

ELT by means of Recent Development in Technology

Mr. N. Subramaniyan

Assistant Professor of English,
Sir Issac Newton College of Engineering & Technology,
Nagapattinam, Tamilnadu, India - 611 102

Abstract: *As English has become the global language, all we are in need of the language. Some elite people are instinct to know English. But for somebody, it is a difficult task. It may be because of the surroundings or may be the rural background. In some schools, English is not treated as a language, but one of the subjects. This paves the way for the ignorance in English. Though the colleges try their best to inculcate the language into the students, somewhat the students feel shy to speak English. When analyzing the root cause of this problem, it is to be admitted that when they try an unknown language like English, they are treated like jokers in their friends circle. Hence, they hesitate to practice the language. Even though they are interested in learning English, some external factors restrict them from trying. Much is required to be done by the teachers to clear the gap between the English knowns and the English unknowns of the world. The main reason is the atmosphere which the students belong to. They are in an environment where the students are teased by their co-students when they try English, an unknown language. It has to be eliminated. The teachers should create a mother-tongue-free environment to learn. When they do it, the students learn freely without any shy. This paper comes with a suggestion to create such an atmosphere for the students with the help of chatting with other state college students.*

ELT by means of Recent Development in Technology

Introduction

English remains a major medium of instruction in all type of institutions. There are a huge number of books that are in English language. If English is ignored today, it will surely affect the Indian Education system. Students who want to study abroad will have to learn English well. If their command over English is poor, then they may face difficulty in adjusting with the alien environment. In India, the communication with other countries takes place only in English language. For a developing country

like India, it is necessary to be in constant intercourse with other countries. Without English, it is not possible for inter-state communications. Modern India has many large States. People of those states converse in their mother tongue and often they don't understand the regional languages of other people. In such cases, English becomes the common language to all. So, we can deny the importance of English in modern India in no angle. There is no doubt that our mother tongue is more easy-coming than an unknown language like English, but in spite of that there is the necessity and importance of English language in our life.

Problems faced while learning

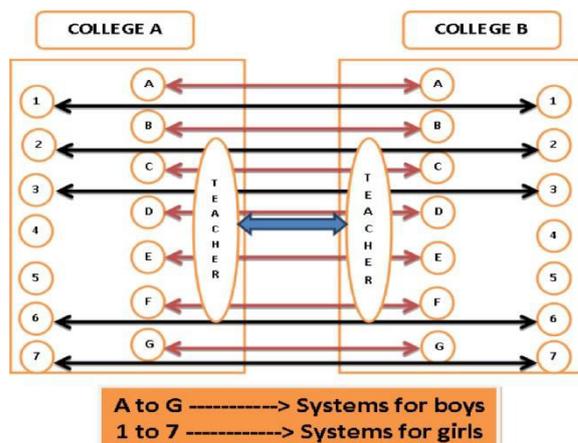
The English language is one of the most popular languages to learn, perhaps it is the most spoken language around the world. Many people choose to learn the language simply to place them in a better position to secure work, or communicate more effectively with more people around the globe. Learning English is a dream in India for many learners. When you discuss them learning English, it seems like a nightmare to them. Even there are many learners who spend much money for learning English but still they are not able to speak in English. English might be a famous language to learn, but this doesn't necessarily mean it is a simple language to master. There are many challenges faced by the people when learning English. Some of them are grammar, vocabulary, slang, colloquialism, pronunciation etc. The students from rural and semi-urban areas in India have such problems. Because, it is not their mother-tongue. It is neither instinctive nor intuitive. Learning English as a second language means acquiring a system of rules, but just as a very little is known about these rules. Students find themselves unable to express in English. However, beyond all these, there are some very important factors that restrict the students from learning English. They are lack of environment, fear of learning, shyness, lack of awareness, friends Gossip etc. Much is required to be done by the teachers to clear the gap between the English knowns and the English unknowns of the

world. Language learning is a natural process for the natives. We can call this as 'behavioristic approach'. But, deliberate efforts are required to learn a foreign language for the students of other languages. It requires a 'mentalistic approach'. Hence, it becomes the duty of the teachers to eliminate such challenges from the students. When the root cause of this problem was analysed, it could be understood that it is the learning atmosphere. When they speak an unknown language like English with full of grammatical errors and pronunciation mistakes, they are treated like jokers in their friends circle. Hence, they hesitate to practice the language. Even though they are interested in learning English, some external factors restrict them from trying. The main reason is the atmosphere which the students belong to. They are in an environment where the students are teased by their co-students when they try English, an unknown language. It has to be eliminated. The teachers should create a mother - tongue – free environment to learn. When they do it, the students learn freely without any shy. This paper comes with a suggestion to create such an atmosphere for the students with the help of communication skills lab.

