



ENGLISH AS A FUNDAMENTAL TOOL IN THE OVERALL EDUCATION OF FUTURE ENGINEERS

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ABSTRACT

The English language is a key tool for professional success, allowing us to share with other cultures around the world; something is considered the language of communications. English language has brought the people of the world together through its communicative approach. It has been a global language in daily activities that people used to perform their work. It has been essential language for everybody. Without the knowledge of English people can't be updated with perfect information. Hence, English is the language of everybody. The modern world demands the appropriation of different skills to function successfully in the professional field. The skills are indispensable means of gaining knowledge about new technologies and science and in entering the field of business. Their learning is no longer a luxury, but a necessity. Therefore it is said that one who is not fluent in that language would be a disadvantage to other professionals. For non-native English users, English is very important because it is widely spoken all around the world. Knowing English allows people to enjoy their life and work no matter where they are. For engineering students whose mother tongue is not English, mastering English is even more important, not only for their academic life but also for their prospective career. It is well known that, language has an important role in children's development; accordingly, when they learn new language, they will automatically learn about its culture which then can change their point of view towards life. Thus, if children are urged to learn a language from the higher civilization which obviously has higher cultural life, they will also learn how to be highly cultured. It then, of course will change their habit, for instance, they will eventually love reading and writing more rather than listening and speaking, they will also consider the value of healthy life. English, as a high culture language brings along its culture to the world perspective. When people learn English language it will be so obvious that they will also learn about its culture. In this article, the author make an effort to shed light and to cast attention about the ways the international students can follow in order to improve their English Language skills.

Key Words: English Language, Engineering students, Fluency, Knowledge, World

Introduction:

Language is the only way by which one can express their emotions, thoughts, desires ideas, feelings etc. English is that language which is spoken by many people. English is an International language. Whenever to know what is happening on the other side of the world, the news can be available in English only. The literature



around the world was written in many languages and can be understood by those people only, but if it is translated in English without disturbing its charm, many people (90 countries) can enjoy the flavor of literature. English has changed its forms many times earlier it was old English, then Middle English then early English and now modern English. Mostly traders use Latin language then dramas and poems were written then the English was used as an official language and now English occupied the whole world and became a global language. So it is very important to know the English language.

In order to master the engineering knowledge and skills better, engineering students should own the English language competence. Most of the scientific papers or journals in the world are written in English. Most of the engineering graphs are also marked in English. Moreover, most engineering professors in various universities are also conducting their lectures in English. Hence, engineering students should at least master the Basic English ability to deal with the countless English lectures, tutorials, labs, projects and papers. Finally, they have to submit their important theses, still in English.

When engineering students graduate from the college and become real engineers, they will find that English appears even more crucial than it used to be. Engineers usually work in groups since their task can seldom be solved by an individual. The property of their work determines that being an engineer needs to cooperate and communicate with different people from different part of the world. For non-native English speakers, unfortunately, most of the engineers speak English as the first language or the working language. In order to understand and coordinate with their colleagues and accomplish their projects fluently, engineers have to speak good English.

Worldwide importance of English Language:

All in all, non-native English engineering students should try hard to improve their English ability, which could help to make both their school life and career more successful and enjoyable. English is now the most widely used language in the world. About one fifth of people all over the world know more or less about English; 60 percent of the radio programs are broadcast in English; more than 70 percent of the content or address of mailing letters are written in English. English plays an important role in the world. For engineering students, it is crucial to master English language because of its significant effect on academic life and career.

In academic life, engineering students need to read academic papers and books to enrich their knowledge. To better understand scientific theories, it is better to read the original works, most of which were written in English. Besides, many English speaking countries are advanced in scientific and technology, to learn from them, engineers must have good English ability. Moreover, as the most convenient way to get information, the internet provides more than 70 percent of information in English. Therefore, engineering students must master English to gain more and greater achievement.



When engineering students begin their career, they work in a team most of the time since great engineering design and creation is hard for a single person to achieve. During the cooperation, they have to communicate and exchange ideas with each other whose native language may be different. Thus, English, the most common international language, is a bridge between them.

In a nutshell, English language competence is a significant aspect of an engineering student's academic life and prospective career. To attain great achievement, engineering students cannot neglect their English capability.

