

Pivotal Role of English in Research

Ravindra Nath Tiwari

Department of Training and Placement, BNM Institute of Technology, Bangalore, India

Abstract— English is a *Lingua franca* and so very important in education, professions, researches and of course personal life, especially in elite society. Since, it has been globally acknowledged, it is on high demand in myriad fields, mainly academics, business and researches. It is mostly used in high gentry and so considered a status symbol in the society. Its academic role is pivotal in literary pursuits in the present scenario. In broader perspective, it helped in getting independence that finally freed our country from the clutches of British Imperialism or British yoke. The national leaders got inspired from the writings of great philosophers like Ruskin bond and the other contemporary writers. It is also true to say that the founder of Indian National Congress, Allan Octavian Hume, was an English man. In brief, English was a great support in the struggle for freedom. It is used in a formal and informal manner both. It is quite objective, explicit and important but sometimes, complex too in nature and use as well. Since, most of the high standard books are available in English, they become the main source of academics, business and researches. The researchers usually refer books in English language because the contents are quite rich and suitable. It has also been read and approved by most of the foreign authors who know English only. It has been noticed that English being a world language, is also used for the other purposes too such as journalism, inventions, discoveries and even in serving news round the clock. The other details will automatically get unfolded ahead. So, the above points clearly indicate the role of English in researches and other perspectives of life. Furthermore, it is a link language that brings us closer to the entire world because in all the countries, usually people understand English and use it too. So, it is going global in almost all the walks of life.

Keywords— elite class, globally acknowledged, *Lingua franca*, myriad domains, unifying force.

I. INTRODUCTION

In India and even in a few countries like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan, only limited people use English and so its standard is also not very high. Thus, it needs tremendous improvement to maintain its standard. English plays a pivotal role in researches because maximum researches have taken place in English only. Be it Science or Humanities, the language seen is mostly English. It is true to say that in the beginning of 20th century, German was used frequently but now English is having upper hand and exalted status in international scientific communication, researches and the other academic pursuits too. In fact, the world's most spoken language by the total speakers is English as per (blog.esl-languages.com/blog/learn-languages/most-spoken-languages-world):

Ethnologue suggests the following list, that combines native and non-native speakers:

English	1.121 billion
Mandarin Chinese	1.107 billion
Hindi/Urdu	697.4 million
Spanish	512.9 million
French	284.9 million
Malay	281 million
Russian	264.3 million
Bengali	261.8 million
Portuguese	236.5 million

Internetworldstats.com has given consolidated information about the top users of English language. According to it, English users are 4%, Chinese 3%, Spanish 1%, Arabic 5.3%, Portuguese 1%, French 2% etc. Today, it is a link language for interstate communication/correspondence and also as a language for trade and commerce. Without its use, the communication between many parts of the country will totally cut off. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru worth quoted: "If you push out English, does Hindi fully take its place? It will, I am sure it will. But I wish to avoid the danger of unifying factor being pushed out without another unifying factor fully taking its place. In that event, there will be a gap, a hiatus. The creation of any such gap or hiatus must be avoided at all costs. It is very vital to do so in the interests of the unity of the country. It is this that leads me to a conclusion that English is likely to have an important place in the foreseeable future."

As per 2011 census the first, second and third language speakers in India are only 10.67% which is second after Hindi that is 57.09%. The efforts would be to see the reach of English in various domains, especially in researches. (From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia). Lord Macaulay also once said, "A class of people, Indian in blood and color, but English in taste, in opinions, in morals and in intellect".

Today, English is used as a global link language and also the language of library. The research scholars usually prefer the books of established authors who had written in English in India and abroad. This is the reason that maximum researchers are in English as compared to the other languages. The researchers usually keep themselves engrossed in researches while studying in the prestigious libraries and around them maximum numbers of books that can be easily referred is English only. So, they read, widen their mental horizon and execute beautiful researches. It is quite evident that today, it is an academic and professional tool and so, it is the most important language for all the communities that move from one place to the other for getting or sharing or imparting knowledge.

So, its accuracy is a must. It is seen that research papers, theses and dissertations are turned down in case of erroneous language or spelling errors. The structuring of words and sentences also come in this category. That is why, it is judiciously used in International Scholarly Journals. But general English is quite different from academic English. Usually, in all the academic endeavors, formal tone is used. Colloquialism, slangs, idiomatic expression and jargons are avoided in researches. It is kept simple, understandable and

clear in all respects. Owing to these reasons, it has upper hand over other languages.

