

English as a Language vs. English as a part of Curriculum

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Abstract

The most widely used language in research, business, politics and other areas of life in our twenty first century is the English language. The invasion of India by the British company and later by British government contributed immensely to the spreading of the language. The paper elaborates the effectiveness of English in our day today life and also how to study the same that is either as a language or a part of the curriculum. As English has come to us a result of invasion of British it is the foreign language nearest to our civilisation and we must learn it properly so that we can easily use it as our weapon against our opponents in this competitive world. The paper tells about the importance of English language and the methods which must be implied to learn the language properly so that it is not difficult for is to communicate with the people around the globe.

Keywords: Curriculum, evaluation, English, language, learning, scope

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Introduction

“Happiness quite unshared can scarcely be called happiness, it’s not real”

Sharing is what gives our lives a meaning. Man is a social animal and he cannot stay in isolation. Sharing our feelings, our thoughts, happiness and sadness tells us that we are not alone on the tiny dot in the big universe. Now the question arises how to share, that is should be by the use of some finger signs or introducing any specific language through which we can understand one another’s feelings. Sharing help, us to empower us. The best way of sharing is through the mouth, the second best gift of God, eyes being first. Without discipline, as a person cannot survive on the planet, similarly, disciplined movement of our mouth to produce different sound is the best way of expressing oneself and sharing things with others. The particular fashion in which we can move our mouth to produce different sounds is called as a language. A language can be both verbal as well as scripted. Since the dawn of mankind, thousands of languages have shown up. Some of them advanced, and which could not resist the impact of time, died. The first language was our pictorial language that was by drawing shapes and structures. The language gave birth to advanced shapes and sizes, which were more advanced and smaller in size. This lead to the birth of our oldest languages Latin, Sanskrit, Korean, Hebrew and others. Among all the different languages English has been the most acceptable language all over the world. Due to colonisation the two European languages – English and French spread as a forest fire across the world burning up all other languages to ashes. Today it stands that out of all languages twenty percent

of the world speaks English. Our country, India being a colony of British government for a long period of 200 years has ultimately adopted English as one of the two national languages.

Learning in Curriculum better than Language

Today English is our first language in all the boards, be it be Delhi board or any other state boards. English is always on top priority than all other languages and why should not it be. Language is above all. If you do not know Science, Computer, still you can do any other work. If we do not know our language, then how do we speak with others? How can we go to someone, and ask for job, if we do not know his language? English or any other language is required at every moment of our life. As a Language, it enables us to express our wishes, feelings, likes, dislikes and ideas. It is done by encoding or externalising our thought. English, as a Language is the most important part of our being. It helps us to learn about other peoples and cultures. But the most important one is about expressing our own ideas and views. So, as a matter of fact, English has a very great impact on our day to day life. So, we must learn English and enrich our knowledge. Now the question arises, as to should the learning of Language be in a descriptive or prescriptive pattern, should it be Knowledge-oriented or Course-oriented, above all should it be as a Language or a part of curriculum.

English learning must be Syllabus-oriented or as a part of curriculum. Learning of English is as important as, rising of the Sun. It is very important, but then Sun just provides us a chance to live, not to earn. We know that without Sun, life cannot be sustained on the Earth, but then just living is not the goal of our life. Our goals are varied, and to achieve them, we have to

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work and study hard. English is important for communication, but we have greater goals to fulfil. We have to study detailed Science, Geography, History, Archaeology, Astronomy or any other subject to gain specialization in that course so that we can reach greater heights in life. English allows us to live, but not enjoy life. So, English learning must be just curriculum based that is just what is in our syllabus. We do not have to master the language. We do not have to master English to start a conversation as to do any job. It is just required to empower us. It is not required at a large scale. English has its only importance that all great books are present in English language, or we go out anywhere, we require English to communicate. Studying of a language is defined as the documents that consist of topics or portion covered in the particular subject. It is determined by the examination board and created by the professors. The learning in such Syllabus-oriented learning helps the students to know about the referred subject in detail, why it is a part of their course of study, what are their expectations from students, consequences of failures, etc. Learning in such courses consists of rules and regulations, policies, instructions, topic covered, assignments, projects, test dates and so on.

