

# The Spoken form of English in Chhattisgarh State: A Theoretical Study

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## Abstract

*English is the aspiration symbol of people. They want to have quality in education and participate nationally and internationally in opportunity games. The context of the whole employability and education are in the changing stage. This article traces about the spoken form of English in a multilingual state. This paper focuses on a theoretical study of a spoken form of English in Chhattisgarh state. It also gives a brief overview of language learning pattern and the problems to adopt English by the mass of the people.*

**Keywords:** English language learning, Steps to learning a language, English language teaching communication skills.

## Introduction

Knowledge of English would be a passport to economic, social and educational advancement. This statement shows how English is very important in this globalization age in India. India is a union of states and union of territories. For administration, the country is divided into 29 states and 7 centrally administered union territories. The literacy rate of Chhattisgarh is 71.3. Among male, it is 80.3 and in female 60.2. Education and employability are not sufficient in the state. English plays an important role to provide good professional education and employment.

Seventeen years have passed since Chhattisgarh state was formed, it is a growing state, having rich mineral resources and also it has a good work force. There are some problems in fast development and employability in Chhattisgarh. Income percentage of the national population is only 2.11, and per capita income in Chhattisgarh is Rs 53825. As per the gross fiscal deficit is 81.1 % and the poverty rate is 39.93 %.

Chhattisgarh is truly a land of opportunities. With all major minerals including diamonds in abundance, it is the richest State in mineral resources. There are mega industries in Steel, Aluminum, and Cement. Chhattisgarh contributes substantially to the Human Resources of India. Several hundred students from the State qualify for admissions in prestigious academic institutions every year. (Public Relation Office of Chhattisgarh) Chhattisgarh is an agriculture-based state, on the other side, it is very rich in its natural resources, mineral. Majority people involved in the primary sector working like agriculture and animal husbandry.

Now youth population shifts themselves into service sectors. Now the people are providing education to their children. The students want to get career opportunities in multinational companies, and they want to migrate towards big cities. But there is a breaker on their path; it is English. The most of the students are not good speakers of English language. They only read and write in English. They are not capable of writing in English in their own words. They are not able to face interviews and group discussions in English. A very less percentage of students have this capability. What are the reasons behind this, it is being focused.

### Facts regarding Chhattisgarh

Chhattisgarh is the twenty-sixth state of Indian union, and it had been carved out from Madhya Pradesh, came into existence as a separate state of India on 1st November 2000. In ancient times the region was known as Dakshin-Kausal. Between the sixth and twelfth centuries Sarabhpurias, Panduavanshi, Somvanshi, Kalchuri and Nagvanshi rulers dominated this region. Kalchuris ruled in Chhattisgarh from 980 to 1791 AD. With the advent of the British in 1845, Raipur gained prominence instead of capital Ratanpur. In 1904 Sambalpur was transferred to Odisha and estates of Sarguja were transferred from Bengal to Chhattisgarh.

The following table shows about some facts of Chhattisgarh.



Particulars	Rank in India
Population	17
Area	10
Density	27
Literacy	27
Sex ratio	06
Urban Population	07

### Languages and Dialects Spoken in Chhattisgarh

Chhattisgarh has always been a multilingual land. The cultural diversity is an asset of Chhattisgarh. The people belong to different and diverse cultures. The cultures are ancient. Chhattisgarh is a Hindi speaking state. The Official Language of the state is Hindi. Chhattisgarhi has been the dialect of Hindi for a long time, but the government of Chhattisgarh Promotes Chhattisgarhi as also one of official languages. The following table shows about the languages spoken in Chhattisgarh and number of their speakers.

Language	Speakers	Percentage
Hindi & Chhattisgarhi	1,72,10,481	82.61
Gondi	8,94,806	4.29
Oriya	8,19,098	3.93
Halabi	5,44,874	2.62
Kurukh	4,44,008	2.13
Bengali	2,08,669	1.00

As per above table, the figures show that the majority people of Chhattisgarh speak in Hindi and Chhattisgarhi. English is spoken by few people only. On the other hand, the students want to get an education in English. (Chhattisgarhi at Ethnologue (16th ed., 2009)

### The English language was introduced in India by the British

English is enjoying associate official language status along with Hindi. The constitution makers declared that English would have been an associate official language for next fifteen years, but the existence of English has been spreading in India very fast even though English faced starting a protest.

Although it was not mentioned in the original list of the 14 constitutional languages (“major regional languages”) listed in the Eighth schedule, nor in its successive amendments, English is the official language of 4 North Eastern States and 8 Union Territories. ( Of the twenty languages officially recognized (Manipuri, Nepali, Assamese, Bengali, Oriya, , Urdu, Marathi, Konkani, Gujarati, Sindhi, Panjabi, Kashmiri, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Tamil, Malayalam, Santhali, Chhattisgarhi, plus Hindi outside the list of the VIIIth Schedule) and used in administration.

### **Importance of English in Chhattisgarh**

The language of an economically strong community is attractive to learn because of its business potential. Knowledge of the language potentially opens up the market for producers to penetrate a market if they know the language of the potential customer. (Ammon, 1995, p.30).

English is useful in business. It is very important to get technological support. Presently English is the language of computer and without the help of English language; it is very difficult to connect with the world through internet. Modern education is based on English medium. All the professional courses like medical, engineering, management, etc. are in English medium. So for the development of state and providing opportunities to educated youth without the Knowledge of English, it is quite a difficult task.

These are the main reasons that English is being demanded in Chhattisgarh.

