

# Communicative Skills for Engineering Students in National Capital Region



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## Abstract

English for specific purposes has emerged as varying purposes and needs of language learners and it is the kind of profession and unit of science that determines the objectives of language instruction for special language learning groups and class rooms. This sort of English enables to be classified for distinctive purposes such as English for engineering, English for tourism, English for business. This sort of teaching eases teachers to achieve desired course curriculum and learning to related branch. With this study, to have a general understanding of academic needs for engineering students. It is necessary to understand the importance of teaching English language through literature in order to make language learning an enriching experience for students. English language Teaching (ELT) gained prominence in the last three language is now an international language different area. It is difficult them understand the basic concepts in foreign language development. It is a bridge between two or more countries. English for specific purposes is a new Concept of communication used for purposes of specific fields. Students admitted in Engineering colleges come from different parts using English so that they can use it in their study.

**Keywords:** ESP, Communicative Skills, Course.

## Introduction

Communication demands that one should learn the rules and practice a lot. Unlike listening, speaking, and reading, writing is the way one makes their opinion visible to the world. Without writing ideas on a paper, of organizing its units into an internal structure. Man is a social being. As soon as he is in contact with others he communicates. For this he makes use of spoken and written language.

Language is a means of communication. Communication development skills set us apart from the rest of the animal kingdom. Human beings use language not only to transfer their ideas and thoughts but to foster friendship and to learn cultural, economic and social relationships. Words can have a significant impact on the way people are supposed and the level of respect they are given. So, language is obviously a vital tool in the hands of human beings. Many people believe that language has proved as a potent weapon and way to progress and ultimately to success.

In order to convey we know, or we feel, we need a tool. That tool is language. There are many languages in the world. One among them is English. Language is a system. Each language has its own structure, its own system. The main objective of the teaching learning of a living language –like English –is to help the learners to become able to use it to communicate with others, by sending and receiving meaningful messages. Language is an important tool of communication to express one's ideas, views and feelings.

## Aim of the Study

Globalization and competitiveness become the benchmark of any MNC, it becomes obviously important for employees to be equipped with good communication and soft skills. Therefore, engineering graduates require an ever-increasing range of skills to maintain relevance with the global environment of the era. Increasing pressures and challenges arising from the broadening roles of engineers has enhanced the need for the Indian engineers to acquire good English communication skills. Good English Communication Skills is a vital element of an engineer's profession and the lack of such skills only undermines the image of an engineer.

There is a great need to frame course material and develop methods and strategies to enhance various skills of communication of engineering graduates.

#### **Communicative Efficiency**

Communication enables a student to select the language he wishes to use. Expecting our students to have the same kind of competence is something we are not supposed to know what is appropriate in certain situations. And it is doubtful whether we can expect, in a classroom, to teach our students communicative competence, because the classroom may be far from the target language community, and it is doubtful whether we can give this knowledge. What we can aim for, is communicative efficiency. Here we will expect our students to be able to express what it is they wish to say. In other words, if they wish to express disagreement, we can ensure that they are able to do so and that their meaning is understood.

We can take an English standard and teach students how to convey their thoughts and purposes efficiently. We are not teaching our students to be model Englishmen or Americans. A scholar has put forward the concept of communicative competence which means that the speaker knows about the grammar of the language and knows especially what is appropriate in certain situations. It was this knowledge, but to use the tool of the English language to communicate.

Language is the most commonly used and effective medium of self-expression in all spheres of human life – personal, social, and professional. Thinking is a creative process and it exposes one's personality. Sometimes learner may feel it is happy to be without any thought because nobody wants to put a foolish, illogical, misinformed mind on display to others. But in today's world of high competition, writing has become the one major component and true measure of our thinking and everyone wants to see it. In doing so, we provide a logical pattern of organization that follows the conventions of standard written English. The days of the multiple-choice tests are gone. Present testing process wants to show not just what one knows but how they know it and how they can apply. In short, today tests are mainly on our writing ability. Students should possess these communication abilities before they enter into any profession.

#### **Necessity of English Communication Skills**

Communication process takes place by enriching four skills- Listening, speaking, reading and writing. The last of the four ways we learned to communicate was through writing, and the very formal exchange of words to paper was probably initiated in school, as early as kindergarten. Now, as adults, even though one can say with confidence that they know "how" to listen, speak, read, and write, even they can use these four skills in their communication well.

There is a clear necessity for communicative English for engineers in the current world environment. English language with specific training is necessary for engineering student's so that they can develop communication skills for global

world. This education will be extra for the internationalization of practicing engineers. The deficiency in this area may result in barriers for graduates' professional programme. In this curriculum new content, methods and techniques, will be applied for this particular area of engineering English. The aim of this whole process is to develop and master relevant communication and professional skills, using English as a means and a kind of mediator in shaping future engineers. The role of ESP teachers in planning, developing and applying the course with essential materials shall be vital.

The incorporation of communication skills courses in English for engineers at the universities is becoming an essential element of continuous learning. Terminology and communication skills required in the professional field. In the language classes, these students are encouraged to develop their writing skills and grammar skills so they can perform well. The present study seeks to identify the academic and sociolinguistic needs of the learners in the program and to make a few recommendations that may help to enhance the present English syllabus and to make the present syllabus more learner-centered, for meeting the requirements, necessities and wants (Hutchinson and Waters, 1987) of the learners. The study is also concerned with the practical aspect of students

As the main concern of the study is to demonstrate how the learners can learn the English language most effectively, it would be vital to explore what the learners actually know. The objectives of the study are to identify learners' subordinate skills and knowledge required by the learners in order to carry out real world communication tasks; to find out what these learners should be taught at this level when they are getting prepared to face the challenges of B.Tech. courses; to see what can be done to improve students' poor motivation; and to examine how the course of study should be prepared to serve students' academic needs in language usage and to cater to their sociolinguistic need particularly students studing NCR area.

