



NEW TRENDS OF RESEARCH IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

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Abstract:

Research is a systematic investigation or enquiry in the field of knowledge to discover over established facts or principles. It is very powerful instrument of knowledge and development. The nature and technique of research changes from subject to subject and language to language. This is because the materials and tools of each subject and languages are largely different. Research in language is different from research in literature. Both have different aspects or components which need to be studied separately. English is an international language and it used as official language of communication all over the world. There is lot of scope in research in English language as well as English language teaching because of its global application. Research in English language and English Language Teaching basically deals with phonetics, phonology and philology, vocabulary, grammar and structure, growth and decay of language, dialects, language acquisitions, language teaching methods or pedagogy, linguistics and other discipline. With the inventions of new technology, instruments, different software's, the approaches of the study have changed. This paper attempts to highlight the new trends and practices in research particularly English language and English Language Teaching.

Introduction

English language has emerged, developed and acquired status of Standard English in Britain during 14th century. The history of English language from the earliest days to the present time has been continuously developing. The language has been undergoing constant change. Geoffrey Chaucer is considered as the father of English Language. The English language of Chaucer is quite different from the modern English. English language reached all over the world with British colonialism and imperialism. New methods were introduced to learn and to teach English language in different countries. English gained much importance as language of international communication and language of science and technology. Many researchers has attracted towards researches in language and language teaching. This paper is an attempt to suggest some new areas of research in English language and English language teaching. English language has several influences from other languages since its inception. The main influences were Greek, Latin, French and Scandinavian. Before English the prestigious languages in England were Latin and French. English language has borrowed many loan words from other languages. The structure, syntax and grammar of Latin language have great influence

on English. The development is science has pervasive influence on language during 17th century. The rise of scientific writing in English helped to establish a simple referential kind of prose as the central kind in modern English.

The English language is spoken and read by the huge number of people in the world and it is second largest language in the world. It is like a mighty tree which today spreads its branches over so many people. Languages have developed mainly for communication but apart from communication it is used to store information, writing literature and preserve culture. It is not static because it changes with time. There are several reasons of change in languages which include changing circumstances, contact with the people of other culture and people speaking different languages, migration and changing need of the people. There is scope in the research to find out the language changes in different countries and different varieties of English.

English is the language not only of England but of a large number of British colonies all over the world. The various parts of the English speaking nations have developed their own standards, essentially alike in grammar but varying in pronunciation and vocabulary. English has become a cosmopolitan language

and this means many types of English. There are differences between British and American English and also between Indian, African, Canadian, Australian and all other types of English.

G. B. Shaw, well known dramatist once spoke, 'Great Britain and America as two great countries separated by the same language'. The truth is that in these two countries the different forms of English are used. British English and American English are two national varieties of English. American English has its own features and peculiarities which differentiate it from British English. They are different from each other from in spelling, vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation. Researcher can compare the usages of British English and American English in written as well as spoken forms. As English language started to spread in all over World, the experiment in teaching of English also started. In the beginning, grammar translation method and direct method were used for teaching English language. In the grammar translation method, teacher translates selected passage using bilingual dictionaries. The skills of speaking, reading and writing were neglected in this method. Even different teachers in different places developed their own varieties of grammar translation method. Direct method was reaction against grammar translation method, which emphasized language learning by direct contact with English language in meaningful situation. Many new methods and approaches such as structural approach of teaching English, situational approach and linguistic approach were evolved.

The new branch of knowledge linguistics emerged in 20th century which changes the teaching and learning approach of language. Linguistics is the scientific study of language. Phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, grammar, register, dialect, sociolinguistics, pragmatics and stylistics are some of the major areas of linguistics. Phonetics is a branch of linguistics concerned with the study of speech sounds and their production. Morphology deals with word formation processes. Research in this area help us to understand how a language is converted into sounds and how the speech sounds communicate thought, feelings and information.