Differences between Curriculum and Language

Learning in a curriculum is entirely a different thing. Curriculum is the guideline of the chapters and academic content covered by an educational system, while undergoing a particular course or program. Learning of the subject in a curriculum is better for the part of the students who only looks to English as a method of talking with the other foreign people. In a more theoretical

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viewpoint curriculum refers only to the course which is offered by the college. It has much higher and wider scope because as it covers the areas required for all proper spoken English so that at least there is no problem in communicating with other people across the globe. It helps in the proper growth of a person's personality, knowledge, behaviour, skill, performance and manners in a student. The curriculum entirely consists of all the teaching, lessons, assignments, physical and mental training, projects, study material, tutorials, presentations, online learning series, test series and others. A specific curriculum has to be well planned, guided and designed by an educational institution for the students of the institutions. English has to be taught and understood not learnt by heart. We have to understand that the meaning behind the different grammatical expressions or we have to understand how all the different words are all formed from a small pre word. We need to know this all so that when we face a sudden situation we can speak to one other and understand their feelings and also share ours with them while reading any particular book as we need to have a detailed information of the book. Studying English as a language involves the steps to become a genius or a master in the language, but what's the point in learning English so deep we do not have to become great writers or poets as Rabindranath Tagore, John Keats or William Shakespeare. We do not require any deep learning of English knowledge for understanding the words written in a book of engineering physics or a book of computer applications. A basic knowledge of grammar and word formation is only required for the understanding the basic books of different streams or different courses. In our real life situations, we do require a lot of regular basis evaluation. However, when it comes to the concern of education and English curriculum in particular, the primary aim of evaluation is to

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acquire all possible information about students and teacher's performance with a learning environment.

Learning in a curriculum gives a prescriptive view of the subject. We learn our subject fairly well. We get to learn the basics, starting with the alphabets to formation of the toughest words of the English language. We get to know about the different chapters of grammar such as the parts of speech or the active passive voice and others. Evaluation also does not have a generally accepted definition. Educators view evaluation from different perspectives, some relate it with capability; while others describe it as estimation of the degree to which a precise objective has been achieved. Evaluation is mostly easily viewed as scientific review by some researchers; it is also being argued that it is basically the act of gathering and providing facts that will allow decision-makers to perform optimally. The target population for evaluation studies depend largely on what is been looked into. It could be restricted to a teacher and some students and at the same time it could cover a huge number of schools, students and teachers. These decisions are: - Identification of the requirements of the students for purpose of planning their training, judging students' performance for purpose of selection and grouping, notifying the student with his progress and deficiencies. These are categorized as individual decision. - Judge the effectiveness of the school system and the competence of individual teacher. These are categorized under administrative regulation. - Taking a decision on what instructional resources and methods that is suitable and identifying where adjustment is needed. The strengths and weaknesses of a curriculum are being achieved through evaluation. This is followed by injecting new ideas into the system, implementation and continuous evaluation. Evaluation is the formal determination of the quality, effectiveness or value of a program, product, project, process,

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objective or curriculum. Hence, in view of these definitions of evaluation, evaluation can therefore, be defined as a systematic inquiry aimed at providing information to stakeholders in a particular program, policy or other intervention. Another interesting aspect of evaluation is the program evaluation. Program evaluation deals with the assessment of program domains. It has five domains of: i) The necessity for the program ii) The proposal of the program iii) The program application and service provision iv) The impact of the program and v) Its effectiveness in terms of cost.

An important and integral part of the educational system is evaluation. It is crucial to having proper and coordinated service delivery within the system. It ensures uniformity in the dissemination of knowledge. Curriculum evaluation is the procedure by which effort is made in measuring the efficiency of any particular educational activity. The importance and prominent position that English language occupies in the world of today has made it an acceptable language beyond the original boundary where it serves as the mother tongue of the British. The role the British played in the seventeenth to twentieth centuries through colonization, industrial revolution, advancement of technology and the conquest of the United States force many people and nations to learn English and adopt it in one way or the other. As India was colonized by the British, their style of spreading education everywhere they went made India adopt the language as a foreign language so as to be able to converse and transact business with other countries. The advent and the introduction of English language as a foreign language were reviewed in this paper. It is observed that a lot of improvement is required in the curriculum so as to improve the competency of both the learner and the teachers. The need for curriculum evaluation is stressed

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by the inadequacies of the existing program which is taught only as a subject that can be avoided by some students. Even though it is compulsory at the senior high school level, the fact that English is not used to teach science subjects reduces the rate through which learners can build up their vocabulary in science and technology related subjects.

