

SIGNIFICANCE OF ENGLISH IN ENGINEERING

Prof. Pratima Shah¹

Head of the Applied science & Humanities, S.N.P.I.T & R.C, Umrakh, Bardoli, Gujarat,
India¹

Abstract: Man tries to acquire, learn and use language. Language is a means of communication which plays an important role in the life of man. Language is also a social symbol of humanity. With the help of language, we can make statements, convey facts and share knowledge or report something. Social relations are maintained with the use of language. Thus with the help of language people convey their feelings, ideas, information etc through communication.

English as a language is considered and used as international language. As it is being spoken and learnt by most of the people, it is a popular language. English is important for finding jobs, travelling, interacting with each other, for business purposes, for taking exams, for research etc.

Keywords: IMPORTANCE OF ENGLISH, TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE, ENGINEERING, BASIC LANGUAGE.

I. IMPORTANCE OF ENGLISH

English which has the status of being the lingua franca of the scientific community has a central role in all aspects of life. For e.g. 80% of all the journals are published in English. It has been adopted as the widely used language of science due to historical, economical and political aspects which favoured English over other potential candidate languages such as Chinese, German, Spanish, Russian or French. In the earlier 20th century German was the preferred language in the world of academics. But today English has recognized itself as the core language of international scientific communication. The researchers all over the world publish their works in other languages as well as in English. According to a survey it is observed that researchers preferred to publish their work in English than publishing it in their native language. This applies to all countries.

II. NO MORE A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Being able to communicate is by far the most important ability acquired by humans in the course of evolution. But as we move forward in the time scale, we observe great changes taking place and in this whirlpool of changes, the meaning of communication has changed extensively. Today it does not only mean being able to express yourself effectively so as to convince your subjects of your abilities. The world is growing into a global community and when I speak the word 'community' it is not limited by distances or boundaries but inculcates each one of us, and to express yourself effectively in these vernacular habitat, you need a language that is common to everybody.

Well, in practice, there is no such language which is common to the global community but to bridge the gap, English has a lion's contribution in the huge pie of languages. Yes my friend, English is that one language which has outpaced all other languages and is global in the true sense. English is the language of commerce, global education and global habitation. There was a time when a few successful Indians knew English BUT now to be successful you must know English because it is not just a jumble of words, but hides in itself the glories of the world and to be a part of these so called global community, English is not a requirement, it is a necessity.

English is very important for non-native English users as it is widely used across the world. Being accustomed to English, helps people enjoy their life and work, despite of being anywhere in the world. English has achieved the position of the predominant language of communication among the business experts, scientists and technologists of culturally and linguistically different communities. Good communication skills are vital to open the doors of success in this era of LPG (LIBERALISATION, PRIVATIZATION AND GLOBALIZATION). Technocrats with good communication skills are the assets of any organization. They are the ones who add value to the organizational set-up and continue to set higher levels of standards.

I emphasize on the importance of English being a part of our personality and public skills but that doesn't mean other languages or to be more precise our native languages are not important. Yes, other languages are important too, but not for the same reason as English is. English is important because it is the only language that truly connects the world and establishes a network to facilitate the flow of ideas and innovations in the most diverse of lands. The other languages may be important for their local and cultural values. So it is not a comparison that we wish to establish but a combination to build a better global community.

III. IMPORTANCE OF ENGLISH FOR ENGINEERS

Engineering is a technical arena and it is often believed that in such a technical & sound field of study, communication skills do not have more consideration. But this is just a hoax believed by all. Engineering is one of the wider areas of studies, where most of the works are recorded in English. Without a good grip over the language, students may find themselves being unable to comprehend the concepts that the authors try to convey in their papers. English is a tool that significantly affects the academic life of these technocrats. While most of the theories in engineering are taught in English language, a student is required to have a level of proficiency in English language.

Today the employees look for sound correspondence skills in an engineering graduate along with technical knowledge. So the profile of every modern qualified engineer must emphasize his/her communication skills. In engineering colleges, the lectures are given in English. Thus, students should be at terms with the Basic English abilities to comprehend their lectures. One should not forget that engineers are working in a team and without proper communication; they will not be able to create the world today.

In the globalized world today, engineers from various disciplines come from all parts of the world. They never communicate in engineer's mother tongue. Thus English as the *lingua franca* helps to facilitate effective communication. Fluency in English will help engineers to get their ideas across better and hence get the tasks easier. Proficiency in English is the requisite of the changing tie and for those who don't wish to leave their cocoons and fly colours, all that I can say is:-

“IF YOU DON'T CHANGE WITH THE TIME, YOUR TIME CHANGES FOR EVER.”

IV. REFERENCES

- [01] Tardy, C. (2004) “The role of English in scientific communication: lingua franca or Tyrannosaurus rex?”, *Journal of English for Academic Purposes*, Vol. 3, No. 3.
- [02] Importance of English in Corporate World. By Miss Menon Smita and Mr. Nimesh Patel.