

## **English Language Teaching is a Challenge or an Opportunity**

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**Abstract**— In recent years, English for Specific Purposes has been widely adopted in College English courses, which presents a great challenge for all English teachers. Language is dynamic and is arbitrary. To teach literature is an easy task while teaching language to a learner is a real hard task. For humans, language is not innate and human language has discrete, distinguishable sounds so they depend on various sources to acquire a language. The only way of acquiring a language is through learning. Learning is facilitated by different factors. A learner acquires the target language from his surroundings, media, from the people he interacts but top of all classroom learning plays a pivotal role in learning a language. Classroom learning is a mutual process in which both the teacher and the student involve, enhance and enlighten each other. This leads to few challenges for both the teacher and the student in the learning process. A teacher has to keep it simple and make the students get the essence of his ideas. With particular characteristics, ESP calls for the interdisciplinary knowledge to meet the needs of learners. Accordingly, teachers' role changes dramatically from the traditional language lecturer to multiple roles especially as a cooperator with content teachers. Cooperation with content teachers is a complex process which involves what and how to cooperate. By analyzing the previous researches and different specialisms of English teachers and content teachers, English teachers will not strive to learn as much content knowledge as possible but find their own and unique status in teaching with their linguistic knowledge. My paper throws light on the challenges faced by both of them. The more the challenges are the more the innovations can be made which makes learning not a tedious and a monotonous task. Challenges in English language teaching will open portals for novel methods of learning.

**Key words: Introduction, Challenges and Problems, Opportunities and Remedies, Conclusion**

### **Introduction**

English is the elite class language but teaching English in India has always been as great challenge due to many problems faced by teachers as well as learners. The aim of this paper is to explore and describe the problems, prospects and future of teaching English language in India. Through this paper I have tried to throw the highlights on challenges which are faced by English language teachers as well as the taught. I have also offered the solutions of these problems in the form of opportunities. But for the attainment of this goal, both the learned and the learners shall have to pay their sacrifices respectively because as we know that

“No pain, No gain”

Have a rumour goes that English is easy to learn. Now a question arises that is it really true? May be some persons would be agreed with this rumour but I am under the impression that there is no truth in it of all and it is absolutely wrong. Any language acts as instrument to express effectively in various communicative situations. And English language is not an exception in this regard. It is a foreign language which requires conscious, diligent and systematic efforts to acquire or to be a master of it. India is a developing country and

the teaching of English language has become a real challenge right from the beginning of the history of English teaching till date. Though the English language is the backbone of civilization and culture throughout the world. And in India too, the English language has been adopted as an official language but still the persons in our country are lamenting on the deteriorating condition of English in schools and colleges. English as a language insufficiently developed in most of the students of schools especially in government schools in the most parts of our country. The irony is that even after passing 12<sup>th</sup> class most of the students remain tongue tied and the same heritage of these illiterate learners in English are passed on the colleges and most affected ones are the students belongs to B.A stream and the wonder of wonders is that the higher authorities and parents expect good results and the teachers are caught in the mire as whether to complete syllabus or to improve the English language of the students.

It is more amazing to note that the English language has got global status and has been granting as an international language and there is no doubt at all that the position of English language is getting strong position with the advancement of time but we have to accept this bitter truth that teaching English to the Indian students has remained a major challenge to the teachers for ages. That is why, taking in to consideration these factors. I am going to explain the current trends, issues and challenges that all English teachers and students are feeling the various obstacles regarding large number of students stuffed in small classrooms, rural background, lack of reading, listening, writing and speaking, barriers of hesitation, the phobia, in the minds of students, inappropriate curriculum that do not fulfill the requirement of English learners. Despite there are some significant reasons that makes the entire process of imparting quality education fulfill such as lack of feedback , lack of trained and qualified teachers out all these factor make the situation worst.

It is to be noted that the importance of teaching English in order to fulfill the ever growing demands of English language is also stressed. The current challenges before the English teachers in present day would also be taken up .The teaching of English has become more challenging with the boom of the information technology and the attendant fast pace with which pieces of knowledge are transformed from one place to another. From my personal experience as a teacher of English, I can say that I have grove apprehensions as to the emergent trends of the English language teaching in our country to be a master of English one needs to cultivate the skills such as listening, speaking, writing and reading .as we know that

“Rome was not built in a day”

The days have gone, when English was just like a library language but now the situation is completely different and there is a world of difference between the then time and the present time. At present, the challenges before the English language teachers in India are diverse and it has become necessary for them to shape themselves accordingly as to meet the challenges of the day .We need to bridge the gap between ‘haves’ and ‘have not ‘, ‘rural’ and the ‘urban’ and by doing so we can get victory on these challenges and convert them in to the opportunities.

I have studied deeply the causes which are behind these problems. In most of the rural parts of India, teaching and learning process is done in the vernacular language. On the other hand, most of the competitive examination requires English as medium of instruction. The rural atmosphere does not provide students the opportunity to speak and learn English. Teaching of English needs a drastic change for the benefit of students in schools and colleges. The students of rural and semi urban areas in our country face a lot of problems as English is not their mother tongue. In urban areas parents are mostly educated. That is why, the domestic atmosphere assists the students in acquiring the knowledge readily. The learners do not get opportunity to speak in English in the rural parts of India. Bilingual methods is adopted in language classes. The students find it difficult to listen and understand the English language and it seems to them Greek and Latin completely, So They ask for an explanation in their native language. As a matter of fact, the English Teacher is in a state to adopt bilingual method in order to clarify the doubts of the learners. Moreover this thing deteriorates the whole process of English teaching.

