
**CONTRIBUTION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES IN INDIA FOR ALL ROUND
DEVELOPMENT OF THE ADOLESCENTS**

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“I would have English as an associate, additional language, which can be used not because of facilities, but because I do not wish the people of non-Hindi areas to feel that certain doors of advance are closed to them. So, I would have it as an alternative language as long as people of India require it.”

Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru.

Introduction :

Language is taken utmost importance in our lives. According to Jespersen, “Language is nothing but a set of human habits, the purpose of which is a given expression to thoughts and feelings and especially to import them to others.” A language may be said as a method by which a person expresses his thoughts and feeling in such a way that they can be understood by others. When we think about the importance of language in expression, we can remember the first story in the Bible, i.e, the story of tower of Babel. According to the Bible, men had grown very proud to the point of believing, they were as mighty as God. But God is mightier than they and he proved on it, he turned out their tongues in that extend, so that no longer spoke the same language. Men could not understand one another’s directions or orders. The tower could not be completed because of the lack of means of understanding. Thus, the story tells us the importance of language for expression and understanding.

English is one of the most important global languages. Most of the international transactions of recent times were concluded in English. The language has contributed significantly to bringing people and their culture closer. The benefits of learning English can be seen in the economic, social and political life of the people of the country.

The English word language is derived from the Latin word “Lingua” which means tongue. Language may be said to be a means of expressing emotional or mental concepts by any living being. Language is one of the most important and characteristics forms of human behavior.

Research shows that learning a second language boosts problem-solving, critical-thinking, and listening skills, in addition to improving memory, concentration and the ability to multitask. Children proficient in other languages also show signs of enhanced creativity and mental flexibility.

Historical Background of English:

English was initially the language of England, but over the historical efforts of the British Empire, it has developed the primary or secondary language of numerous former British colonies such as the United States, Canada, Australia, Sri Lanka and India etc. Currently, English is the primary language of not only countries actively touched by British imperialism, but also many business and cultural spheres dominated by those countries. In another word even outside of countries like the U.S and the U.K, many people can speak and understand English. It is the language of hollywood and the language of international banking and business. As such, it is a useful and even necessary language to know. An estimated, 1 billion people worldwide speak English on top of this, 67 countries that have English as their official language and there are 27 countries that have English as their secondary official language. Why is this? It all has to do with history and the key is the British Empire.

By means to learn English as second language:

The council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), U.S, defines English language proficiency that a fully English proficient student is able to use English to ask questions to understand teachers and reading material to test ideas and to challenge what is being asked in the classroom. Four language skills contribute to proficiency as follows:

- **READING**—the ability to comprehend and interpret text at the age and grade appropriate level.
- **LISTENING**-the ability to understand of the teacher and instruction, comprehend and extract information and follow the instructional discourse through which teachers provide information.
- **WRITTING**—the ability to produce written text with content and format fulfilling classroom assignments at the age and grade appropriate level.
- **SPEAKING**—the ability to use oral language appropriately and effectively in learning activities (such as peer tutoring, collaborative learning activities and question/answer sessions) within the school.

Hence, the teacher should keep in mind while teaching English as a second language to the students.

Xiamei Sun, (2012), commented that English is the language of the world. With the fast progressing of modernization, international communication happens more frequently. Owing to the importance of the English language, the author studied English teaching and learning as a strong foundation to the language competency. It was seen that teachers lay a lot of emphasis on the language, but neglect speech. In doing

so, competence of the language application and intercultural communication is not developed. This leads to separation of learning and use, leading to what is described as “deaf English”. This in turn defeats the primary purpose of communication, which is to express ourselves. It is advocated that English should be learnt in a way that the learner is able to “speak” than “read”. It was suggested that changes be made in the teaching mode, syllabus and student’s role in problem solving.

Jizhen Huang, (2012), studied assessment of learning. The learner’s perception towards the prescribed English course was assessed positive attitude was found as it developed the student’s language competence, enhanced their cross-cultural knowledge and promoted learning autonomy and motivation.

The demand for the language is revealed in attitudes and loyalties. Hohenthal (1998;2003) in a domain analysis and attitudes towards English language found that English is the language of formal communication and it is becoming a language for information and communication for certain sections of the society. Though there is a strong tendency to see one’s language as an instrument for regional language and national identity with Hindi, English is considered to be the language essential for knowledge, scientific advancement and development. In his understanding of English language education and the question of Indian nationalism. Dash (2009) argues that the vernacular in India is as much a site for the production of power and privilege as English. Nationalist characterization of the vernacular is as problematic as the democratic other of English in the contexts of caste and class and the complexity of both the vernacular and English in cultivating elitism in India. Learners at this secondary stage express the preferences to English as a language and as medium instrumental reasons. The impact of English as an international language is felt in the day-to-day use of English in academic and social setting (Koul, 2001, Hussain, 2012).

Social attitudes towards English language in the context of Bihar indicates that the demand, both over stated and real one, for the language is very positive for it is assumed to instrumental for personal progress and national economic development, for workforce, social life, identity and social status and for higher education (British council, 2016). Attitude towards English in any other part of India would have shown similar finding.

