

Problems in Learning English

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Abstract

The English language is one of the most popular language to learn and most spoken language around the world. English usage can be formal and informal. Students can have various difficulties and problems in learning English. They study English as second language so, they make mistakes in English pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, using tenses. They do not understand the question, but they can answer the question. Finally, English becomes a serious problem of them. This paper deals with the problems of learning English and why problems are raised and also we have given some solution or tips to the problems.

Keywords: learning English, language problems, grammar, vocabulary, questions.

Introduction

Language is a very important means of communication. It is very difficult to think of a society without language. Learning English becomes a problem of learners. Students are being taught that English is an international Language. Students think English language is a difficult language to learn. When they know and realize English is an easy language to learn, there is no problem in learning English.

Objective of the Study

This research aims at critically evaluating the problems faced by students in learning English language. Correct and suitable helpful actions are mentioned for the successful adaptation to solve these problems.

Hypotheses

The following are the hypotheses of the present study:

- (1) Vocabulary is important when learning a language.
- (2) Correct pronunciation of words.
- (3) Finding new words and their meanings and using them in sentences.
- (4) Translation method.

Research Questions

- 1) What are the problems?
- 2) What are the reasons for these problems?
- 3) Why this happens?
- 4) What are the solutions for these problems?
- 5) What kind of learning students really need when it comes to learning English?

Discussion

Many students and teachers of English Language have always encountered problems that stood in the way of learning English language and use it effectively. Tamil medium students study all the subjects in Tamil and they study English only as a second language. So, they do commit several mistakes in English. Students learn basic grammar at the school level for the purpose of passing the school and government examinations only. Students do make different mistakes in English pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary usage. When they come to college, they study all non-language subjects in English. English becomes a big enemy for them at this stage, and they hate English. Vocabulary plays an important role in language learning. Vocabulary learning is very important for students who learn English as a second language. In English vocabulary, the very same word may have several meanings. The meaning could vary from one sentence to another. Students should first concentrate on learning the most normally used words and so the most important English vocabulary for their practical real and day to day life. Another problem students face in learning English vocabulary is that they learn new words, but they tend to forget what they have learned. This is often a challenge, particularly when it comes to verbs. Students need to know and use correctly the difference between tenses and the forms of words in different tenses, and they also need to know and use which tense should be used in various situations.

Grammar is very important. Incorrect use of grammar can confuse the person you are speaking to and even could change the meaning of what you are communicating. The findings

showed that the students at the college level still faced the problems in learning grammar. Kinds of difficulties faced by students in grammar learning were several. Therefore, grammatical structure is the hardest thing that makes student unable to catch up with the knowledge of English and use it correctly and effectively.

Almost all the students have difficulties in pronouncing the words, how to write and spell. Mastering the different grammatical forms of a word known as inflections is one of the reasons of students' difficulties in learning grammar.

The learners of English at middle education level are facing many obstacles in learning English as a second and compulsory subject. They desire to achieve ability over the language and for this reason, they also try hard, but they cannot remove these hurdles in their way of their growth. The written form could be different from the spoken form in English. The number of words that students need to learn is extremely large. There also difficulties in accessing sources of information about words. Use of dictionaries is not yet a fully developed or followed practice for most students. Students may or may not possess any dictionary at all. There is also the problem of overcoming the difficulty of word knowledge. Knowing a word involves much more than knowing its dictionary definition. It involves various other crucial issues. Lack of understanding of grammatical forms of the words is an important factor. The incorrect pronunciation is often caused by the lack of sound connection between English and the first language (mother tongue, etc.) of the students. Learning new words is not easily achieved. No instantaneous mastery is guaranteed. Repeated use is very helpful, but to use a word, students should be well motivated and should have already known the meaning intended. Repeated presentation and use are very helpful. Memorization is not a bad practice, even though some may look down upon memorization. When students have difficulty in recognizing a word instantaneously, then they should be willing to relearn it through appropriate repetitions and usage. Students and teachers should remember that mastery of a second language is a life-long process. The grammar of a new item will be necessary to be taught if this is not obviously covered by general grammatical rules.

