BRIEF STUDY

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***Abstract:** The physical broadening of English is exceptional among the languages of the world, not only in our time but throughout history. English is the majority first language in twenty three countries. It is also used as a second language in many other countries like Bangladesh and Malaysia. Countries where English is regarded as first or second language are located in all the five continents. The total population of these countries amounts to around 2.5 billion, about 49 percent of the world's population. In addition, English is used extensively as a foreign language for international communication by people who do not ordinarily employ it when speaking or writing to their compatriots. The scenario is similar in Indian continent too, though the condition of the student learners is still not up to the mark. This paper tries to analyze the situation of the English learners in India and also provide ways to enhance the English language learning skills and its importance and relevance in social life.*

***Key Words:** -Social life, English language, listening, speaking, reading, writing.*

English language in India has a history of 400 years. In spite of such a long stay, it is surprising to know that English in India is still a difficult language for most of the students. Lord McCauley designed English education for Indians with a view to engender a class of people, Indian in blood and colour but English in taste and opinion. Among the developing nations, India is enjoying the top position at least in the technological field and is posing a stiff competition even to the developed nations in many fields. The keenness among Indians in learning the language mainly contributes to the growth of science and technology and the modern developments. Even Indian literature has been developed largely due to English language, through the translation of many classics.

All said and done, in the post-independent India, the local politicians viewed English language as a symbol of slavery and had reservations about continuing the language which still had the smell of subjugation. But, due to the efforts of the lateral thinking leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru, English continued to stay in India.

As such there cannot be any second opinion on the importance of English language in India, especially in the context of globalization. In the present days, English has been playing a crucial role in the Indian Education System. Kothari Commission rightly emphasizes by stating "English language can be rightly regarded as the key to the store-house of knowledge". In spite of such realization, the reach of the English language among the





students is still a big problem. The standard of English is extremely poor. Though the Indian Education Commission, while mentioning the language formula of India, stresses the compulsory study of English either as a second language or at least as a third language, the condition in most of the states in India remains pathetic. Students have irrational fear of English language and this hinders the acquisition of the same. Moreover, this fear amongst the students also plays on their psyche and social aspects vis-à-vis social interaction, status enhancement and personality building etc.

The following methodology will certainly infuse much confidence in the students and without any dilemma they can acquire the finer nuances of the language. While trying to learn a language, the four skills of a language, namely, listening, speaking, reading and writing has to be acquired. A learner first and foremost must be a keen listener. Then he has to try and imitate whatever he has listened. The speaking can be further more strengthened by reading; this will be further accomplished by writing.

Listening:-

The skill of learning has to be developed necessarily to recognize the speech sounds in isolation as well as in combination of other sounds. Further, in addition to the lexical and grammatical understanding, the meaning conveyed by the stress and the intonation has to be comprehended. Moreover, the mood of the speaker is essential to understand the speech in full.

To accomplish the above, the individual student has to create the opportunity to listen to talks in English. The best option for him is to listen to the radio and television. While doing so, he has to look at the lip movements of the speaker. The visual impact of the speaker will make the job of listening very easy and observing the movements and speech will enhance his pronunciations as well.

Speaking:-

Speaking is the most important skill which enhances an individual either to gain respect or to expose his ignorance. Hence enough practice should be done to imitate and reproduce the English sounds and patterns both in isolation and in public. Similarly, conscious effort and practice is needed in using appropriate words and structures to convey the intended meaning with appropriate stress and intonation which is utmost importance. Moreover, the ability to adjust the speech according to the listeners situation and subject matter will eventually boost the quality of speech. The learner will also have to create external English speaking environment and internal habit to follow the same. External English environment means the learner has to create an English atmosphere at his place of work and play. If he continues to converse in his regional language always, the purpose of learning the English language will be utterly defeated. Enough practice is essential to have a command on the language and the key to it is to try try and try without having the negative feeling or becoming tired. An exhaustive effort is needed at all times.





Similarly, the learner has to create an internal English environment. This mainly refers to the thinking process of the individual. Normally an individual keeps on thinking and planning in his mind, consciously or subconsciously in his mother tongue. This has to be modified and all sorts of mental conversations have to be done in the English language. It surely will be difficult for the first few days, but sheer hard work and perseverance will ultimately win and the habit will be inculcated naturally, which will be of benefit in the future run. This will also help in eliminating the fear and hesitation in the days to come. To improve further, the learner has to practice in front of a mirror which will help him to enhance his pronunciations in a big way.

Reading:-

Reading strengthens the confidence level and excellent training is also given to the tongue to comfortably handle the English language. While learning, the learner has to understand the lexical and the structural meaning of the words. He should also comprehend the phrases or group of words at once and when reading aloud, use appropriate sounds and stress plus intonation patterns. Moreover the learner has to develop the ability to connect the meaning directly with the graphic symbol, exactly like a car driver reading the traffic sign in a proper way.

To reach the above target, the learner has to read atleast ten pages a day and then gradually increase the number. He can start with abridged versions of the classics initially and then graduate to more complex books. Silent reading is also beneficial as it exhorts the learner to understand the meaning in the text in an easy and natural way. With loud reading, the tongue gets trained in producing the English sounds and the learner gains confidence in reproducing the same. In addition, loud reading is useful in mastering the language code and it is an effective device for improving pronunciation in a quick manner.

Writing:-

Writing is comparatively a difficult task and requires much perfection and such perfection in turn makes a learner perfect in his language ability. The learner has to cultivate the habit of writing coherently and with proper links to communicate his ideas, as far as possible in a clear way without mincing words. In addition, the compositions, reducing essay into notes, expanding notes into essays, converting other language texts into English and translations of various regional works will do the necessary job effectively. Creating different epistolary discourse must also be given due consideration.

The perfection in writing can be easily translated into reality by writing a page a day regularly. While doing so, the learner has to follow two conditions very strictly. The first condition is that the learner, after writing a page a day on the topic of his choice, should read the paragraph carefully. Secondly, he should not hide it from anyone from the fear of rejection or criticism, but should be open minded enough to accept his errors calmly and gracefully so as to not repeat them in his next writings. Thus, though strenuous a practice, it will gradually and surely show improvement in his writing skills.





The activities suggested above should be practiced regularly till a degree of satisfactory improvement is marked. This is necessary, because the four skills of language learning reinforce each other and even for the development of a single skill, some amount of emphasis on the other skills will be of utmost benefit.

Thus, the above mentioned skills are aimed at a learner keen on acquiring a practical command of non-literary and non-technical English and not the artistic use of language. A sincere attempt is needed to attain the same. This will also become an important tool for the students to face the world with new built confidence and spread their wings in the new arena socially, politically and financially.

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