
LANGUAGE IN INDIA

Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow

Volume 14:5 May 2014
ISSN 1930-2940

Managing Editor: M. S. Thirumalai, Ph.D.
Editors: B. Mallikarjun, Ph.D.
Sam Mohanlal, Ph.D.
B. A. Sharada, Ph.D.
A. R. Fatihi, Ph.D.
Lakhan Gusain, Ph.D.
Jennifer Marie Bayer, Ph.D.
S. M. Ravichandran, Ph.D.
G. Baskaran, Ph.D.
L. Ramamoorthy, Ph.D.
C. Subburaman, Ph.D. (Economics)
Assistant Managing Editor: Swarna Thirumalai, M.A.

Alternative Resources of Learning English Language in Second Language Speaking Countries

Ariful Insan Emon, M.A. & B.A. (Hons.) in English

=====

Abstract

English is the most influential language all over the world now-a-days. Benefit of learning English is known to every educated and uneducated person of this modern world. In my research I try to bring out those elements which are already available in every one's individual life. Learning authentic English in a Second Language speaking country is not very easy. But on the other hand, there are so many opportunities also available too. In my research I locate those possible elements or the ways of learning English language. In research I find that these elements are very effective, communicative and easy for any English language learner.

Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 14:5 May 2014

Ariful Insan Emon, M.A. & B.A. (Hons.) in English

52

Alternative Resources of Learning English Language in Second Language Speaking Countries

Key Words: Research, English, English Language Learning, Second Language.

Introduction

Learning a foreign language needs dedication and effort. Attaining proficiency in a foreign language requires considerable practice. What can one do to practice language skills? The native speakers of the language we are learning may be a continent away or they may be living right in our own community. Now there are a multitude of resources available to today's language learners.

English is one of the most influential languages all over the world. So, English language has become a basic need in many ways for many people. Importance of learning English language is known in all communities. That's why in countries around the world people are learning English language now-a-days as their Second Language.

Language Proficiency

Language proficiency consists of a variety of skills like the ability to speak, comprehend, read, and write and each of these requires a subset of passive or active abilities: knowledge of vocabulary, the command of grammatical structures, understanding of cultural contexts in which language appears. For this reason, it is helpful to practice language in various ways. Besides, none of these skills exists in isolation. Practicing and improving one's ability in one set of skills can also promote language learning in the other areas. Following paragraphs consists discussion of many English language learning resources which are affordable and considerable easy.

Internet

Internet has undeniably brought the world closer to us. Even just a few years ago our communication medium to talk to people abroad was limited. We had only a few options like telephone and letter. Today there are man alternatives for communication which are much faster than snail mail and are still cheap or even free, including e-mail, text or voice chat, fax, text messaging, or video conferencing via the Internet. Now-a-days many online services exist that will allow one to search a databases for language needs, age, and interests. One can find a partner

from nearly every language group/community. There are many web sites now available almost free or at a cheap price which have full facility to learn and practice any foreign language. There are many websites where if you register your name with your email address they will send daily email to you. One can easily learn English by the help of such websites. Moreover, there are many certificate courses available through the Internet. Many international universities operate long distance learning through email or their websites. By spending only a few US dollar one can get a highly prestigious certificate from some institution or the other. One can download free e-books and study kits from many web sites. One can download mp3 books which read the book aloud for you. There are many video websites in the Internet from where one can easily watch many English learning classes and workshops. So, I think now-a-days Internet is the best place for learning English Language. But before learning some thing or download something please check the web sites ranking or information as to who operate these websites and for what purpose..

Watching English Films

Movie is an influential entertainment medium for everybody. People love to watch a movie. Watching an English movie can be an important resource of learning English language. Now with cable-connected TV, we also get many English movie channels. Rental movie stores have foreign film sections. Most films will be either in English movie or with English subtitles. If we do not recognize the accent and have difficulty in following conversations, movies also offer subtitles. If you're choosing a video rather than a DVD, be sure that the film is not dubbed, but rather in the original English language with subtitles. Some university libraries have foreign videos that you can check out. Another alternative is to join an online DVD subscription service. Moreover there are many web sites in the Internet which is based offer movies. And some of the films are even available for download. Especially if any one is a beginning English language learner, he or she will likely not understand much of the language in the movie. Native speakers talk rapidly, use slang, and often speak in accents or local dialects. Nonetheless, watching a English language film is a fantastic way to attune ear to the sounds of the language.

Listen to English Music

Music is an excellent memory aid for language learners. Hearing and learning sung lyrics can improve vocabulary and pronunciation and can reinforce proper use of structures. One can browse compilations of English language music search for CDs of international music at amazon.com or alibris.com, or can listen to live audio from international radio broadcasts. Mike's Radio World and Radio Locator list radio stations around the world with free streaming audio.

Read or Watch Foreign News

The Internet gives web users access to 1000s of international news sources within seconds. The Internet Public Library provides links to online newspapers in over 150 countries. Press Display provides digitized replicas of over 1000 printed newspapers over 1000 newspapers in 82 countries and 39 languages. Some of the content is free, but the company also offers subscription services and allows single issue purchases. **Broadcast-Live** provides link television stations with streaming video. **Multilingual Books** maintains a similar list of TV stations with streaming video for over 30 languages and dozens of countries.

Reading a English language newspaper or watching a video broadcast from another country is a great way to hone English language skills and familiarize with an area where it's spoken. One can easily pick up vocabulary pertaining to current events and become exposed to different perspectives on those events. And one can become aware of local issues of importance to the readers or viewers of that particular news source. After going through the news stories once, read up on international events in your own language to fill in the details that is missed. Then one can go back and read or view the news reports again. The second, or third, or even the fourth time around, in this way one can understand successively more.