#### **Hazard in Communication in English Language**

Communication hurdles especially in English will create misunderstandings and also it leads to the delay of work. Communication breakdown arises due to improper encoding of message. Even by-passing message to many it gets diluted and the meaning will change. Due to physical distractions, emotional interferences and cultural differences may cause a problem. Sometimes noise from the surroundings may stand as the hazard for communication. Poor expressions of the speaker can create confusion so during communication not just the sender even the receiver need to concentrate on the message. They need to show interest in the communicative process.

Communication barriers can be overcoming by following few points. Communication should be goal oriented. Have a positive attitude about communication. Do not make communication simply

for responsibility consider it as a creative task. One need to accept the truth that if he/she will not show interest in communication. It will lead to miscommunication and finally it will create many problems for both sides. Avoid distractions and doing other works during communication.

#### **Developing Communication Skills**

Communication adds meaning to human life. It helps building relationships and understanding. It enriches our knowledge of the universe and makes life comfortable. Learner should focus on his various skills in communication because this ever-changing world has sustenance difficult. Communication skills are continuous process of lifelong learning, essential for human resource development. This change in the field of communication will bring social transformation; even the field of education has not remained untouched. Quality has become a decisive factor in the new millennium in attracting students, faculty, and institution. Students started concentrating on English language learning more than their mother tongue learning. Due to globalization, English language got so much prominence. Students will be placed in multinational companies when they have better communication skills in English.

There is a competition in the market and only those can survive who possess effective communication skills. Communicative competence refers to the ability to communicate and includes all four skills listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

The lack of communication skills only serves to undermine the whole profile of the professional engineer. Globalization directly influences industry's needs; a global engineer must be able to easily cross national and cultural boundaries. This in turn directly affects engineering education. A common code for communication is required. Those education institutions, which meet the language requirements for the new global engineer, will be ready to face the new millennium. Some intellectuals emphasize the need for engineers to be able to integrate technical expertise with behavioural and societal issues, to work on solving complex problems in teams composed of professionals from many disciplines and exhibit high level communication skills.

#### **Conversational skills**

For the improvement of Conversational skills, one specialized class may be organized every week or two. In such classes, the teacher should assign a general topic or choose any subject – oriented topic for discussion. The students should be encouraged to express their ideas and opinions, and hence create a proper atmosphere for the conduct of a discussion and boost the students during the activity should be collectively at the end of the activity. One of the main fallouts of globalization of English is that all learners, no matter what their social or regional origins belong to, need to increase their English language repertoire. The present global context therefore calls for steps to tone up English language teaching. The recent studies in the field of language education show a shift in focus from the product of teaching to the process of learning. This mounting recognition of the process of learning led to

the interest in how learners learn a language. It is a fair assumption that a good language learner is likely to display a personal learning style or positive learning strategies which is not so good counterpart displays. Hence training the learners in the use of language learning strategies these could be one of the ways of improving language competence. The underlying assumption is that strategy training has a bearing on the quality of learning. It has been felt that an overt training course in language learning strategies helps to bridge the gap between actual competence level and expected competence level and may further enable the learners to move towards learner autonomy.

#### **Language Learning Programmes**

There has been a saying that children learn by fun. So, they need tension free environment to learn. They can do a lot of things through games. Language can also be learnt through a play-way method. Language games have both fun and excitement and serve the pedagogical purpose. It must be noted that language games would fail in their purpose if they are not planned in advance and used methodically and careful. Games are often wrongly regarded as an end-of-term activity or something to fill in the last five minutes of a lesson. In fact, they can be used at all stages of practice from controlled to free. Language learning is many sided, which need not discourage us from seeing it crudely as a matter of four skills: those of successful listening, speaking, reading and writing.

#### **Conclusion**

I have also mentioned learning centered approach based on learners' needs, expectations and learners' way of learning language. Learning strategies and teachers' attitude to ESP course and motivation is also emphasized as a necessary part of learning process. In my practical part I have focused on particular learning aspects and various activities that have been done in the course of engineering. Success and communication are very closely related with each other. In today's competitive world, good four skills provide the right key to success. These skills are required to maintain relationships and better understanding which are vital in both personal and professional life. Lack of communication skills will certainly affect the future of any student these days as most of the careers and job opportunities have made it mandatory that employees should be proficient in the English language. Hence it has become essential for the engineering colleges to have special training sessions for the students to improve their English communication skills. Communication like birth, death growth and decay is a part of individual life as well as organizational existence. Its importance is self-explanatory and is an experience of all as well. Communication skill is essential for an Engineer who aspires to carry out his professional practice in the global arena. The rapid globalization of the world's economy has placed a significant impact on the way Indian engineers work.

The role of engineers in society is changing and places new pressures and demands on engineering faculties in the Universities around the

world. Engineering education requires a more outward look with the ability to produce graduates who would be able to lead the engineering profession with its increasing pressures and challenges arising from the broadening roles of an engineer. Engineers are required to perform not only in technical capacities but also in the non-technical capacities.

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