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## Does ELT ailing in India: Shift of ELT to CLT is the rescue

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### Abstract:

*The development and growth of English language in India is commendable. But when we turn the pages, we find still a change in the standard and class of fluency is missing. A language which is so widely known and popular still need over all development in speaking and communication. The changing times have recognised the need of English universally, so we need to make some positive changes in our curriculum to make effective ELT as our target group coming from semi urban and rural background still need exposure. Non English speakers want a shift of pedagogy to make fluency in communication.*

**Key words:** Communication, Syllabus, Fluency, Grammar, Language.

India is a multilingual country where English is a widely spoken language. It is called global language or lingua franca of the modern day. It has become the language of utility and comfort and progress of modern men and women is depending on use of English language. English was started in India as a foreign language with the advent of East India Company and British colonization but now it has taken the place of second language. Learning other language other than mother tongue is an always tough but it opens new doors as with the learning of

new language one learns culture, religion, traditions and many more. English came into existence in world scenario in 16<sup>th</sup> century when other languages such as Latin were failing because of failure as spoken language. And after so many turns and jumps, 19<sup>th</sup> century saw many new openings. The present English we are teaching or learning was finalised in 19<sup>th</sup> century. All pronunciation, Grammar, structure and linguistics were revitalized as a science. The English we are teaching in India was lastly introduced in 2005 as a National Curriculum Framework. But despite being so popular that we read English Newspapers, send our kids to so-called English Medium public schools but even than this language is still ailing in India. The major issue is condition of English language in Universities or Graduate colleges of India I personally teach in an under graduate college where students come from urban and semi-urban localities. They take English as a status of their studies but really disgusting is that they can't speak fluent English or write flawlessly despite taking so many pains. English reading as a subject for them increase their matrimonial value but not exactly their knowledge. They pass examination with the help of many easy picks available in the books market but their knowledge and fluency of the language is under question mark. They are not aware of speaking which is essential function of language.

### **English as Language of Connecting India**

English language has the stature of official language in India and second best known language also. The growth of the language from British rule to the present day is really ascending and better. When Macaulay introduced it in Education system our Traditional religions 'Gurus' were against it. But Raja Ram Mohan Roy understood its need and he declared that English will bring modernisation and liberation in country where as classical learning will not put country in the era of development. So, three language formulas

come into existence. So, English has become a major language in India and helps a lot in progressing country and making it Global.

## **Role of English Teachers**

We the teachers are also responsible for this condition of English. On the one hand, we have poor standard of English from school level as teachers are neither well qualified nor they are eager to learn and share new changes and pedagogy. We the teachers don't want to come out of our comfort blanket and share with students. Present Education policies are also responsible to some extent. On the one hand, some prestigious universities are giving admission on a greater percentage where as some universities and affiliated colleges are bound to give admission without any barrier of marks and talent. Students take admission and opt for English as their status symbol and parents ask to give optional subject as English to female candidates as it increase their value for matrimony. I have been teaching in a Girls Institution for 14 years and every year we have to struggle a lot for opting English to a segment of students who even can't pronounce Literature correctly. This situation is sometimes really very disgusting and demotivating for a dedicated a teacher. Students were not exposed for speaking and communicating. They did not know to write correct applications and reports. This condition really leaves some burning question marks on curriculum of English Language Teaching.

## **Is ELT really ailing?**

There are many reasons for all this deplorable conditions of ELT in India. I did a minor research project on condition of English in schools of Uttar Pradesh where I focused on Public schools and UP Board school where medium of instruction is Hindi. The matter of concern is that student is keen to learn

but there are many obstacles. Their family atmosphere is a major constraint. They are not getting environment to speak and practice. The teachers are qualified but not so well paid so they lost interest in apt and modern day teaching. But still there is a ray of hope and that is to make some major amendments ELT for better prospective.

### **Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) is the need of the hour**

Although the traditional ELT includes:-

- Grammar
- Translation
- Direct and Indirect
- Speaking Skills

they are not exactly beneficial for speaking. A language always works well when one communicates in it gracefully. But this traditional framework was not able to make students versatile in communication skills and fluent speaking. Then in 80s a new way to language teaching is promoted known as communicative Language Teaching. Its main focus was on speaking and communicative skills. Its emphasis is not on Grammar but it encourages Fluency and appropriateness of speaking. CLT want no give a fluent message even if there are grammatical mistakes in construction. It is based on a task i.e. Fluency and learning.

The best use of CLT is that India finds a new space in world sphere. In today's world take the example of English writers. Every 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> English writer belongs to India whether its literature writing or creative writing in other fields. Although at present on CBSE introduced it in +2 levels but many professional colleges and universities also started CLT. When I surveyed schools, I find that introduction communicative English has made students of English medium school more fluent and apt whereas Hindu Medium student are

still struggling for fluency. Their Grammar part is strong, they write well but they lack in speaking. They demand a shift of curriculum so that they can also become fluent. In today's world we have become so much advanced technologically that we need our students to be perfect in English.

## **ELT in India**

English teaching in India is three folded:-

- Government Institutes
- Semi Government Institutes
- Public Private Institutes
- Government institutes need a lot of teaching aids to perform well in ELT
- Semi Government organisations needs some courses or bodies who can perform fluency courses at some concessional rates.
- They need students and Parents supports for creating an atmosphere.

## **English Teaching at present: Shift of Paradigm**

There is a great need of shift of English language teaching to communicative teaching those bodies who have introduced it in their syllabus, they are showing great results. But our procedure of changing syllabus is so time consuming and tiring that we always loose the race. We need to introduce CLT in English language teaching without any barrier just to make English everyone's cup of Tea. In the changing scenario, we need to give this talent of English speaking to every one whether rich or poor, old or young, villager of urban mate.

India is known for giving language a new dimension with Grammar of Passive. But every language has its own colours and shades with the advent of English as the most popular language known globally we need to change ELT to some extent. Actually we cannot blame that ELT ailing is India.

Language Teaching is a lifelong, never ending endeavour which needs change or shift of mechanism here and then. So, the need of the hour is to change ELT to CLT for better students' understanding otherwise our future generation will suffer a lot because there is going to be a big gap among two classes of those who learn it from the beginning and who are deprived of CLT, as CLT holds success in teaching.

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