Library

Libraries are likely to have a wide range of foreign language materials in their collections. So, it's a big opportunity for any one to get a huge resource of learning material of learning English language. At first find they catalogue and then go for the periodicals section and ask the librarian to point to the English magazines and English newspapers .English

Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 14:5 May 2014

Ariful Insan Emon, M.A. & B.A. (Hons.) in English

55

Alternative Resources of Learning English Language in Second Language Speaking Countries

Language and literature books are located in Usually in English related section . Depending on the need one may find English language books in other disciplines as well, such as history, education, sociology, art, literature and others. If the library has a children's or elementary education section, check for children's books in the English language section. While ample English stories and periodicals are available online, nothing compares with the experience of holding the item in your hands. Print editions have many features that online versions typically don't or can't have.

Find Native Speakers in Your Community

Speaking with a with English native speaker is always a very effective way to improve English speaking ability. There are many psychological reasons behind it. If some one is a second language English speaker it would be the best practice session for him or her. Now question is how can any one find a native English speaking community? Some time may it might be surprising to find that there is an individual or family or even a whole community of English native speakers living in our area or visiting a language department or the international programs office at a local college or university and ask if there are any foreign students or teacher who is native speaker of English language. These students or teachers are often far away from home and will appreciate establishing lasting and meaningful contacts during their stay. Plan activities together, or even invite them to spend holidays. They will also be pleased to meet people who show a genuine interest in getting to know them and their culture. Beyond the university, one could place an ad in the local newspaper expressing a desire to practice of English language skills and might offer to teach own language in return. They usually know where the others are lurking and how to contact them. Native English speakers who are living in other countries are much polite and interested in local language and culture. So it can be beneficial for both of them in case of language and culture exchange.

Conversation Group or Language Club

Universities typically have international student clubs on campus that represent various ethnic backgrounds and cultures. These students' organizations abound in university campuses. Many such groups regularly organize campus events that raise awareness and appreciation of

their respective cultures. So through these clubs one can easily get close to a foreign student who speaks English and also by attending their gatherings one can easily learn English conversation without much effort. Conversation group is another very effective way to develop English language ability. Actually, it is an interesting way to connect with others who share English language. Ask at local colleges and universities if such groups already exist or make a language club or conversation group. Advertise at colleges, Facebook, Twitter, etc. and place a public announcement in the leaflet noting the date, time, and place of the first meeting. If at first you have no takers, don't dismay. The information takes some time to disseminate and to reach the right people. Establish a fixed meeting time and place, say, each Monday at 6:00pm or the first Wednesday of every month at 5:00pm, and you are likely to eventually attract some participants. In conversation group or language club a speaker gets enough time to speak about a topic or subject. This practice is really helpful for speakers for full expression in English about something.

Social Networking & Chat Room

Visiting a foreign language chat room provides a more immediate opportunity to practice language skills than a bulletin board, because a chat room engages speakers in synchronous or live communication. There are free text chat facilities and, increasingly, also voice chat sites available for language learners.. Some general language sites help you find chat partners and/or provide a venue for live communication. One can easily use a text messaging program like AIM or Windows Messenger or Skype for video chat.

American, Canada, Australia or British Embassy's Students Centre

Students Centers can play a vital role in learning English language. Most Student Centres of embassies arrange annual festival, weekly film show, seminars, information week and a lot more. British embassy's student centre is very well known as British Council. British Council always arranges English language courses for different levels of people. On the other hand, American, Canada and Australian embassies always arrange many English learning workshops throughout the year. So an English language learner can easily get a great opportunity to attend these workshops arranged by these embassies

Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 14:5 May 2014

Ariful Insan Emon, M.A. & B.A. (Hons.) in English

57

Alternative Resources of Learning English Language in Second Language Speaking Countries

Plan a Tour

Planning a trip to a country or region where the English language is spoken is also useful. Not only it will be helpful to get the chance to practice English language skills, but it will also be helpful to experience the culture and customs first-hand, from simple human interactions to eating habits, from daily routines to architecture. Travelling to a place where the native English language is a dominant and official language allows one to be surrounded with the language.

Study in American, Canada, Australia or Britain

The absolute best way to be a fluent speaker in English language like a native speaker is to live like one. Studying abroad for a semester or, even better, for a year allows one to be fully immersed in the target cultural and linguistic environment. One can get to know the ins-and-outs of daily life, learn first-hand how to negotiate common situations (shopping, taking the bus, mailing a letter, ordering at a restaurant, etc.), and gain an insider's perspective on the educational system. There are a myriad of possibilities, from short-term or summer study to year-long programs.

Conclusion

There are ample opportunities to practice English language skills, and most are free. One can take those advantages to nurture and improve skills, following all or some of these techniques discussed here.

=====

References

1. Bolton, David (2011). *The Secrets of Successful Language Learning*, New York, David Bolton.
2. Hutchinson, Tom & Waters, Alan (1987). *English for Specific Purposes: A learner-centered approach*. Cambridge University Press.

3. Johns, Ann M. & Dudley-Evans, Tony (1991). *English for Specific Purposes: International in Scope, Specific in Purpose*. TESOL Quarterly 25:2, 297-314.

=====

Ariful Insan Emon, M.A. & B.A. (Hons.) in English
Lecturer
Department of Languages
IUBAT – International University of Business Agriculture and Technology
Embankment River Drive Road
Sector – 10, Uttara Model Town
Dhaka – 1230
Bangladesh
insan@iubat.edu