The purpose of the contribution of this paper is to create awareness among the people to polish their language and make it a better one by maintaining its standard. In researches, academics and other areas, it should be used meticulously for its further extension and apt use. It should become a language of a common man in all spheres of life. The standard write-up will make others interested too.

The great philosophers of language have also advocated the use of English in researches namely:

Denby, R.V. in his writings 'Oral/ Dramatic Approach to Teaching English' has stated that teaching English requires dramatic approaches to make it interesting because its range is quite wide and so it is used in strengthening language in all domains, mainly academics, researches or any field. Its use is quite significant.

Balan, J. in English Global Dominance and the other Languages of Higher Education & Research Columbia Global Centre, Columbia University, 2014 says that English has its global dominance because it is a lingua franca, a world language. It is playing pivotal role in higher education and researches. These things have made it vital in all respects.

Diederich, P.B in The Development of a National Assessment Program in English Research in the Teaching of English has stated in the Development of a National Assessment Program in English Research in the Teaching of English that English plays a major role in English Researches and adorns it because of its global use. Its essence is quite wide and so it is used globally with respect and acceptability, even in National Assessment Program in English Researches and teaching.

II. METHODOLOGY

Since, English is used worldwide, it was a desire to know its range, use of its application in various fields, mainly academics and researches. After surfing details, it was also seen that there is more no. of books in English for academics and research purposes. The English writers have written many books in English and so its use is also more. In India, English is mainly used by the speakers of the second language. The survey of a few libraries also gave the same detail.

First, Second, and Third languages by number of speakers in India (2011 Census)

Language	First language speakers		Second language speakers ^[11]	Third language speakers ^[11]	Total speakers	
	Figure ^[11]	% of total population			Figure ^{[12][11]}	% of total population
Sanskrit	24,821	0.002%	1,234,931	1,196,223	2,360,821	0.19%
English	259,678	0.02%	83,125,221	45,993,066	129,259,678	10.67%
Punjabi	33,124,726	2.74%	2,300,000	720,000	36,074,726	2.97%
Malayalam	34,838,819	2.88%	499,188	195,885	35,538,819	2.93%
Odia	37,521,324	3.10%	4,972,151	31,525	42,551,324	3.51%
Kannada	43,706,512	3.61%	14,076,355	993,989	58,706,512	4.84%
Urdu	50,772,631	4.19%	11,055,287	1,096,428	62,772,631	5.18%
Gujarati	55,492,554	4.58%	4,035,489	1,007,912	60,492,554	4.99%
Tamil	69,026,881	5.70%	6,992,253	956,335	77,026,881	6.36%
Telugu	81,127,740	6.70%	11,946,414	1,001,498	94,127,740	7.77%
Marathi	83,026,680	6.86%	12,923,626	2,966,019	99,026,680	8.18%
Bengali	97,237,669	8.03%	9,037,222	1,008,088	107,237,669	8.85%
Hindi ^[b]	528,347,193	43.63%	139,207,180	24,160,696	691,347,193	57.09%

Table: Source Internet, Census 2011 under the title first, second and third languages by number of speakers in India (Since the census takes place after every 10-year, the previous data have been taken into cognizance). The next will be in 2021.

The method used in this research is mixed method such as surveys of libraries, observations of census 2011 and intensive secondary data analysis etc. It was to see its use mainly in researches. After survey, it was found that more no. of books was available in English than any other language. Since it was data specific, analysis became easier to identify its myriad use, mainly in researches. A few apps such as Grammarly, Anki, Purdue, Lingq, Duo lingo, Sentence Master Pro, Memrise and other apps may be used to make research better.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Though English is used in different strata of the society, academic aspects have been taken into cognizance because of its simple formal tone and style in writing. Be it academics, research or official writing, words and sentences go in simple ways. It has its objectivity, explicitness and formal way. It is also very much systematic and organized. English, being a foreign language has a few characteristics such as special use

of vocabulary, rich literature, use of active voice, avoidance of 1st and 2nd person pronouns, suitable use of conjunctions, avoidance of contracted forms of verbs and other words too. However, impersonal style and formal tone is used.

The academic English has a few more characteristics such as varied vocabulary, use of lexical items, high sounding words, grammatical complexities, phrases, idiomatic expressions, French and Germanic Words, variance in American and British English, use of colloquial expressions, formalities in presentation, variance in pronunciation etc. So, the necessity is to go in an organized manner such as planned way, proper skeleton or online tone and language. This sequence will give comfort to the readers to read and write easily.