Sociolinguistics is a branch of linguistics which studies the use of language in society. There are regional varieties of English which has influence of mother tongue or regional language. Researcher can study such influence of regional language in learning as well as teaching

of English language. Grammar and structure of language are also the areas of research. Two languages can be compared on the basis of grammar and structure. English language has borrowed many words from other language including regional language. Researcher can explore the loan words from other language.

Pragmatics is the specialized branch of linguistics which study or focuses on the relationship between natural languages and users of that language. It studies the context in which the language or utterances are used and the relationship between the speaker and listener. This is novel area of research in which the researcher can study the use of language. Stylistics deals with creative aspect of language. Creative language is used particularly in literature. Every writer has his or her own style of writing. Many stylistic devices are used in poetry such as parallelism, deviation etc. Researcher can study the style of writer of stylistic devices used in his writing.

Mother tongue is used while learning and teaching English language. Many scholars were studying influence of mother tongue on learning English language. Difference between learning the mother tongue and foreign language can be studied. Mother tongue helps to understand the other language so it can be a valuable aid for learning English language. Scholars can explore how mother tongue can assist directly or indirectly in teaching English language. Vocabulary and pronunciation from mother tongue also influences learning and teaching English language. Audio-visual aids has greatest significant in the process of learning and teaching of English language. It facilitates the understanding of the written and spoken word in teaching learning situations. They appeal to the senses which are source of learning and what we learn through sense remain in our mind for longer time. Audio aids include Radio, Tape recorder, language laboratory while visual aids include television and films. These audio-visual aids have great significance as far teaching learning in concerned. Research scholars can study the effectiveness of these audio-visual aids in teaching English language.

Today's age is the age of computer and multimedia technology. Technological aids in the English language teaching are a major force today. The multimedia technology occupies a very vital place in the telecommunications and it is popularly known as internet. Different software's and application are created for learning as well as teaching. This has now turned into a useful tool for communication of all trades

and fields. These are also being profitably employed in the field of teaching and learning process. This has resulted into the improvement of the teaching and learning process. A study of these multimedia devices and its impact on students as well teacher will benefit the society.

Modern world is an age of information technology and there is an explosion of information. There are various ways of collecting information using internet and social media. The huge information is available in the forms of word, graphics, pictures, audios, videos etc. This information has enabled the students as well as the teachers acquire more information. Collected information from internet or other sources requires be classifying, sorting, analyzes, interpreted and co-related for effective teaching. We can study the usefulness and effectiveness of the information technology on teaching English language.

Action research project is a modern concept in the field of teaching. Action research is method improved learning in the ordinary course of life. The action research in English calls for an action programme to be undertaken by the teacher of English to solve the problems of teaching and learning of English in schools or colleges. There can be several topics that need study and research at the hands of English teaching personnel. Some of the action research projects related to the teaching of English can be in the field of English spellings, speech and reading etc. it is the need of hour for the English teachers.

Education is a student centric process and the needs of the learners should be analyzed and considered. The need analysis of the learners can tell us why English is most needed and in which areas it is most relevant. The analysis of the language needs of professions and university students paved the way for the concept of English for General Purpose (EGP) and English for Specific Purpose (ESP). Looking at the needs of the learners means emphasizing what is relevant for the learners. English for Specific Purpose is associated with the situational needs of the learners. It deals with these courses where the syllabus and materials are determined by the prior analysis of the communication needs of the learner. English for General Purpose is opposite to ESP. Here, English is taught as part of general education. The syllabus is determined by the non-learner centered criteria. There is scope for researchers to study English language teaching in Professional colleges and traditional colleges. English language Proficiency of the students is also studied and compared.

Mrs. Seema Mahesh Mali

English language and English language teaching is a wide area to explore. Apart from the above suggested trends, researcher also studies the impact of new technology on learning English language and teaching. Drastic changes has been observed in English language because the use of English in chatting through whatsapp and other social medias. One can find out such changes and make research on it. Use of English in scientific writing, legal writing, creative writing and academic writing can be also studied.

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