

A Decisive Discussion of Obstacles and the Solution of Learning the English Language in a Second Language Speaking Country from the Perspective of Bangladesh

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Abstract

The foremost purpose of my research is finding the problems that are working behind all the obstacles for the students of Bangladesh in learning English. I will also discuss the solutions to the problems. As English is a foreign language the majority of students feel that they will not need to learn English. There are some other problems also that I find out. We are also capable of solving our problems by taking some effective steps. In my research, I will show some ways that how we can increase the interest from the inner side of a student who can be an asset to our country. As an international language, English is the only way to co-operate with other nations to share ideas and knowledge. If we can act immediately it can be said that within a few years, we will see a good result from our students. Students are required to write various types of composition. But our textbooks are designed to memorize the chapters by the students. I will discuss briefly on that part.

Key words: ELT, ESL, Foreign language, Fear of English, Untrained Teachers, Learning Method, Syllabus

1) Introduction:

Communication is one of the most important functions or skills that allow us to share our problems and ideas with the other countries of the world. Without having this skill no nation will progress. Now if we talk about Bangladesh than various kinds of reasons are why here actually Bangladesh is not progressing. From all of them, lacking having less communication with other countries is one of them. Now English is a worldwide accepted international language. So, if we want to develop ourselves, we have to share our problems and ideas with the other world. And we can do that by learning the English language. In my report, I will discuss the problems and solutions for learning English eventually. The obstacles to learning English are various. But all the problems are related to each other. But if we want to learn something, first we need to have our interest in that subject otherwise; it is very hard to convince someone to learn English. Though English is a foreign language it is compulsory to learn for the students as the importance of the English language is increasing. English is the second language of Bangladesh. Students learn the English Language to get a better job to go abroad for higher studies. For a better career, there is no alternative to learning English. Hence learning English is very much important. In Bangladesh, it is much more important because of global progress and representing our country. Effective learning requires not only competent teachers but also suitable teaching materials. The textbooks used in our schools and colleges are far from suitable. In Bangladesh, students are required to read English for about twelve years. But the level of skill they reach is very low. But their courses are oriented towards literature rather than language and it is possible to get a degree in English without having a reasonable proficiency in the language.

2) Rationale of Study:

English is an important language in our country. From this research, our people will learn why our student is poor in English and how we can solve this problem. The present study has been conducted to scrutinize the factors towards the English attainment levels of secondary school students. The study is expressive in nature. It tried to find out the factors affecting students' English achievement at the secondary level in Bangladesh. Writing is basically a process of

cognitive development through which a learner has to learn gradually. As writing is considered to be the most important skill in primary and In Secondary level terminal assessments, some fundamental changes in the existing systems of teaching, writing appears to be crucial now. It is also the learning process in which effective learner training is necessary for writing improvement? Therefore, the existing methodology of teaching writing in our learning contexts has a serious setback that evidently prevents students from writing independently. Most of the student writings in this study show a sharp decline in the quality of the writing skills the learners were generally exposed to. There may be other reasons such as lack of or absence of nurturing learning styles, heavy dependence on memorization, large classes, individual & peer correction training, consciousness-raising, inter-language problems, ineffective feedback mechanism by teachers, etc.

3) Research Questions:

- a) What are the main obstacles to learning English in Bangladesh?
- b) How does the environment affect the students in learning English?
- c) Why are educational methods not effective in learning English?
- d) Why are students felling less interest at the time of English?
- e) Why don't students love to practice English?

4) Research Objective:

The object of this research is to find out the reasons for which students in the primary and elementary levels of Bangladesh cannot learn the English language properly and the possible solution to this problem.

5) Methodology:

The qualitative research method has been applied in this research. This research has been written based on secondary materials i.e. published books, journals, websites related to English Language learning in Bangladesh. Most of the data are qualitative in nature and the qualitative descriptive method has been applied for in-depth analysis of Obstacles and the Solution of Learning the English

Language in Bangladesh. Surveys of different organizations have also helped a lot to find out the root problem and solutions for reducing this problem.

6) Main Discussion:

Every student needs to read English for about 12 years for a minimum at the time of their student-life In Bangladesh. But the level of capability in English is very lower than the expectations. Nowadays it's a common thing to fail in English Exams in all over the country. Even the admission test for universities and civil service examinations is also showing us the disappointed results of our students.