As a part of curriculum or as a language the importance of English as a language cannot be ignored. We always have to look forward towards it. As we were colonised for a long span of about 200 years our words and our ascent greatly represent those of the British, who taught us their language and now we are forced to speak in this language and compete with others in the big world.

Scope of English as a Language vs. Learning in Curriculum

Learning in curriculum gives a prescriptive view of the subject. We learn our subject fairly well. We learn basics starting from the alphabets to the different chapters of grammars may it be parts of speech or may it be active or passive voice. We get enjoyment in learning the subject. Regular small assignment helps us to strengthen our areas, what we have read. We slowly make words and play with the alphabets and find their meanings in the dictionary. We as students read advanced books to get a better knowledge about the spelling and grammars. We learn correct grammar, correct spelling and correct vocabulary and slowly rise towards our goals. As the subject doesn't undergo any rules or regulations, no stress, no fears of failures, so the learning is just. We don't need a very strong hand in "English". People, around us know that we are no Englishmen that we would be very fluent in English language. Moreover, it is not that

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English is the first and last language. There are regional languages that have to be learnt at any cost. Moreover, it doesn't require any such curriculum since it is the language we are hearing from birth. So, learning English would just provide us an opportunity to speak to the rest of the world. We don't have to be a hard-core English laureate to speak with foreigners.

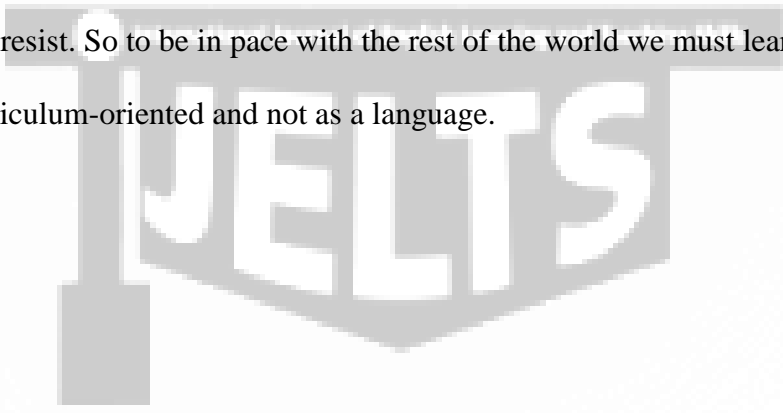
In today's twenty first century with development in the field of science and technology with translators have proved very important in communication. Today, our mobile phones have translators in them, so it makes us more foolish to learn a new language. We can, from our very own regional language simply convert in to our desired language. In today's world, we don't have a problem to speak to a French, German or Russian. Just the thing we have to do is take out our translators and it does all the work for you. So learning English in depth doesn't serve any purpose in today's world. Knowing any language may it be one's regional language is the thing one needs. So for any man or woman taking up science, geography or any other stream in higher studies, English can always be a part of their curriculum but not as a language.

Our problem arises when one is going for higher studies in English, than for that student, the rest of the study must be language-oriented and syllabus-oriented in such field, knowing only glimpses of the entire portrait is very harmful. There we have to go through examinations and prove us of the extraordinary materials of our lord. There, we need English as a language merely as a part of curriculum. Here, we need to understand English from its roots. We need to love the language and feel for it. We need to feel the language and take our minds through it. A little knowledge is very harmful and so, we need to learn letter by letter. A great English laureate, must be capable enough to the branches of the English language for enough to over-run other

language. So, higher studies in English decorum require a lot more skilled hand and also a good grip over the language, so the only need to study English as a part of language.

Conclusion

By looking at the current generation and changing times it seems that there is an urgent need of English to be a part of curriculum for all school students and also for most of the graduation and post-graduation. It's important since English is a hard truth of today's world which we cannot resist. So to be in pace with the rest of the world we must learn English properly but Curriculum-oriented and not as a language.



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