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PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH: A GOLDEN GATEWAY TO EMPLOYMENT SUCCESS

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ABSTRACT

English is a compulsory ingredient of a successful personality. English proficiency is a key factor for employment success and advancement and also for opening doors to global economic opportunities. Proficiency is best practiced through reading and writing. Non-native speakers of English have to practice the sounds of English. They need to study the pattern of accent or stress. Vocabulary knowledge is one of the most important area of language proficiency. English is as important as a core subject's curriculum in any programme.

The present paper discusses the need of acquiring proficiency in English which is the call of the hour. It deals with the objectives and need of English skills. The necessary activities and technological tools which help effectively in this process are briefly discussed. It also suggests the role of academic institutions in providing the required atmosphere for development of language proficiency. Acquiring this skill will not only assure employment opportunities but also prosperous future.

Key words: English Language Skills, Fluency, Proficiency, Accuracy, Employability, sounds of English, EST

I. Introduction

There are clear reasons why countries with strong English proficiency tend to thrive in the innovation sector. English skills allow innovators to read primary scientific research, form international collaborations, bring in talent from overseas, and participate in conferences. English proficiency expands the number of connections innovators can make with the ideas and people they need to generate original work.

English has come to be the international language and the language of global communication and competence due to political, economical, social and technical reasons. Globalization has made English a compulsory ingredient of a successful personality as it is an important tool widely used in international communication all over the world.

In the globalised context there is economic competition among the countries in the world irrespective of developed or underdeveloped. Employers in the present global market need people who have international experience as well as good qualifications accepted and recognized all over the world. High proficiency in spoken and written English is regarded as the principal prerequisite qualification in employment. So, English is

still the number one language adopted by the entire world. It is not only for the employment but also for the students wishing for higher studies especially in the countries where English is a native or official language.

II. Objectives

- Energizing students to focus on the importance of English language proficiency
- Enabling students to develop competencies to acquire internationally intelligible English
- Refreshing students to acquire proficiency, fluency and accuracy in English
- Motivating students to develop and enrich their English language skills/proficiency.

Among the 28 top-ranked countries on the 60 country EPI ranking, India is in the 21st place/rank indicating moderate proficiency. 97% of Engineers In India Can't Speak English; Less than 20% are Employable For Software Jobs: Aspiring Minds, a leading employability credentialing firm, has revealed that only 18.43% of all engineering graduates are eligible for a software engineer's job in India (trak.in/tags/business/2015/08/11) Lack of English language skills burden job seekers: A command of the English language has turned into a basic requirement for a majority of professional job vacancies in India and abroad. Those who lack either spoken or writing skills are reporting extreme difficulties in finding suitable employment "English proficiency is the most essential means of opening doors to economic opportunity for immigrant workers in the United States," said Brookings. Researcher Jill Wilson "English proficiency is the most essential means of opening doors to economic opportunity for immigrant workers in the United States," said Brookings researcher Jill Wilson.

All these reports say that low proficiency in English or lack of English language skills is proved to be a barrier in academic success, entry of employment and workforce accomplishment. It is known that English communication skills are an important pre-requisite for a career at national or international level. English proficiency is a key factor or employment success and advancement. English language is the window to the world and it is widely accepted as the medium of communication. Good English Communication skills are indispensable in the present globalized context and in all spheres of life such as workforce, official meetings, dealings, seminars, presentations, social gatherings, etc.

III. Why Language Proficiency is Mandatory:

In communication, effectiveness and appropriateness are the basic levels. This effectiveness and appropriateness naturally comes out from the possession of some of the basic foundation of language skills. This foundation itself rises through one's personal and generic qualities. These skills do credit one a status of a learned user. However in the Global Scenario today, the strict observation of the skills such as –communication skills, leadership skills, presentation skills and personality skills etc. lead one to total professional development. In the corporate world today, communicative fluency predominates the circumstances and creates conducive environs. It helps in providing the top-quality individuals who are among themselves the all-rounders. Good communicative abilities make learners proactive and not reactive.

