

An Evaluation of the Teaching of Reading Skills of English at IIT Andhra Pradesh

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Running Title: English and foreign languages university ESL-Studies

Abstract: This study investigates an important area of English language teaching and learning. It examines the present situation of teaching reading skills of English, the problems students encounter during reading an English text and the learners' proficiency level of reading skills when they are at the Engineering level in Andhrapradesh. It also examines the reading syllabus and reading materials used at the Engineering level. The study discusses the recent developments in reading pedagogy. It also presents an evaluation of teaching the different sub-skills of reading and then through an empirical study examines whether both higher and lower order sub-skills are covered in the reading syllabus, and taught properly in the country. The empirical investigation examines whether the modern methods of reading pedagogy are used in teaching reading in Andhrapradesh. The methods for empirical investigation in the study include students' and teachers' questionnaire survey, students and teachers' interview, classroom observation and administering reading tests. Reading components of the syllabus and the reading materials are also evaluated.

Keywords: English language, Empirical investigation, syllabus, pedagogy

1. Introduction

English language can give us fast communication throughout the countries of the world. The learning of English language provides us with many opportunities in home and abroad. Most of the official and corporate activities run with English languages. So, the role of English language for globalization is a very time concerned demand.

There have been significant developments in the theories and practices of reading, in the world in the last three/four decades. It is important to examine those developments for insights that can help us bring about significant changes in reading pedagogy in Andhrapradesh. Research in this field is very significant for India, because standard of education of the country depends on students' reading proficiency in English. For meaningful education, it is very important to improve the reading proficiency of learners in English. It is equally important to examine the present state of students' reading skills in Andhrapradesh, to identify the problems and address those to improve the overall situation in the interest of the country. It is admitted that higher education of the country suffers a setback because of students' poor level of reading proficiency. To improve the situation in the country, some measures must be taken to identify the problems, address them, and improve the situation. This study is an attempt to do so. Therefore, the study will be of great significance and interest for the country as a whole.

2. Research Problem

English language has become most significant in the Globalization world, professionally it play key role. Engineering students need efficient communicational skills to get succeed in academics and their profession as well as.

- What are the needs of the engineering student's in language learning context of academically and professionally in Andhrapradesh?
- How far are the engineering students prepared for international standard language?

- Does the English language syllabus meet the engineering students' academic and professional needs?
- Which aspects of present English language course in IITs of India especially Andhrapradesh need to be modified to meet the engineering student's communicative needs to apply it in real life situations?

The need for effective communication tends to be increasing due to globalization, science and technology. The proficiency of English language is very low to the engineering students in Andhra Pradesh.

3. Literary Reviews

The first and prime thing required for reading is the ability to recognize the written forms of the words. The perception and internalization of the meaning or message that a text contains. Thus reading is regarded as a 'two fold processes. Dechant (1982: 288) gives an elaborate description of the process: First, it requires word identification (visual discrimination of the word, and recoding or ability to pronounce the word), which is generally effected by configuration cues, phonic cues, morphemic analysis cues, and sometimes by picture and context cues. Second, reading requires comprehension (decoding or associating meaning with the symbols that comprise the words). According to Urquhart and Weir (1998: 18) reading is a cognitive activity, and being so, it mainly takes place in mind; the other physical manifestations such as eye movement, sub vocalizations etc. are, to them, 'comparatively superficial'. Grellet, F. 1996. Developing Reading Skills: A practical guide to reading comprehension exercises. Cambridge University Press.

Haque, A. 2006. Analysis of English Language: Needs for Higher Education in Bangladesh. Institute of Bangladesh Studies, Rajshahi University, Rajshahi.

4. Research Methodology

A successful research requires both library research and empirical investigations, that is, suitable research methodology and instrument have to be used by the researcher. Empirical research is important because it helps to support or reject the hypothesis/statement stated in the theoretical arguments of a study. The empirical research of this study focuses the problems students face during their reading, the reading pedagogy, materials and tests currently in use in the classes, present state of the reading skills of the students at the intermediate level, and teachers' role in conducting reading activities in the class. This chapter includes detailed description of the design and construction of the research instruments, the sampling plan of the empirical analysis, the process of administration of the study, and the method of processing and analyzing the collected data.

Purpose of the Empirical Investigation It has already been stated that this dissertation seeks to investigate the problems students face during their reading, examines the actual state of teaching and learning of reading skills at the intermediate levels in Andhrapradesh, find out the extent to which newly introduced Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) is implemented in the teaching of reading skills in Andhrapradesh. The study also tries to evaluate the reading. Components of the English syllabus, the reading materials currently used in the country and the test of reading skills administered at the intermediate levels.

Methods of Data Collection

Several types of methods are used to collect data for a thesis. The important methods include: a) Questionnaire survey b) Interview c) Observation method d) Schedule method e) Evaluation of the syllabus, materials and tests. Some other methods such as Diary Studies, Case Studies etc. are also used to collect data

Methods of Data Collection

Adopted for the Present Study: The present study is basically a descriptive study. For a successful and acceptable empirical survey the nature and the purpose of the study have been closely 78 examined, and five major techniques of the survey methods have been used for collecting data. They are: a) Students' and teachers' questionnaire survey, b) Students' and teachers' interview, c) Classroom observation, d) Test of reading skills, and e) Evaluation of reading syllabus, materials and tests

Instruments Used for the Empirical Study

Instrument used for the empirical study have been designed according to the designed methodology of the study. The methods used in this study are

- 1) Questionnaire for the students
- 2) Questionnaire for the teachers
- 3) Classroom observation scheme, and
- 4) A reading test. It has already been mentioned that the same questionnaire was used for both questionnaire survey and interview, one for the students and another for the teachers.

5. Conclusion

"English language is the most important hub for globalization world, currently it is a lingua franca to the international business, technology, aviation, diplomacy, banking computing medicines engineering and tourism especially in Andhra Pradesh. English plays an important role in the world."

English is a second and foreign language in India, "it is very important for Andhrapradesh to produce graduates of an international standard in today's globalized world; it is necessary to improve students' reading proficiency in English for that. Though it will take time to bring about changes in the present state of teaching and learning reading skills, it is not altogether impossible. If recent methods and approaches are used, proper way in the classroom teaching academically and professionally."

Need based Materials are required, and tests are designed, to change the status from present to target level .it will improve significantly. "This study, therefore, will prove very useful for the andhrapradesh as well as to the country. The importance of reading in Andhrapradesh cannot be denied. To make the students fit nationally and internationally, their reading skills must be of an advanced level. If reading skills are improved, learners will be able to utilize maximum resources for acquiring knowledge and information, and it will change the whole educational scenario of the country." So, the present study on Significance of Reading Skills for the Development of Communication Skills among Engineering Students of Andhra Pradesh has more importance to prepare Engineering graduates to international standards.

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