

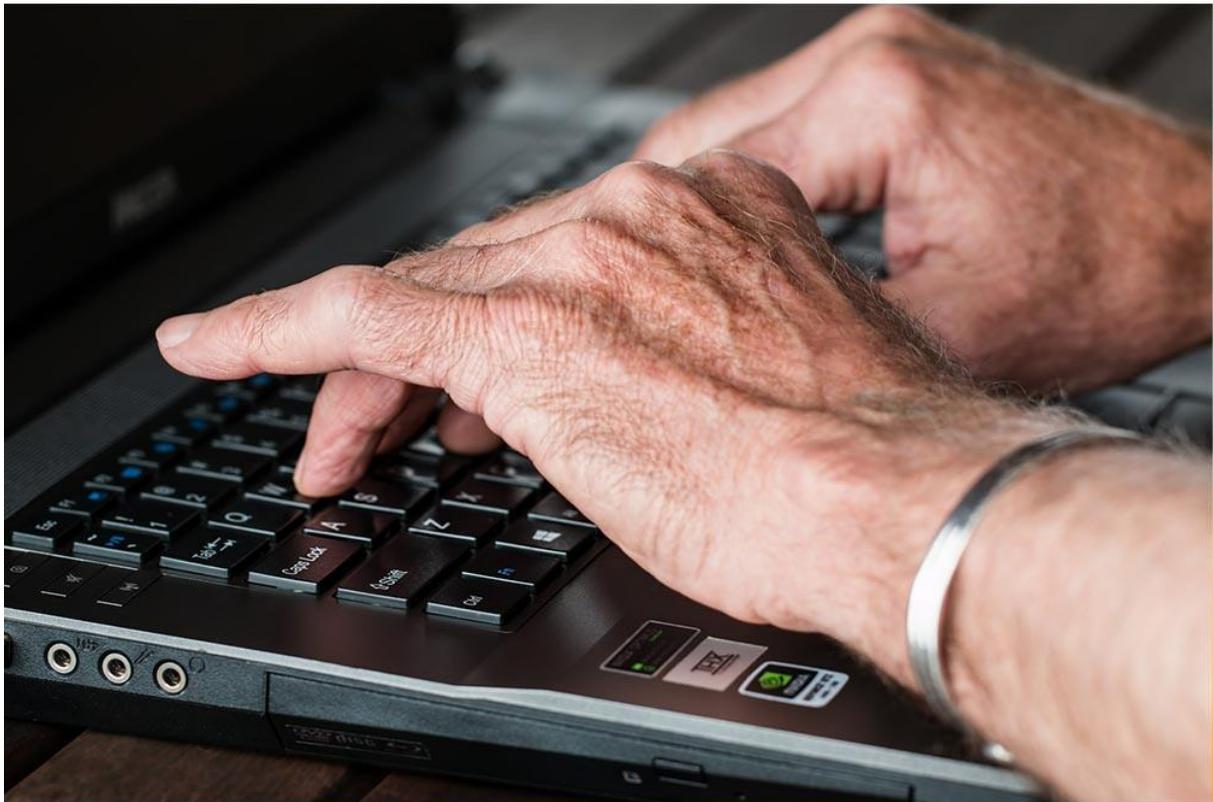
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The Place of English in Education

Abstract

English plays an important role in modern world as the most widely used International languages. English is a link language that served as a great unifying force contributing to the advancement in learning. The role of English influenced geographical, cultural and political factors and also the daily life and growth of an individual. English language teaching policy should be implemented at lower primary level in public and private schools. Libraries help in learning all kinds of languages. They give formal instructions for English language learners as self-directed learning tools. Language is not merely the medium of instruction; it is the medium of growth. It provides fresh and free thinking and research. In education it is to communicate and in general life it is the instrument to pick up information. Cultural background knowledge is acquired by language learners in order to communicate and to increase their comprehension in the target language. English knowledge keeps you abreast to the rest of the world. It has become a source of development in all human activities. English is a big key to open the doors of advanced technology.

Keywords: English in education, library language, human achievement, foreign culture

Introduction

English plays an important role in modern world as the most widely used International languages. English is a link language that served as a great unifying force contributing to the advancement in learning. The role of English influenced geographical, cultural and political factors and also the daily life and growth of the individual. English language teaching policy should be implemented at lower primary level in public and private schools. Libraries help in learning all kinds of languages. They give formal instructions for English language learners as self-directed learning tools. Language is not merely the medium of instruction; it is the medium of growth. It provides fresh and free thinking and research. In education it is to communicate and in general life it is the instrument to pick up information. Cultural background knowledge is acquired by language learners in order to communicate and to increase their comprehension in the target language. English knowledge keeps you abreast to the rest of the world. It has become a source of development in all human activities. English is a big key to open the doors of advanced technology.