Inter-College Interaction

From the students' point of view, it is acceptable that the digitalized classroom is far better than the boring conventional method of teaching. If they learn a thing digitally, it attracts them and stimulates them to spend more time in learning. In recent years ELT researchers have become increasingly interested in designing digital classrooms and an inter-connected web-centric world. Students are more interested in chatting. Diamond cuts diamond. Fight the fire with fire. Like that, the teachers can utilize their pace in a positive angle for the welfare of the students. There are two benefits in chatting. First, it is an informal and quick medium requiring students to activate their knowledge in a social context, much as they will need to be in contexts outside the classroom. Second, it leaves all the social barriers behind that occur in the traditional classroom, such as when students feel uncomfortable while speaking up in front of other classmates, so that there can be more fluid and lively dialogue among students. Since they can usually pause to think more acceptably during a chat, and edit one's post before sending it, it is perfect for subjects requiring lots of new and challenging vocabulary. Like ours, all other state students are also struggling with the same problem. The teachers can utilize this to make a mother - tongue - free environment. With a mutual understanding, leaving ego, the colleges of two different states should come forward for their

students. We can call this as "Inter-College Interaction".



What is this Inter-College Interaction? It is nothing but the interaction between the students of two different states. For this, both they should have some common procedures. Here are the suggestions. The schedule and timings for the language lab should be the same for both the colleges. For example, if the class starts at 2 p.m. for one college, the students of other side should also be in front of the systems at 2 p.m. If the duration for one college is for 2 hours, the duration of other side should also be for 2 hours. All the computers should have active internet connection so that they will be able to communicate one another. Each computer should be with a unique sender e-mail id and receiving email-id. It means a particular id should communicate only the specific id which has been exclusively allotted to that. From this, we can avoid unnecessary deviations.

Now, students can be allowed to chat with one another. Here, there is no option to communicate other than English. They will be in a situation where they have to use English, the common language to chat. When chatting with other state students, they will try their level best to convey what they intend to. There will be an indirect sport between each other to show their stuff in the language. Here, there won't be any nervousness as they have enough time to frame sentences. Gradually, their speed of framing sentences will increase without their knowledge. In their chatting, they may gain many things such as getting job opportunities, knowing different life styles, help in doing projects, having a healthy relationship etc. They can also learn error free spellings. Also there may be some inconveniences while chatting. As the participants are the college students and in the stage of adolescence and teenage, there may be possibilities of love affairs between boys and girls. To avert such disadvantages, computers must be allotted

separately for boys and girls. Boys should chat only with boys and girls only with girls. To avoid the misbehaviors and misunderstandings between the students or the colleges, the trainers should monitor the process every now and then. The matters chatted should not be deleted without the trainer's concern. In such a way, the password system should be. When we eliminate the external challenges, surely, it will be a pleasant environment to practice English. In the beginning, it may take some time to frame correct sentences. But, certainly, day by day, they will get improved by means of learning new vocabularies. If they have completed the task successfully and have gained some exposure in usage of English, we can take them to the next level where they may be allowed to chat face-to-face. In this level, there is not going to be a big change. All the procedures are same. Only the difference is speaking instead of typing.

When they are already familiar with framing sentences in English, it will be so easy for them to make real time conversations. They can also get practiced over pronunciation. Subsequently, they will become the master in English. Through this, the students will be bold to attend the interviews. They will be strong enough in communicating in English.

Conclusion

The teaching techniques have to catch up to the new pace of learning. Teachers can use technology to enable students to meet people of different cultures, explore new worlds, do source research. In this case these materials appeals to students and motivate them. It opens up a new world for the students. It creates flexible learning paths in learners' minds. Teachers as facilitators try to involve learners in the class.