

Difficulties and Strategies on English Learning: An Analysis of Students of University College, Mangalore

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Abstract: *The present study was designed to investigate the problem faced by students in learning of English at the graduate level. The study was limited to graduate level. This study was carried out at University College, Mangalore,. It was observed that in recent times the University provided a lot of facilities like free training programs for the teachers at graduate level but the teaching and learning of English is not up to mark. The participants of the study were 80 students including 40 Kannada medium and 40 English medium students. Students were administered questionnaires. Through analysis of the data it was found that teachers had proper training of teaching English but required facilities were not provided and the curriculum was not fulfilled to the needs of the students. These are the reasons which hindered the teaching and learning process of English.*

Keywords: Difficulties, Students, English, Mangalore

1. Introduction

We live in a modern world where knowing English is mandatory. When a rural boy/girl wants to work in Metropolitan cities, they find it very difficult to find a job. The students of graduation are unable to comprehend and unable to speak English. Teaching English in Indian colleges involves focusing on language skills, incorporating cultural relevance and using interactive teaching methods. It is important to adopt your approach to the student's proficiency levels and needs. However, there are many issues they face during the process of learning, such as a lack of language learning atmosphere in educational Institutions, socioeconomic background, shyness, lack of confidence, etc.

2. Objectives

- To know how the students are facing challenges in English learning.
- To know what kind of strategies they implemented to learn English.
- To know what kind of strategies a teacher can use to help the students.

3. Methodology

The study was descriptive. Mix methods of research were applied. For the quantitative part, a questionnaire was used as a research tool and data were collected from various classes. The target students of this research were Kannada and English medium students from University College, Mangalore. The researchers narrowed down to 80students

from 10 different classes. The collected data were analyzed on sampling method version 21.

Table 1: Similarities and Differences between Kannada and English Medium Students

Problems in Learning English	Similarities and Difficulties	
	Kannada Medium students	English Medium Students
Vocabulary	✓	✓
Grammar	✓	✓
Pronunciation	✓	✓
Developing Ideas	✓	
Listening	✓	
Speaking	✓	
Writing	✓	✓

Selection of study area

Fluency in English is much needed in today's world. Students of the University College Mangalore need help and encouragement to enhance their communication skills. The college has multilingual students from various cultural backgrounds. They face lots of challenges in communicative English, since these students are strongly influenced by their mother tongue.

Limitations

The experiment is done only for students of the university college, Mangalore. 80 students' responses were taken. Most of the students had the same problems and suggestions. Out of all only a few common responses were considered.

4. Discussion

Table 2: Strategies can be used to improve the language

Learning Strategies	Similarities and Differences in Students Strategies	
	Kannada medium student	English medium students
Reading online jokes	✓	
Taking note of unknown words	✓	✓
Learning English through Google	✓	✓
Learning English through social media	✓	✓

Volume 12 Issue 11, November 2023

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Memorizing vocabulary	✓	
Reading books	✓	✓
Reading journals	✓	✓
Using subtitles	✓	✓
Watching English movies	✓	✓
Listening to English songs	✓	✓
Listening to podcast	✓	
Singing English songs	✓	✓
Joining English activity		✓
Imitation	✓	✓
Reading stories	✓	✓
Writing routines	✓	✓
Thinking in English	✓	

In the process of collecting data from students, a variety of responses were recorded. Students from various streams like BA, B.Com, and BBA have shared their problems of learning English.

Student 1 said that he/she could understand but was unable to speak or express. Lack of vocabulary, and poor knowledge of grammar like tenses, prepositions, framing a sentence, etc, is the reason for his/her inability

Student 2 said that he/she has problems with spelling and pronunciation.

Student 3 said that strong influence of their Mother tongue made them not speak in English. Most of the students speak in a language which they are comfortable with. Moreover, lack of opportunity to speak hinders the student's communicative skills.

Student 4 said that inability to understand even few words in a conversation can hinder the conversation. To improve their language the students watch English movies, speeches, and English news.

Student 5 said that he/she can read and understand simple words. But find it very difficult when it's complex words.

Student 6 opines that not speaking in English and speaking in local languages in the college is the reason that many students have poor communicative skills.

Student 7 said that they find it difficult to frame a sentence. The student also opines that writing routines will be helpful to improve the language

5. Suggestions

English teachers have a lot of opportunities to help students enhance their English communication skills. Activities like asking students to read out the text before they explain it, asking students to form sentences from a new word they learned in the class, asking them to maintain a diary to improve writing skills, conducting games that include conversations, demonstrative presentations, riddles, even instilling confidence in them by asking them to speak more often in English can be helpful.

6. Conclusion

The study concentrates that students are facing many problems in learning English. Many issues like mother tongue interference and discouragement from society, or teachers' interest in solving these problems hinder the students. Teachers and training is necessary. Society must be aware of the importance of English. The syllabus should be upgraded and students should be encouraged when they do any work related to English learning .The study concluded that in University College students face many problems in learning the English language such as native language influence, lack of guidance, limited resources and so on to solve these problems. There is need of refresher course of teachers. Syllabus should be revised and students should be encouraged by the society and the teachers should adopt interesting methods to teach the English language.

Note: Learning English is not a hard nut to crack but one should have determination and dedication. Students should embrace the journey and remember that every mistake is a stepping stone to success. In the movie English Vinglish, a homemaker with minimal opportunities can learn to speak English. Then we must ponder as to why students with a lot of opportunities can't? Nothing is impossible when you have a strong desire to learn.

Books suggested for Students

- English Grammar and Composition – Wren & Martin
- Essential English Grammar- Raymond Murphy
- Intermediate English Grammar- Raymond Murphy
- Contemporary English Grammar -Structures& Composition – David Green.
- Tell me why- Manorama
- Wisdom- International Monthly Digest
- Daily News Paper

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