IV. Need of English Language Skills

Employers are constantly in need of employees with strong communication skills covering a wide range of verbal and written communication. As there is multi-cultural and multi-linguistic work force in the companies, employees should be interactive and communicative with others. English is used for official communication in meetings, presentations, training programmes, conferences, letters, documents, reports etc. for this purpose employees are expected to read, write, speak and understand English. Lack of English language skills has been considered a barrier to entry of employment and workforce accomplishment. English communication skills are an important pre-requisite for a career at national or international level. Thus English proficiency proves to be a key factor for employment success and advancement.

V. Suggested Activities: Some of the activities suggested to improvise the language proficiency are as follows:

Activities of listening and speaking: Simulation, role-play, seminars and group discussions on the topics of technology and science are mainly suggested for activities of listening and speaking skills. On the other hand, mock interviews and speeches/presentations are also recommended.

1. Activities of listening and speaking: Simulation, role-play, seminars and group discussions on the topics of technology and science are mainly suggested for activities of listening and speaking skills. On the other hand, mock interviews and speeches or presentations are also recommended.
2. Activities of reading and writing: Different Types of reading-comprehension exercises of science and technical texts are primarily recommended specifically on scanning, skimming, extensive reading, intensive reading, etc.
3. Activities of grammar and vocabulary: The practice of reading and writing helps the students identify tenses, sentence structures, and adjectives, use of modal auxiliaries, conditional sentences, and connectives in technical texts. They can also find out new and technical vocabulary and to know the meanings and usage of the vocabulary. Once these skills are adopted, the speaker enjoys a comfort level in expressing himself.
4. Fluency, Proficiency and Accuracy in English: As a second language learner, one should be fluent, proficient and accurate in English. It means ability to speak or express the language with sufficient structural accuracy and vocabulary to participate smoothly and effectively in most formal and informal conversations on practical, social, and professional topics
5. Practice of the language Skills: Practice of the language Skills In order to be fluent, proficient and accurate in a language like English, one has to undergo practicing the four language skills-LSRW since English is a skill-oriented subject. The four major skills of language learning, listening, speaking, reading and writing provide the right key to success. Teaching- learning of English language while ensuring focus on all these four skills provides a platform for the learners to hone their proficiency in the language well.
6. Focus on practical communication skills: Focus on practical communication skills from day one. The ultimate objective of language education is the ability to communicate with others in the language. Therefore, effective English instruction prioritizes communication over grammatical correctness or the reproduction of native speaker accents. Many adults, having studied in more traditional settings that emphasized grammar over fluency, need extra practice with listening and speaking.
7. Invest in teacher training: If well designed and executed, training programs for aspiring teachers and professional development for established teachers are smart investments. More skilled teachers can influence several generations of students. A teacher always works as a role model for a student. If a teacher uses his language skills effectively inside as well as outside the classroom, it has its own positive impact on the learners. The teacher has to play the role of a motivator, a facilitator. So appropriate investments in teacher training programmes will prove to be highly beneficial for future generation.

VI. Leverage technology and online learning tools: For adult English learners, alternative classroom formats are especially beneficial. MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses), video call tutoring, and online conversation classes all offer working adults more flexible learning opportunities. Self-study apps and other mobile products also allow anyone to learn basic grammar, vocabulary, and listening on the go. It takes a great deal of effort and investment to steer a country or company towards a future with an English-speaking workforce. We hope that by sharing our data and analyses of adult English proficiency trends, we have contributed to global discussions about English language education.

VII. Academic Institutions to Play a Vital Role: It has been reported that some academic institutions particularly running programmes in engineering and technology have been neglecting the teaching of English communication since it is not a core subject.

Therefore the students are badly affected with poor performance in language skills and proficiency in English. Ultimately, it makes them to lead unemployed and unsuccessful life, losing all the prosperous opportunities

VIII. Conclusion

Developing proficiency in English is the basic requirement in today's global economy. Mastery of a language is difficult and expensive, but professionals should understand the value of investing in English training, and companies and governments recognize the link between workforce English and long term competitiveness in the 21st century Thus, English is indispensable to use at workplace and the primary prerequisite qualification for employment. English proficiency is a key factor for employment success and advancement. The four major skills of language learning viz. listening, speaking, reading and writing provide a platform for the learners to polish their proficiency in English. It is very clear that English language plays an eminent role in globalised context. It is widely acknowledged as a valuable accomplishment for life and employability. English proficiency is a key factor for employment success and advancement as English language is the window to the world.

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