The English syllabus at middle level is based upon purely only on reading and writing. The respondents have expressed that most of the students are facing problem in both language skills and the reason is that the syllabus is literature-oriented. The teachers read and explain the ideas, but the

students are not allocated any specific reading or writing activity as the practice work at college. Speaking skill has no practical role in the syllabus and clearly is paid any durable attention by the teachers as well as students. All the teachers and students have expressed that the students face hurdles in speaking skill.

Variation in the different forms of English can often be difficult to understand. There is a difference between using formal and informal language or difference between spoken and written language. Students can find it difficult to pronounce the English word. When learning English, students have to consider not just word pronunciation but the connection between the words in the sentence. Intonations of the sentences are another difficult element.

At the school level, students do not understand the meaning of the question and so they may answer the question wrongly. Students' main aim is that they get pass marks in English. Some of the students won't read the question fully, but they are ready to answer the question based on what they have memorized. Students easily answer the question which has the major part of the structure of the answer is already built in it in it. For example: *Who had come like a guest quietly?* Ans: *The snake had come like a guest quietly.*). These types of questions and answers are easily memorized, and these are often asked in the exams. Students answer these easily in the examination almost mechanically and get pass marks. Students also tend to study only these types of question and answer them easily. To some extent, these types of questions and answers makem them learn some English, no doubt. Later they go into questions that carry more marks and expect answers in paragraph. Slowly students do learn English. Yet proficiency thus obtained does not last beyond exams in the case of many students, since there is not adequate reinforcement and opportunity to use the sentence patterns.

To improve vocabulary, students need to read an English language newspaper. Reading habit will improve not only student's vocabulary but also the sense of making sentence. Conscious knowledge of grammatical rules is not essential for language learning, but it is very basic to master the correct use of language, thus facilitating interpersonal communication in English. Therefore, a grammar book will be very helpful during the learning process. Most of the students use the translation method to understand the second language, in this case English. Again, they think of the reply in their mother tongue first and then form a reply by translating. Listening English news or

songs will improve pronunciation skills. English cartoons are very helpful due to pace of speaking very slow and students can understand most of the words most characters use speak. It also makes it easy for students to correct their pronunciation.

To ease problems from the day one itself, an English teacher has to boost the students to talk in English only. This act makes them self-confident. When such type of spoken English classes begins, student-friendly or learner-centric situation will surely triumph, as more and more students will participate in the session. Teachers should encourage students for participative learning. This will solve most of the uncertain blocks in students.

Teaching learning is not a one-way course. It is a multi-way process. As soon as the teaching is over, students should raise their doubts, ask for clarification, etc. By doing so, students' communication skills in English will grow. To develop this, compulsory practice must be given to students in their opening stage. Maintaining classroom management alongside learner-friendly atmosphere would also help overcome the negative elements. This ensures students to learn more and participate more. Above all, a teacher is not only a teacher but also a friend, guide and a philosopher to students. Teachers guide students not only to pass in the exam but also to face tasks and take right decisions during the time of crisis in life. This is, of course, a real and tough task ahead of a good teacher.

Use Creative Methods

Teachers can use some creative method to teach English. Students can learn English in an exciting way. The teacher can make the students to form a group. 5 students may form a group. Some tasks can be given to students in a group. A newspaper can be given to a group and so five newspapers can be given to five groups and teacher can ask the students to read and to find new words or to find words related politics, sports, film, agriculture, disease, etc. which they haven't even come across before. Students will be encouraged by the teachers. By doing this, students will be able to think of the idea and if they find new words they tend to think and refer dictionary and, so they can make sentence from the meaning word. It will improve their knowledge and thinking ability. Teachers can get the students involved in group activities. They can easily think of new words and show their uniqueness in their own way. Thorough Learning is not being successful instantaneously but becoming successful.

Summation

Students often think that the English they speak at home or on the street is the same they will use to write in their exams. However, interpersonal communication doesn't have to be grammatically correct. In order to be clear, students don't always go by the rules they learned in school. If they use such ungrammatical constructions in examinations or tests, then do not get fully educated and or pass their exams with good marks. It is also the case that students don't study English as much as they study other subjects. In most cases, students study English only in the classroom when the teacher is teaching. They don't study pronunciation; they don't study essay writing; and they don't make an effort to learn new words. Learners have to put in their efforts to develop their learning skills. On the whole, the motivation and guidance of the teacher towards the learners makes them to prosper in their life.

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