Dr. Reena Mittal (2014) mentioned that English has become an integral part of modern life. So, it’s newspapers. We usually begin our day with the newspapers and their headlines. So why not make this important part of life easier for us, our cup of learning. The journal focuses on various aspects, benefits and novel ways of reading newspaper that will help to learn English. There are also suggestions for some tasks and exercises that can be implemented interactively in the classroom for effective English learning. Not only will these exercises teach them, but in a humanistic way they will remove their shortcoming.

Economic value of English language and the return to English language as a skill for employability and a life skill have been felt during the last decades. More experienced and more educated workers receive higher returns to English-language skills. “The complementarity i.e. mutual benefits between English skills and education appears to have strengthened over time.” The more educated among young workers earn a premium for English skills, whereas older workers across all education groups do earn a premium with or without English (Azam, Chin & Pradesh, 2010).

English empowers young minds not only in passing exams but in demonstrating their acumen before the world. Technical institutions have realized the importance of communicating in English in response to the increasing needs the job market. Most of the organizations require people in different capacities with good communication abilities which comprise interacting with customers and clients, explaining policies and procedures, entertaining foreign clients, conducting meeting, delivering presentations, liaising, responding to customer complaints and taking orders, etc. Since the world has gone global, the need to compete on it without efficiency in English is difficult. Many organizations have started training their employees in English time to time. This has ameliorated the lifestyles of people who considered their future blocked forever if they failed to make it to teaching or so other traditional jobs. In fact, the knowledge of English plays a role in all times. People frequently fail to communicate effectively because they don't express themselves clearly or forcefully enough. They may go to the other extreme, expressing themselves in such a belligerent way that they alienate others. For example, if a husband says to his wife, 'I like your face but not your food' his wife may feel bad after hearing this kind of comment. But if the husband knows the art of communication, he would say the same thing in two sentences: 'I like your face' 'communication' and then some pause would say; 'The food needs some improvement.' With this kind of communication, she will never feel about it. Communication is the central human activity. We are now witnessing the emergence of an advanced economy based on information and knowledge. Probably the most important skill for knowledge workers in the new environment is ability to communicate. This means people should be able to listen and express their ideas effectively in writing and through speech. In order to achieve desired success, professional needs to assess and respond to communication situations that occur constantly.

Language policy is being implemented to safeguard languages in India. It is one of the important aspects of our constitution. Under this policy, besides Hindi, 21 other languages are recognized as scheduled languages by the constitution.

Main features of India's language policy as follows:

1. Our constitution did not give the status of national language to any one language. Hindi was identified as the official language. But Hindi is the mother tongue of only about 40 percent of Indians. Therefore, there were many safeguards to protect other languages.
2. A candidate in an examination conducted for the central government positions may opt to take the examination in any of these languages. States too, have their own official languages of the concerned state.
3. Unlike Sri Lanka, the leaders of our country adopted a very cautious attitude in spreading the use of Hindi. According to the constitution, the use of English for official purposes was to stop in 1965. However; many non-Hindi-speaking states demanded that the use of English continue.
4. In Tamil Nadu, this movement took a violent form. The central Government responded by agreeing to continue the use of English along with Hindi for official purposes.
5. Promotion of Hindi continues to be the official policy of the government of India but promotion does not mean that the central government can impose Hindi on states where people speak a different language.

Thus, the framing of the languages policy was the test for Indian federation. It inspired the confidence in different language speaking people that no language will be imposed on them. In a way, Language policy has strengthened the unity and integrity of India.

English In International Context

English is a world language, not belonging to any particular group. At present it has become a language of universal culture which embraces so many departments of knowledge. It has been holding and will continue to hold a unique position in the world. English language is an easy means of communication in the international sphere of life. Richard W. Baily and Manfred Gorlack (1984) point out that English is the sole official language of twenty-one nations and in sixteen more it is the co-official language of government, education, broadcasting and publication. According to best estimate, English is the first language of some 300 million people around the world. Nearly an equal number claim to have the same proficiency, from full proficiency to limited speaking ability in English as an additional language.

Indian who use English are estimated to be only 5 percent of national's population; but this group forms a very large portion of those who are in leadership roles and are concentrated in the largest cities in the country where English function as lingua franca. The age at which the teaching of English starts at school varies between different states. It is generally between age 7 and 12. Examination in English at school leaving and first degree stages are compulsory in the majority of the states and optional in others. English is however widely regarded by students and parents alike, as the languages of opportunity opening the door to higher education, a better job, upward social mobility and so on. Consequently, there is a widespread general desire to learn the language.

Reasons to Learn Languages

Connect

One of the most rewarding aspects of human experience is our ability to connect with others. Being able to communicate with someone in his or her language is an incredible gift. Bilinguals have the unique opportunity to communicate with a wider range of people in their personal and professional lives. Knowing the language makes you a local no matter where you are, opening up your world literally and figuratively. You will be shaped by communities. You will be humbled by the kindness of strangers. You will build lifelong friendships. And for these reasons alone, you will see the reward of learning languages for many years to come.