This massive problem could not be a mistake, there must be something is going wrong. The way that we are teaching our students, the methods that we are applying to develop the English skill of our students are not good enough. It is the truth that if you want to learn something first you need to have an interest in that particular sector. As English is a foreign language most of our students feel that they will not require the English language in their future. So, they need to be motivated first to learn the English language.

Our students are not only unmotivated in learning English but also in other subjects too. The main reason is our educational systems allow them to make their intention to pass in the exam, not to learn anything at their class time. On the other short suggestion are also let them to not learn anything by themselves. They just memorize the topic and write them on their exam sheets. This shortcut way is destroying our future generations.

Poverty is another obstacle in learning the English language in our country. More than 36% of people in our country are living under the poverty line. Most of the time it is found that students of poor families have more willing to learn English, but for a financial problem, they cannot afford it. Though, our government is providing secondary level education for free. But the teachers are not giving enough effort to motivate our students to learn the English language.

The environment is one of the major problems of Bangladesh for learning English. We all know that Bangladesh is an agriculture-based country. So, most of the families belong to the farmer. As our

parents are farmer they don't have enough knowledge about the importance of learning the English language. Even they don't have willing to ask their children what they are actually learning.

The parents who are actually living in cities are more conscious of their children's education. But they are confused about their children's education about giving their children's English medium education or Bengali medium education. Cause Bengali is also our first language. Another one is a large syllabus for children. There is a lot of pressure on studying. They get so many projects, assignments, and extracurricular activities. To complete all the tasks they don't get enough space to learn English outside of their syllabus. On the other hand, there are some weak students who love to pass in the exam rather than learning something. They think that rote learning will ensure them good marks. That's why they rely much on private coaching, guide books and memorizing answers to the questions. To learn English one needs to get 4 skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). This skill will come after practicing a lot. Some students while starting practice to achieve this skill, his/her friends start to make fun of him/her. Then the student feels demotivated again and leaves practicing English. Moreover, examinations that are taken in school colleges are practicing to develop reading and writing skills. But listening and speaking skills still remain unchanged.

Some teachers also, give force to the students to do coaching to them. So some students got feared their pass. Someday before or later they also change their minds and started to go to coaching. These coaching centers always provide a short syllabus and learn the students how to pass in the exam shortly. These facilities later turn into their habit and they failed to learn something new and creative. These types of educational methods are actually destroying the learning will of the students. So, the students do not understand the importance of learning the English language.

The importance of English is increasing day by day. Today English is one of the most important languages of the world. This is only one language that dominates over all the other languages of the world. It is very hard to find out any country where there is no use of English. About 350 million people use English as their first language

and another 300 million people use English as their second language. Even in Bangladesh English is our second language.

Top developed countries in the world are using English as their official and semiofficial language. Different international organizations are using English as the only communicating language in their organizations. Even all the books on science and technology are written in English. So if anyone wants to do any kind of research, he/she must be perfect in English. Without having enough knowledge in the English language it is not possible to complete research.

This is the era of online. Approximately 80 % of the information about the computer are written in English. Email, Fax, Google, Yahoo, Bing is run through English. If anyone wants to make growth in his career it is very important for him to learn the English language.

Most of the offices give a handsome salary to them who are actually good at English. Even today's job market is ranked by English speakers. Cause most companies require to speak with foreign clients. From that view, if you want early promotion definitely you will need to earn proficiency in English-speaking. We also should learn English to enrich our mother tongue. For lack of our study materials, we are also no growing in English learning.

7) Solution Part :

Every problem has a solution. When a matter of learning the English language comes, we all need to realize our country's condition, tradition and more of the mentality of our students and teachers. For getting a solution, if we go for any foreign policy that may not be effective. So we will have to fix our problem according to our circumstances.