### **Challenges And Problems**

There are a lot of challenges and problems before the English Language Teachers. So they should adopt the pragmatic approach because no single approach is useful in all situations. It is worthwhile for the teacher to keep in mind various methods rather than a specific methods. Some sessions challenges which are tossing their needs in the present day are as follows:

**Faulty Methods of Teaching:** - Teaching of English language in India suffers from faulty methods teaching. As a result students are compelled to cram the language and real learning is not possible.

**Lack of Competent Teacher:** - Incompetent teachers are the main cause of this problem. They are trained in old methods and they do not want to look advanced and current techniques and methods.

**Lack of Teaching Aids:** - Lack of audio-visual aids is one of the most difficulties in teaching English language. With the help of these aids teaching can be made interesting and easy.

**Faulty Examination System:** - The English curriculum syllabus is made wholly keeping in mind the exam point of view. As a result the content does not focus on raising the level and standards of communicative competence of the students. They do not want to produce even a single sentence without any grammatical error. The teachers find it more difficult to motivate them because they always aim at memorizing the notes from low standard guides.

**Over –Crowded Classes:** - Teachers of English language experience a lot of problems in handling such over-crowded classes because instead of 60 students there are mostly 100 to 120 or more students in the classes. So it's difficult for teachers to pay due attention to each students.

**The Use of Mother Tongue:** - The English language which is a foreign language is taught in an artificial environment and the influence of the Mother -tongue is more than the English language makes the situation worst.

### **Development and Growth in Information and Technology**

**Economically Backward Society****Lack of Motivation Inspiration****Low standards of Text - Books****Not Enough Time****Opportunities And Remedies**

Due to the various challenges in the field of English teaching language in India, the standard of English is gracefully low. Hence a lot of responsibility is left for English teachers to make the students able and competent in order to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century in this digital world. In my opinion, this is the right time when these challenges can be turned in to the opportunities and teachers can become resourceful. A teacher is pivot in process of education system. So they should perform their duty sincerely and impart the quality education to the students. The objective of teaching English should not be producing “book worms”, what is important for teachers is to motivate the students by creating awareness around them with regard the importance of English language.

The objective of teaching English should be to make the students learn the English language in play- way methods in order to make efficient communication. It is the duty of a teacher to remove the barrier of hesitation or the phobic in the minds of students. So that they may overcome these difficulties and real leaning take place. They teachers should motivate the students on the basis of the famous maxim that

“Where there is a will, there is a way”

Standard of teaching and learning English is decreasing in rural India. We must solve the problems of teaching English. If we follow appropriate methods of teaching English, students will learn it in a better manner. Learning mother tongue is no doubt important. With knowing mother tongue, students also should be well trained in the learning of linguistic skills in English language. All problems are linked with one another. The economic model of development which we have been following needs to be examined time to time. Nowadays students are not very hopeful about their future. After completion of education, students are not certain whether they will get job or not. Our economic model should be reformed in such a manner that it should be able to create job opportunities for youths in our country. Education and textbooks should be made interesting. Textbooks should reflect not only urban life but also rural life. Availability of quality education in rural areas will strengthen country and will bring the people on equal platform with the urban residents. It will help to achieve the dream of inclusive development. Knowledge of English language and literature will bridge the gap between the rural and urban youths. Student will be provided with equal opportunities of learning and employment. If remedies are implemented in the appropriate manner the obstacles in the teaching learning English will be removed. New methods of teaching should be introduced. The infrastructure like Language Lab, Smart Boards, Internet facility, quality textbooks, hostel facility; scholarships to the economically weaker sections, availability of job opportunities, will inspire the rural youths to learn English effectively. The teaching and learning process will become a matter of enjoyment and happiness for both teachers and learners.

If they learn English language and literature, students will be competent for the job and perform great and difficult tasks and responsibility with ease and excellence.

If a teachers keeps in the mind various approaches rather than a specific one. If we pay due attentions to the learners and make proper strategy and plan our curriculum to suit the needs of the situations, there won't be much difficulty for the students. The teachers should use their sound practical wisdom to apply the suitable applications accordingly to the purposes. They should find the ways and methods for helping the students, So that they may enjoy their language activities and be full of confidence. The enthusiasm, the zeal, pragmatic approach and interest of the teachers can kindle the spark of learning in the students. In this way, The English language teaching's challenges can be turned in the opportunities.

### **Conclusion**

English language teaching in the midst all its challenges has find a way to widen its arena by the innovations made in this field. A language teacher should play the role of a facilitator rather than considering them as the authoritative power and the students should develop a desire rather fears to learn English. English for Specific Purposes is increasingly important to the future development of English language teaching in India. We have attempted both to provide an overview of the challenges confronting the profession, and to examine some of these challenges in more detail. Perhaps the most significant challenge in this context is the change of the teacher's role from expert authority to a collaborator with subject-specialist colleagues and with learners. Fulfilling this new role requires supplementing linguistic knowledge with familiarity with one or more specific disciplines, including adequate knowledge of subject content; it also necessitates a pedagogy significantly different from that which has long been the norm in India .The success of English for Specific Purposes is dependent upon a new, evidence-based and practically-oriented approach to the training of English teachers.

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