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EVOLVING IMPORTANCE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE RELATED TO ACADEMIC ARENA - A PURVIEW

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ABSTRACT: -

English is the most widely spoken language in the world and it stands out as the most popular language on earth. "English is being spoken by about 280,000,000 people as a first language; by some 120,000,000 as a second language and by an unknown about ever increasing



number as a foreign Language" (Encyclopedia Britannica, 545). No language, ancient or modern can be compared with "English in the number of geographical distributions of the homes, shops, factories and offices in which the language is spoken, written or read" (F.G. French, 1994). Apart from being native or first language

in countries as widely apart as the UK, the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, English is an important second language almost everywhere in the world. M.C. Chagla, when he was the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court, once ruled that English was an Indian language and the Supreme Court upheld this judgment. The Sahitya Academy of India recognizes English as one of the Indian languages. Statistics show that over half the world periodicals are printed in English; three quarters of the world's mail is written in English and three fifth of the world radio stations broadcast in English. The latest and the most accurate information about the advancements of science and technology is immediately available to us through the medium of English. English and information are inextricably interwoven.

KEYWORDS: English for Academic Purpose, English Academia, English Language Roles.

INTRODUCTION :

The Importance of English Language

The whole world has accepted English language as the medium of intellectual exchange for the following three reasons:

1. The commercial weight
2. The technical importance
3. Translation from other languages

A person who can speak English can travel all over the world without any difficulty. Anyone who can read English can keep in touch with the world without leaving his home. It is not easy to write about the place of English in India, when the country is changing everyday and the place of English in it continues to change.

English has been caught in that ceaseless flux which is Indian life and thought at the present time. English, therefore, will continue to enjoy the status of an associate official language of the Indian Union for an indefinite

period. The National Policy of Education states that "Special emphasis needs to be laid on the study of English and other international languages" (Edn. Report, 1964-66, 15). World knowledge is growing at a tremendous pace, especially in science and technology. India must not only keep up this growth but should also make her own significant contribution to it. For this, the study of English should be specially strengthened. The teaching of English should continue to be promoted from the school stage. Soon after independence, the place of English in Indian education has become a matter of controversy. Some States propose that English, being the language of the aggressor, must be taken out of the country, along with those who enslaved the nation for more than 15 decades. The National Integration Council (NIC) in its meeting at Chennai clearly pointed out that the teaching of English must be allowed for the following purposes have been recognized by all.

1. English as an international language;
2. English as a national link language;
3. English as a library language; and
4. English as a 'Gateway of Knowledge'.

CONCLUSIONS

English will serve as a link language in higher education for academic work and intellectual inter communication. "A working knowledge of English will be a valuable asset for all students and a reasonable proficiency in the language will be necessary for those who proceed to the university" (Edn. Report, 334). English will be the most important library language to be studied at all stages in our schools and colleges. Most significantly, linguistics has removed a number of misconceptions about language and language teaching. Linguistics has further established the supremacy of the current spoken form, the sameness and uniqueness of languages. It has made contributions to grammar, usage, lexicography, phonetics, semantics, machine translation, reading techniques and para-linguistics, etc. Methods of language teaching like fashions have been changing along with the developments in linguistics. Audio-lingual, bilingual, function skills methods, implicit method (grammar taught through pattern drills without explanations), explicit method (grammar taught through pattern drills with explanations in the target language), etc are the byproducts of linguistics.

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