#### **1. Uses of social media**

The people frequently use social media sites. And they want to get enjoyment fully. Face book, Whatsapp, Twitter, Instagram, etc. are the main sites. The youth have cell phone facilities with internet connectivity. They are fond of using these social sites. The language mainly used in these sites is English. The Chhattisgarh youth are not very much comfortable with English .

#### **2. Internet**

Use of the internet is popular now after digitalization and implementation of so many government plans. The people are forced to use their

e-banking. Due to the languages used in Computers is English so again they face the problems to understand the contents.

### **3. Job Opportunities**

There is the shifting of employment sector from agriculture to service sector. It is the time of globalization and the youth who take education in Chhattisgarh, also want to avail the opportunities. Good opportunities for employment are available in multinational companies. Jobs are available in BPO, KPO, in call centers. There English is compulsory. There are so many other reasons for getting English knowledge.

### **Status of English in India**

English is one of the two official languages of India, and it serves three purposes

1. Provide a linguistic tool for administrative communication between the union and the state governments. Hindi is mainly spoken in north India.
2. It is a linguistic bridge between India and the world.
3. The English language is used in parliament, courts, media, journalism, education, etc. It has become the de facto standard for education, research, and Commerce and most recently in Internet communication.

### **Literacy, Education, and Employment in Chhattisgarh**

India is a union of states and union of territories. For administration, the country is divided into 29 states, and 7 centrally administered union territories including the national capital territory are Delhi. The literacy rate of Chhattisgarh is 71.3.

Among male, it is 80.3 and in female 60.2. Education and employability are not satisfactory in the state. English plays an important role to provide good professional education and employment. Chhattisgarh consists 168 statutory towns and 14 census towns, but there are 20126 villages here.

So demographically the difference between rural population and urban population is huge.

## **The Pattern of Spoken Language Learning in Chhattisgarh**

Chhattisgarhi is a language spoken in the Indian state of Chhattisgarh, by 24 million people.

There are mainly two languages spoken in Chhattisgarh; Hindi and Chhattisgarhi. Hindi is spoken only in urban areas, but the majority of people who live in rural as well as urban they use Chhattisgarhi in their day-to-day conversation. As the scientific system of learning a language is observing a child that how a child learns his/her first language.

When a child is born he/she can listen, and before starting to speak any language, he/she use to listen to the native or mother language. Whatever he/she listens, he starts speaking in that language only. In that language, he/she gets input he/she gives output. If he/she listens Hindi or Chhattisgarhi, than he/she starts to use Hindi or Chhattisgarhi only. When the child goes on listening and speaking the native language in the begin,ning he/she may commit the mistakes while speaking. So there peer group like their parents or elders they correct his/her language, grammar, etc. Likewise, he rectifies the mistakes, and after some times when he/ she reach at the age of four, he/she uses the correct language. When the child starts his/her schooling, he/she starts to learn reading and writing the language.

## **Chronological Order of Learning Spoken Language by the Children**

There are four major steps of learning a native language.

1. Listening
2. Speaking
3. Reading
4. Writing

Above are the scientific steps of learning a language. When the children are born they follow all the above steps at different age level.

## **Standard of English in Education**

The English language is taught in two different categories. Firstly there are some schools; those are of English medium. Maximum schools are of Hindi medium, and their Hindi language is considered as a medium of instruction. When the children start to

go to the schools, the problem of the environment of English speaking arises. Only the children use to go to the school and start to read and write in English. The subjects are taught in Schools like science, math, etc. Although the subjects are taught in English the mode of conversation of teachers mostly is in Hindi except for few schools. There is only one period of English language in that period only text books reading, grammar, and writing in English. There is no period of conversation in English. When the children are free from the schools, they use to speak their native languages like Chhattisgarhi or Hindi. The children go to their homes, and their parents and family members talk in the native language. Children move to play outside the other friends also speak their native language, so in the schools, only children learn to read and write in English.

## **The Problem of Unemployment Due to English**

The children keep on passing the exams at primary and middle level, but due to not using English as their conversation, they do not understand English properly, so they are unable to think in English. When they try to speak English, the other persons cannot understand English, so their communication is failed. For making other persons understand only easy option for them is to use their native language.

Thus the creative part of their writing in English is not improved, they become weak, and their thoughts are not generated in English. When they go for higher education, the compulsory medium is English there, so they are not able to understand and learn the contents because whatever the knowledge is given them through the books or the professors it is in English and the children are not very much comfortable with English. Although they read and write in English they are not good at English, so their subject knowledge becomes weak. They are not fit for the group discussion and interviews. Most of the students have had a fear of English, so they do not even try to face the competitive exams because these exams are in English mostly. The students of Chhattisgarh miss the opportunities in multinational companies, call centers, Business Process Outsourcing (BPO), Knowledge Process Outsourcing (KPO), etc. So the unemployment rate in

educated youth is increasing day by day. Thousands of engineers, Managers and technical professionals are jobless in Chhattisgarh. The major reason is not good command over the English language.

### Conclusion

The state government should pay attention regarding the problems. Only steps of opening schools or colleges are not sufficient. These institutions are established to be provided the education and knowledge but whatever the knowledge is given it must be user-friendly but the receivers of the knowledge, are unable to understand the language. So they do not get the full advantages of education.

### Suggestions

1. A board of experts must be formed to study and to analyze the problems.
2. English learning programs must be compulsory for the teachers so that they can teach and make the students learn the language.
3. If the schools or colleges are providing English medium education so there must be English spoken by the students.
4. English conversation classes must be conducted.
5. Mock interviews and group discussions must be organized in schools and colleges.

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