
IMPROVING COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCY OF RURAL AREA ENGINEERING STUDENTS

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Article Particulars

Received: 16.5.2017

Accepted: 20.5.2017

Published: 19.6.2017

Abstract

This research paper highlights the improving communicative competency of rural area engineering students as and the problems faced by them during academic as well as skilled life and its possible remedies. Majority of the students in engineering colleges are from rural areas. They do possess intelligence necessary for getting admission for higher learning but they lag behind in the English communication competence. So, during academics and career they face a lot of problems. To be successful in studies and campus. It is important to achieve English communication competence. The teachers and students should combine and make efforts which include plan and active participation of teachers and students in teaching – learning method comprising question answering session, Role plays, GD's and Language Lab session.

Importance of English Communication for Engineering Students

Engineering is the biggest field of study in the world. First of all English is a tool that significantly affect engineering students in academic life While most of the subject that is to be taught in engineering are taught in English, it requires having good English communication competence. In academic life,

engineering students have to deal with the countless English lectures, tutorials, labs, project reports and papers. The most convenient source of information i.e. Internet provides most of the information in English. After securing the job they are required to work in groups since their task seldom be solved by a personality. So, being an engineer requires co-operating and communicating with different people from different part of the world. English is used as the working language on large extent. In order to co-ordinate with the colleagues, engineers have to speak fluent English. So, English communication plays a dominant role in the academic life and career of engineering students.

Alternative Texts in Engineering Education

Alternative texts can help in advance communication skills in engineering, as well as broaden students' imagination and understanding of concepts and disciplines beyond the current engineering domain. Such alternative texts include science invention stories and so-called tech wizards, which can present topics on different subjects and ideas outside the current scope of science and engineering. Such texts do not undermine the core knowledge required of practicing engineers, as students can question the feasibility of technological aspects within the recognized framework of literature. Ward has utilized various non-traditional texts to impart to students knowledge of engineering management and safety, among other subjects. Indeed, literature can help in the formation of language literacy, whether it is EFL or ESL. Spans have stated that literary texts are ... at the heart of language. Mentor need to keep up-to-date with such current and past popular texts, and treat them as credible opportunities for the further exploration of engineering and science topics.

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Problems Faced by Engineering Student from the Rural Areas

In our country, about 75% students of the engineering are from rural areas and most of them are coming through regional language medium schools. No doubt that as they have entered into the engineering colleges, they do possess aptitude i.e. necessary qualification for higher education and bright future. But, at every walk of life and career English becomes an obstacle in their way of career. So, let us examine the reasons which make English as a souring grape for rural students even today in this modern era.

Socio Economic Background of Family

Classroom contains students from different strata of the society who possess different grasping power and English communication competence. It is found that the English communication of the students whose parents are literate belongs to elite class is better than that of the students whose parents are ignorant and belong to lower middle class. The fact for these circumstances is the literate parents can provide more publicity to their child to English as they are aware of the importance of English competence. They consult the teacher about child's progress and guide him/her at home to perform better. Infection is the thing that is never happened with the second middle group as they lack parental caring and guidance from to the higher education.

Controversy Upon Learning Grammar of English as a Second Language

There is a much debate upon learning English as a second language. Researchers says that had we learnt grammar of our mother tongue from a different tongue . So, grammar is learnt only for the sake of getting marks and not as a tool for learning a language. The application is guaranteed by grammatical skills.

Lack of Exposure to the English Communication

The rural area students are short of the exposure to the English communication in the family, society as well as in the colleges. Due to be short of speaking skills even the merituos gold medalist fail to achieve success during personal interviews due to lack of communication skills, soft skills, interpersonal skills and personality development. During academics also be deficient in of confidence of being unable to communicate in English leads to feeling of inadequacy complex, as a result students keep themselves feeling alone and secluded.

Remedies

Knowing the importance and growing demand of English communication competence for engineering students from rural areas, there a need for the teachers as well the students to make incorporated efforts.

1. Faculty is expected to fulfill their assigned responsibilities. But apart from that they should consider it as their moral accountability to take more efforts to provide more exposure to English language for students as to achieve communication competence. The students when forced to learn communication on their own, they find it as a formidable task. Now days a comprehensive course which focus on both writing and speaking skills is introduced

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in most of the universities in Maharashtra. So, during the interactive sessions the students should be encouraged and helped to talk. So, that the students can built an ability to participate in various activities such as paper presentations, GD's, mock interviews, role plays etc. to develop English communication proficiency. It is necessary that Students Talk Time (STT) should be higher than Teacher Talk Time (TTT).

2. The technical teachers should help students in understanding the technical words in English and their equivalents in regional languages. Again they should help the students to understand the meanings of long and complicated sentences in methodological subjects.
3. Grammar should be taught in the form of application of it in day to day life. We get a lot of exposure to it as our entire communication deals takes place in the regional language. So, it is but natural that it does not require learning the grammar of regional language. Unfortunately it does not happen with English which is a second language. From the experience, it is essential to learn grammar of English as second language for getting confidence of speaking and performing the best in all walks of life.
4. Most of the students are tired of the traditional way of teaching and are more interested in doing exercises on a computer than by hand. This system works more effectively when the ratio of computer and student is 1:1 arise not so much from a defective knowledge from the system of English, but from an unfamiliarity with the English use, and that consequently their needs cannot be met by a course which simply provides further practice in the composition of sentence but only by one which develops a knowledge of how sentences are used in the performance of different communicative acts'. In short there has to be a move from an exclusive concern with grammatical forms to at least a same concern with rhetorical functions". Richard All right recognizes the difficulties of introducing a rapid review course of grammar. It is likely to take longer duration, as so many misconceptions that have taken root will have to be dealt with. The second difficulty is the severe risk of boring the learner because they have already learned it, however defectively earlier. He suggests capitalizing on the fact that collectively the students know the items and devise a minimal strategy course in which students are prompted to pool their collective knowledge and learn from each other. This will smooth the progress of the development of learner sovereignty from the teacher and mutual inter-dependence among the learners. Pit Carder also decries re-teaching as a remedial measure. If the first teaching did not produce required results, there is no obvious reason why the second teaching should do so ". He argues that for effective remedial teaching we should understand the nature of the learner's difficulties. Only when we know why an error has been committed can we start correcting it in an efficient way.
5. Students should try to make use of English journals, television programs, newspapers, magazines, English language Resource centre to acquire the English communication skills and the best way to overcome the fear of communicative competence.

Conclusion

Language and communication skills are acknowledged as important elements in the education of the modern engineer. Those institutions that have already placed many skill and

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career developing skill and providing the demands of industry and society. The already crowded engineering curriculum still needs to incorporate additional competences, notably workplace and international/intercultural skills, especially communication. Ideally, students' skills in communication is reinforces these competences, should be initiated and inculcated at least at the secondary school level. However, if this is lacking in the national school curriculum, then it needs to be fostered at the tertiary level, particularly as such skills can still be acquired as adults and will contribute to the life-long learning process.

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