Advance your career

Languages skills can be a significant competitive advantage that sets you apart from your monolingual peers. They are among the top eight skills required of all occupations-no matter your sector or skill level-and the demand for bilingual professionals is rising exponentially. In fact, between 2010 and 2015, the number of U.S. job postings specially geared toward bilingual candidates more than doubled. Employers are seeking professionals who can communicate seamlessly with customers in new and expanding overseas markets, as well as serve and sell to a large foreign born population here at home. With more than 60 million, U.S. residents who speak a language other than English at home, you don't need to get on a plane

to put your language skills to work. As added incentives, in many instances, language skills also lead to hiring bonuses and increased salaries. Whatever your career aspiration- with language skills added to the mix, you're ahead of the crowd.

Feed your Brain

The many cognitive benefits of learning languages are undeniable. People who speak more than one language have improved memory, problem solving and critical thinking skills, enhanced concentration, ability to multitask, and better listening skills. They switch between competing tasks and monitor changes in their environment more easily than monolinguals, as well as display signs of greater creativity and flexibility. If that weren't enough, as well as being bilingual or multilingual also helps to stave off mental aging and cognitive decline.

Deepen your connection to other cultures

Language is the most direct connection to other cultures. Being able to communicate in another language exposes us to and fosters an appreciation for the traditions, religions, arts and history of the people associated with that language. Greater understanding in turn, promotes greater tolerance, empathy, and acceptance of others-with studies showing that children who have studied another language are more open toward and express more positive attitudes toward the culture associated with that language.

See the World

Travelling as a speaker of the local language can revolutionize a trip abroad. While monolingual travelers are capable of visiting the same places, travelers who know more than one language are more easily able to navigate outside the tourist bubble and to connect and interact with the place and its people in a way that is often inaccessible to those without the language. Learning a second language also opens additional doors to opportunities for studying or working abroad.

Go to the Source

In a world of more than 6,000 spoken languages, we sometimes require translation, but speaking at least one additional language empowers us to access information that would otherwise be off-limits. For example, individuals proficient in other languages are able to navigate the internet as genuine global citizens- consuming and assessing foreign media and entertainment.

Become a Polyglot

Not only does learning a second language improve communication skills and multiply vocabulary in your first language—yes, really!—but research shows that it makes picking up additional languages a much easier feat, especially among children. That's because when you learn a new language, you develop new brain networks that are primed and ready when you embark on learning a third language.

Boost your confidence

Any language learner can attest to making his or her share of mistakes while discovering a new language – often in front of an audience. It's a necessary part of the learning process! Learning a language means putting yourself out there and moving out of your comfort zone. The upside is the amazing sense of accomplishment, you'll feel when conversing with someone in their native language.

Strengthen your Decision Making

Studies show that decisions made in your second language are more reason- driven than those made in your native language. Contrary to popular assumptions, when we deliberate in a second or third language, we actually distance ourselves from the emotional responses and biases deeply associated with our mother tongue. The result Systematic and clear- headed decisions based on just the facts.

Gain Perspective

As we explore a new language and culture, we naturally draw comparison to what is most familiar. Learning about another culture sheds light on aspects of our own culture-both positive and negative-we may not have previously considered. You may find a greater appreciation for what you have, or you may decide to shake things.

Conclusion:

English was the easiest language to learn and it was the most important language in the world. Apart from our economic and technological development, knowledge of foreign language was also necessary for our cultural development. This would enable us to keep in touch with different streams of thought in the world. Language is essential to the human experience. We communicate our ideas, feelings and needs with language, and we use language to understand the world. Infants and toddlers around the world seem to go through the stages in learning language, and by age 3 or 4, most can speak fairly clearly to those around them. Language development does not end in preschool. All four aspects of language (phonology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics) continue to develop and become more complex and sophisticated through adolescence. English language is transforming its multidimensional communicative structure day by day, and in the process has enhanced its utility quotient in India. English is available to us as a historical heritage in addition to our own language. We must make the best use of it to develop ourselves culturally and materially so that we can compete with the best in world of mind and matters. Many organizations have started training their employees in English from time to time. This has ameliorated the life styles of people who considered their future blocked forever if they failed to make it to teaching or some other traditional jobs.

The importance of foreign language cannot be denied. Especially English is an international language in the world. Most people are using this language on the daily life. It is this an important language because we use this language to communicate with other countries people. English is a common language and you can use English to become an international person. By mastering in English will able to learn more knowledge and gather more information. English helps to get jobs in globalization use English as major priority.

English is the most dominating language in the world. This is having its impact on every field of work. Undoubtly, English play a much greater role in the world that is inevitable for people to ignore it fully. It has a bright future, it helps connect us in a global world, and it can also help us in our personal and professional life. Although learning English can be challenging and time consuming, we can see that it is also very valuable to learn and can create many opportunities.

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