Learning a language or to secure a clear grasp thereof one must have to undergo the four processes. I.e. reading, writing, speaking and listening without which, needless to say, one cannot get hold of the language. Regrettably, in our education system, as far as learning English is concerned, the sole emphasis is attached to the former two. The other two elements speaking and listening are completely neglected. As a result, our students are not taught effectively. Above all, reading, writing, speaking and listening – all these skills must be practiced simultaneously. When problems are

identified, it should be possible to get rid of them. We have seen that failure to learn English arises from certain conditions:

- a) Lack of motivation on the part of the students
- b) Shortage of competent teachers,
- c) Unrealistic textbooks
- d) Faulty and ineffective testing methods.

It is time to revisit the whole thing and all stakeholders concerned should do everything possible to remove these bottlenecks so that our students can learn English reasonably well.

Primary is the basic level of learning something. So inviting the expert teachers who can make the curious into the students to learn English is the first step. Their syllabus should be redesigned where there will be less pressure of study and students will feel curious to learn English is the second step. There are various ways to make English learning fun like English learning games, cartoons, and magazines of English. Their regular practice of listening, speaking, reading, writing must be going in the class and their home as well. Social media and other online idea-sharing sites must be designed for children also so that they can learn with freedom. Massive awareness is also important in that sector. After getting help from all environments our future generation will be able to progress themselves.

We need to start speaking class at all primary and high school levels all over the country. Today we need communication skills. We have to ensure our students have the capability to communicate in English with someone else. In the language acquisition theory, children below 8 to 9 can learn up to 10 languages very easily. So, we need to utilize this age to make them learn English. At the school level if we can ensure at least one English speaking practice class every day, automatically students' English speaking ability will be improved.

Language testing is very important because it affects teaching and learning. The testing methods used in the secondary education board are faulty and ineffective. The questions that are asked on the prescribed pieces do not call for close reading. In fact, most students do not read the pieces at all. The examination papers include a lot of grammatical questions but mere knowledge of grammar does not necessarily mean the ability to use English. Students are required to write various types of composition. But as the textbook does not

provide any help and as the examiners do not insist on their writing the composition in their own language, the students come up with answers written for them by others. Vocabulary, sentence structure, and discourse analysis, techniques of writing composition: these important aspects are never included in the test. Moreover, speaking tests should be included.

We need to make sure students are motivated to learn English outside the classroom. A lot of alternative resources can be used like debate and public speaking competition in the English language. Encourage our students to watch English news on TV. Inspire them to practice speaking English with their friends. Overall an English medium environment needs to be built up around a student's life that he can learn English from his daily life activities. If we want to solve this problem definitely, we have to motivate the students first. If they can realize the importance of English in their future, they will be motivated enough to learn the English language. Parents should encourage their children to learn English. They should help their children make their assignments, projects and talk with them in English. University level students can open different free organizations to give the education of the English language to the rural students. As in Bangladesh if we cannot help each other then we will not grow. For this purpose, we can make a group. To motivate the students, we can provide them a free notebook, pen, and books.

Teachers' training is one of the other effective steps that must be taken to solve the English learning process. The teachers that we are recruiting in schools are not well-trained to give students motivation and a clear vision of the importance of English learning. For this purpose, our government should take effective steps to train up the teachers. Also, all the teachers who are forcing students to do tuitions to them must be banned from the educational profession.

8) Conclusion

Problems will come in every section that we are fighting for. But to make massive progress in our country it is very important to make a global English learning practice all over the countries. Our national development also depends on this skill. If everybody takes learning English seriously the proficiency level of the whole country will

improve very fast. Governments of our country can take these types of effective steps for the better development of our country.

9) Recommendations:

1. The period of English classes needs to be increased. Also, extra classes may be considered.
2. The government should take initiatives to make need-based teaching aids and teaching materials available, for using these aids professionally. Providing such teaching materials should be followed by appropriate training for the English teachers so that they can use these materials efficiently in the classrooms.
3. Teachers should make the content student-friendly along with a friendly attitude in the class.
4. The modern effective techniques, i.e. question-answer, pair-work, group-work, role-play, storytelling, simulation and so on should be introduced immediately in the class.
5. English textbooks should be introduced on an international scope based along with an attractive set up so that the students can enjoy themselves through reading and understanding. Also, specific grammar books need to be introduced at the secondary level.
6. Smaller class-size should be rationalized in all educational institutions. The ideal class size would range between 30-35 students per class/ section.

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