English as a library language:

The use of English language as a library language has been accepted by advanced countries where in English is not the mother tongue. The aim of getting knowledge of science and technology, trade and commerce can be acquired by reading standard books in English. It is like a key to the store house of knowledge. The skill of summarising books and periodicals in English quickly and properly is most useful in modern life. With the growth of regional languages English continues to be the link language between states and center, multilingual community world organisations in the fields of science and technology. “Materials used or available as texts in libraries may be in print as well as multi-media formats. Children must be exposed to a whole range of genres.” (Mach 2006) Learners depend on libraries for their

studies to acquire advanced information of knowledge in any domain. This knowledge is more easily available and accessible in English books or books translated in English. English is the essence of using it as a library language.

Importance of English in Education:

English exposes to different concepts that are applied to real business operations. Students benefit socially and economically from learning English. In education, language is not merely the medium of instruction; it is the medium of growth at all levels. English language provides capacity for preservation and communication of intellectual life. As the level of language learning increases, it provides free thinking and research. Language is essential to learn, to retain and to recall our knowledge which is an index of intelligence. The objective of teaching English should be to enable the students to have working knowledge of English. A number of researchers (Prabhu 1987, Krashen 1985, Elley and Mangubhai 1983) have stressed that language is acquired when attention is focused not on language form, but on the meaning of messages. For successful completion of the course, students need to possess adequate command of English and understand lectures with reasonable ease and felicity.

The teaching and learning of English language is characterised by a diversity of schools and linguistic environments with supportive English acquisition and a systematic pervasive classroom procedures of teaching. Teacher beliefs should be modulated by varying degrees of inputs. A cohesive curriculum can be aimed based on guiding principles for language teaching and acquisition. Such curriculum allows for a variety of implementations suitable to local needs and resources. The language curriculum perspective perhaps captures the centrality of language in abstract thought. The aim of language teaching

is the creation of multilingualism that enriches all languages abiding national vision. English language replicates the universal success in the acquisition of basic language proficiency that the learner spontaneously achieves outside the classroom. The role of meaningful language exposure is acknowledged by all cognitive theories of language learning. The emphasis of mastery language learning should shift to regular exposure to a variety of meaningful language inputs. Language exposure may be attempted to well-known speeches and to the structured logical or emotional arguments.

An individual's inherent ability to learn a second language may also be called as 'language learning aptitude'. As different skills are tangled in the process of learning a second language, aptitude needs to include several factors like the ability to identify and remember sounds of second language and recognise grammatical function of words. English language opens the doors to excel in the academic world with latest developments and inventions. Application of global education by English enhances global awareness spreading the learning ascending curve.

English as a window of human achievement:

International literacy promotes international understanding. The power of English language is needed because of the complexity and international team work. " English becomes the most important and vivid means of global communication which prevents our isolation from the world , and a window to the rapid progress and development in all spheres of life."(Balan, 2011) English is the working language of many international organisations and the language of global advertising. It is a language of international commerce. Export and import material, rules and regulations of trade are mostly prepared in English. English language plays a modest role in economic analysis as it is the cash language spoken in the corridors of trade.

Using technology by language teachers has been successful and influential in achieving the intended targets throughout the effective adoption of teaching-learning strategies. Language education provides baseline for the initiation of research projects of current thinking. It also lays foundation for curricular innovations and their implementations and for theoretical progress in understanding second-language acquisition. It is essential to have knowledge of English in the age of scientific advancement and mechanical approach. The language has proved itself as a torch-bearer to nations of third world contemplating as the means of ascending knowledge.

Enriches knowledge of foreign culture:

Culture finds expression in language. Byram says ‘target language culture’ should be taught along with English to acculturate language learners into the cultures of English speaking countries” (Byram & Flemming,1998). The pioneer English Anthropologist Edward B. Taylor opines that culture is “that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, law, morals, custom, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society”. Culture is the way people think and understand the world and their own lives.

A language can be both as a means of communication and as a carrier of culture. They are intricately interwoven and inseparable. It is so evident that language learning and cultural learning are interdependent and can be concluded that language learning is cultural learning and language teaching is cultural teaching. English language teachers should enhance students’ cultural awareness and improve their communication competence. Vocabulary is the basic ingredient of language and language is the carrier of culture. Culture contains way of life, habits and customs. English language teaching should consider socio cultural background in choosing materials and pedagogical approaches based on the contexts of teaching. Mastering a language requires learner’s mastery of the cultural contexts. Cultural

awareness is necessary for developing learners understanding. Teacher has central role in developing cultural awareness of the learners. Teacher should be a facilitator by supplementing core materials to integrate cultural objectives into the learning process.

A new culture is born when two cultures come in contact. English became the medium of instruction and its use got extended to political and cultural life as well as to business and commerce and finally the language of elite class and of social prestige.

Conclusion

The use of English language moved from experimental research to the center of global education. It assists in achieving a better quality of life acquiring knowledge by various respective domains. Learning of English language enabled generations to achieve the dream through plethora of opportunities and liberty. International spread of English language has primarily occurred through the medium of instruction in educational institutions. English promotes multiculturalism but leads to the emergence of global monoculture identity. It provides immeasurable opportunities and uncountable changes. Language is gift of knowledge. English language helps to shape the way people perceive the world and define culture of any society. It makes a man more skilful and efficient in many ways. Knowledge of English opens our minds and guides into a magical world.

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