In research, the academic writing must be formal in style, understandable and within the reach of the readers. It should be decently written with the use of active voice. It is so because in passive voice, the doer is not very clear. The most important thing in academic writing is that the author must know who his readers are. It is called: 'know thy

readers' as he/she is the subject. The clarity of target audience/readers is a must for the best use of the contents. In this situation, the necessity is to write things with great precision, objectivity, accuracy, explicitness, responsibility, organization of thoughts; sequencing of ideas and superlative mental agility in appropriate invocation. Putting everything in order, makes the mood of the readers. It is called hedging in English. Furthermore, the use of deductive reasoning and critical approaches are very essential to attempt any research paper.

The scholarly writings, simple style and diction must be there to add grace and elegance in the language. The other aspects are suitable choice of words. There should be a proper correlation b/w purpose and diction. They must go hand in hand. (Henry. K. 2001) has said "The no. of syllables in a word is also related to diction. Words can be monosyllabic or disyllabic. Monosyllabic words can add emphasis to the point we are making. In contrast, the more disyllabic words, the more difficult the content is". While writing use of clichés, colloquialism, slangs, figures of speech are to be avoided.

The style and diction shouldn't be based on emotional appeals, instead it should go with facts and figures. Under and over explanations are to be avoided because overgeneralizing things is not suitable in the academic writings. The sentences must be balanced. Thus, a few things need to be avoided in academics/researches like: Jargon, colloquial expressions, contractions, fad expression, ambiguity, vagueness, sexist language, passive vocabulary, redundancies, wordiness etc.

The researcher should use people-oriented language, understandable and clear in nature. The correct use of language, vocabulary, punctuation marks, coherence, association of words, very well-structured words apt in situations and proper order of writing will make the research better. Since, English has above stated essence in nature, it is widely used in researches.

IV. CONCLUSION

It is *prima facie* that English is predominantly, used in academics, researches and writing research papers. Owing to the rich availability of standard sources in this language, it is taking a lead as compared to the other languages. Since, the authors of high stature have made the literature richer, it is used more in researches to make them standard documents too. It has been observed time and again that most of the

educational institutions are promoting English, considering it the most standard one. Thus, English plays a pivotal role in researches and the other academic pursuits.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would sincerely like to thank Prof. Narayan Rao R Maanay-Secretary BNMEI, Prof. T. J. Ramamurthy-Director, Dr. S. Y. Kulkarni-Additional Director, Dr. G. N. Krishnamurthy-Principal and Prof. Eshwar. N. Maanay- Dean of BNMIT-Bangalore for their continuous motivation and encouragement to do creative work to break the monotony and drudgery of the previous days.

My thanks are due to Dr. Saritha Chakrasali, HOD, Training and Placement and Dr. Bhavas Vikas, Associate Professor, MBA Department- BNMIT for their motivation and able guidance to execute this work in a befitting manner.

My thanks are also due to my better half Mithlesh Tiwari and children for their valuable support and encouragement. I would also like to thank all the well-wishers for their good wishes.

REFERENCES

- [1] Balan, J. 2011: English Global Dominance and the other Languages of Higher Education & Research. Columbia Global Centre, Columbia University, 2014
- [2] Denby, R.V. NCTE/ERIC report 1969: Oral/ Dramatic Approach to Teaching English. English Journal, 58, 272-280
- [3] Diederich, P.B 1969: The Development of a National Assessment Program in English Research in the Teaching of English, 3, 5-14
- [4] Fay, R.S. The Revolution in English Teaching 1969: The Revolution in English Teaching. Journal of Education, 151 (3), 22-30
- [5] Mahavalah, G. Nagaraju, Ch. & Peter, S. (2013): Importance of Technology in Teaching and Learning English Language. International Journal of SR and & Reviews www.ijssr.org ISSN: 2279-0543.
- [6] MLA Handbook for Writers of Research papers, Seventh Edition. First East- West Word Press Edition: 2009. ISBN: 978-7671-061-9.
- [7] Morris, William, and Mary Morris. Harper Dictionary of Contemporary Usage. 2nd ed. 1985. New York: Harper, 1992. Print.
- [8] Weiner, E.S.C., and Andrew Delahunty, comps 1993: The Oxford Guide to English Usage. 2nd ed. Oxford UP, 1993. Print.