



2. Role of English Language in The Sector of Engineering and Technology

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ABSTRACT

English is one of the widely spoken languages around the world. For an engineer and an engineering student, English language fluency is important both in studies and career. As a language, English complements greatly with positive body language. Articulations, expressions, signs and gesticulations during the speech are really efficacious when coupled with English language. The exchange of ideas took place only through English as the engineers could interact easily on the platform, where technology could grow in to fabulous inventions. Engineers have found it as a great beneficiary during a presentation as all such positive expression through body language lends immense strength to make every part of presentation and makes it successful. This is only language used world-wide to help the engineers highest in industrial growth and efficiency of the work-force. A few words in English could form an effective jargon for successful communication, which other languages could deliver only through a lengthy vocabulary and highest efforts in communication. At present in India there are thousands of Engineering and Technology sector students are facing employment crises. There are many reasons behind it. First and foremost reason is lack of communication and unable to handle the English language. This paper deals with importance of English language in the field of Engineering and Technology.

KEYWORDS:

Technology, English, students, language, Innovation.

Introduction:

Engineering is the only subject, which has integrated the entire world through technology. The world has become a platform, where everyone could speak his mind, share ideas, and interact with others to make the dreams come true[1]. English, as a language, has united the great minds in the past only to result in prolific ideas about inventions. When the skyscrapers, large flyovers, great cars and other mind-boggling inventions saw light of the day, the great engineers from around the world shouldered the responsibility and worked together to turn those into realities[2-3]. Students have to deal with the countless lectures,

tutorials, labs, project reports and papers in English. However, as English became the accepted lingua franca of modern technology and commerce, a number of learners with specific reasons for learning English came to the front: business people who wanted to sell their products, doctors and engineers who needed to stay in touch with the new developments in their respective fields, and most importantly for us, students who needed to use textbooks and journals available only in English, and who needed English in order to advance and succeed in their careers[4-6]. Language and communication skills are recognized as important elements in the education of the modern engineer, including English for specific purposes[4]. Yet, there seems to be limited implementation of English courses globally, despite its current lingua franca status. Those institutions that have already implemented multilingual and communication elements will be at the forefront of providing the demands of industry and society[7]. With customers and clients, explaining policies and procedures, entertaining foreign clients, conducting meeting, delivering presentations, liaising, responding to customer complaints and taking orders, etc[8].

Generally engineering professors in various universities are also conducting lectures in English. The most apt source of information i.e. Internet provides generally the information in English. During the job seeking process in interviews, GD's, it is mandatory to achieve mastery in English proficiency. After securing the job they are necessary to work in groups since their task seldom be solved by an individual[9]. A Large number of Indian engineers have to now travel to many continents and work away from their domicile country[10]. Also, among the scientists, technologists and business experts from culturally and linguistically different communities, English has become the prime language for communication.

1. Communication in Engineering and Technology:

Engineering is the biggest field of study in the world. First of all English is a tool that significantly affect engineering students in academic life. While most of the theories in engineering are taught in English, it requires to have good English communication competence[11-12]. In academic life, engineering students have to deal with the countless English lectures, tutorials, labs, project reports and papers. Most engineering professors in various universities are also conducting lectures in English. The most convenient source of information i.e. Internet provides most of the information in English[13].

Engineering is one of the largest fields of study and many of the works of research and academics are recorded in English[14]. Without fluency in English, engineering students may find it difficult to understand the concept being conveyed by the authors. Also, many modules in engineering require writing academic reports. Hence, a good fluency and grasp of English language is necessary[8-11].

Communication is the life blood of social as well as corporate world. We exist because we communicate. The ever growing need for good communication skills in English has created a huge demand for teaching and learning quality English around the world. Today's Corporate is troubled by untrained manpower and attrition for which reason again is a lack of communication skills. In the current scenario whether an individual is an Engineer, a graduate or undergraduate everybody needs to communicate in English somewhere[15]. But they fall short as they are lacking in English language.

People of all nationalities, ethnicity, religion, culture, profession and career have now begun to use this language as a common means of communication. English has been considered to be the first global lingua franca. In today's world, the English language has become a part and parcel of communication that takes place in every professional field[16-19]. In other words, it has become a language of interpersonal communication, business, science, information technology and entertainment.

The process of globalization, powered through technology, initially enabled English to become the global language[18]. Prime growth in Internet usage is coming from China and India, and while there is good English language proficiency in the latter, the preference is generally more for navigating in the user's native tongue. The Internet seems to be the new millennium's Tower of Babel, with increasingly more languages concentrated in the one type of technology[20]. English communication skills are recognized as the important element in the academic life and career of the engineering students. It requires to make use of integrated methods to facilitate advanced communication skills, which is the demand of industry as well as society[4].

2. Use of English for Examination:

For both written and oral examinations, the candidates need to use English as it is mandatory for them without any options. Therefore, students must try to develop written and spoken proficiency in English up to the level of working knowledge[3]. English being the only medium of classroom instruction and examination, it is a must for the students. Those who possess working knowledge and basic proficiency of English feel much ease and comfort during the examination[1-7]. Almost all the books that the students of engineering have to follow in order to enriching their minds and broadening their knowledge in their respective fields of specialization are imported from the foreign countries. As they are written by foreign writers and published by the foreign publishers, they are in the English language itself. There is not much fun but rather a great deal of stress in engineering education. Many students fail to turn up to classes because they ultimately become dissatisfied with the style of the lectures, strongly suggesting that the students fail to see the relevance of attendance and, at times, the relevance of the topic being taught. Many engineering students are not especially motivated to learn certain subjects, primarily because they have no real idea why they may need all this information. They also do not know whether all of the material is actually required for their career[15-19].

3. Place of English in Engineering and Technology Communication:

Learn to communicate effectively, lead classroom conversations and lectures, and assess assignments and projects. Build confidence and the necessary communication skills for job performance and career advancement. Communication is a process of exchanging or transmitting messages between sender and receiver[21]. There are different kinds of communication: interpersonal communication, intrapersonal communication, verbal communication, non-verbal communication, written communication, oral communication, and so on[22]. "For technocrats and professionals, it becomes all the more necessary to acquire good communication skills as they have to communicate effectively with all their business and professional colleagues." Any professional individual needs a fairly good communication skill for enabling him or her to perform the job in a most effective manner.

Communicative skills of the professionals determine their employment opportunity and the sustenance of their job. Those who lack sufficient communicative skills neither get job nor can they sustain even after they manage to get it as the effectiveness of their performance is fully dependent on how capable they are in meaningful and effective communication[23-24]. English has become the ascendant language inter- nationally, being the most widespread. This will influence the language of communication between professionals internationally. In this age of globalization, the number of international projects is increasing, and cross-cultural communication and collaboration is on the rise; this is particularly so for the now inter- national practice of engineering.

English empowers young minds not only in passing exams but in demonstrating their acumen before the world. Technical institutions have realized the importance of communicating in English in response to the increasing needs of job market. Most of the organizations require people in different capacities with good communication abilities which comprise interacting

4. Conclusions:

Good and effective Communication makes the Engineering and Technology students as world brand and eradicates the unemployment. Engineering graduates require an ever-increasing range of skills to maintain relevance with the global environment of the new millennium. Communication skills are vital component of this, recognised by academia and industry alike. The use of English language is widespread in the career of the engineering students in both the global and local contexts. Language is the most common means of human communication. English has a vital role to play in the career of engineers. They need English throughout their Engineering career from the moment they start it as a student until they get retirement as an engineer.

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