The English language is so vitally important because it is spoken in so many parts of the world. Businesses, educational domains, academic domains, and even realms that deal with security all use English as a language of communication. In a practical sense, one could survive without English, but with the globalized nature of the world and commerce, knowledge of English is quite essential. In terms of the appreciation of language and literature, knowledge of English is extremely important in understanding some of the best writings offered. This is not to say that other languages do not possess the same amount of introspection and talent. Far from it. Yet, the knowledge of English could help to open many professional and literary doors.

English is an important language, because it is the *lingua franca* of the world. Since there are so many languages of the world and on account of this, there can be communication problems, it is important to have a language that most people know. This happens to be English. For example, children in many countries of the world learn English. So, it is very possible to be in any major city in the world and probably get by with English. This is an amazing point! Now things will change drastically outside of cities. Finally, English may not be the *lingua franca* in the future, but for now it is. For this reason, it is important to learn English.

English as the source of knowledge:

English has plenty of words to choose from. In fact, an English speaker is offered the biggest vocabulary of any language with a choice of 500,000 to 1,000,000 words (including technical and scientific terms).

It's a well-known fact that science has been mostly developed by the scientist from English speaking country even a number of sciences are originated from the English speaking countries. Accordingly, most of the disciplines of science use English as its medium. In addition, there are a number of untranslatable English scientific terms which then urge people to learn English to understand the real meaning of such untranslatable terms. English even also used in so many branches of disciplines such as philosophy, sociology, literature, linguistics, law, and others. Therefore, by learning English, it will be easier to acquire new knowledge. Furthermore, it has also been officially proclaimed by as an international language which means that in the international school level, English language is always used



as the medium language. Moreover, in this modern era, on which technologies play a very important role in the science and knowledge development, people are also obligated to master English for it is also used in the technologies as the instruction medium. In this era which technologies has been very important; internet is usually used for sharing purposes. It means that the spread of science through internet mostly uses English as the medium language. A research proved that in internet, more than 80% of the sites use English as the medium language while 20% of the rest use the other languages such as Indonesian, Chinese, and the others (Alfitri, 2012). It indicates that if people do not learn English as their second language they will only acquire less than 20% of the new knowledge, for nowadays new knowledge is mostly shared through the internet.

In this global era on which technologies also have been an important part of human life, people have been living with technologies even since the childhood. Even recently there have been so many children use internet to learn new things. Accordingly, if their parents do not guide them to learn English since the early age, they won't be able to gather new information. In addition, English also has an important role in children's self-development. As what is stated by Edward Sapir and Benjamin Lee Whorf (in Whorf, 1956) that language affects human's perspective towards world; by learning English, children will also learn about its culture and of course it affects their point of view towards the world. Therefore, by learning English, children will improve their point of view towards the worlds and of course their knowledge.

English Language as a means of civilization development:

As the world moves forward the civilization in all around the world changes. The change of the civilization itself follows the cultural dynamic changes which always change overtime. The cultural dynamic changes have globally become the mainstream in all around the world. Even now, the main culture is the global culture. Mujiyanto et al (2010:2) defines culture as the result of human endeavor to maintain their life, maintain their bloodline, and to raise their prosperity; therefore culture can be defined as the realization of human's endeavor against the challenges in the process of their adaptation towards the environments. It means that environment changes can really affect human's cultural life; when the cultural atmospheres change, so will the cultural life. Furthermore, Mujiyanto et al (2010:5-6) explains that culture as civilization is divided into two classifications; they are high culture and low culture. A society is considered as highly cultured when the people have highly reading habit, tend to write, dedicate themselves to the knowledge development, realize their health value, and so on. Meanwhile, some characteristics of low culture are; the people tend to listen, watch, and speak more than read or write, the people don't really concern on the development of knowledge, they don't really realize about their health value, and so on. Language, as one of the cultural aspects, takes an important role in cultural development. When people learn a language, they will automatically learn about its culture. By learning about the other culture, of course people will also develop their individual life which then can trigger the development of cultural life in their society.



In accordance, English language is considered as an important subject for Engineering students, because instead of widening student's perspective towards world, it can also affect their cultural habit such as reading, writing, studying, etc. Moreover, by learning English as their second language, students will be easier to acquire the latest information dealing with their academic life, because the latest information, especially which deals with education developments are spread out through the internet with the English language as the medium. Therefore, it can be said that it is very important for Engineering students to master the English language as the second language because it can improve their knowledge, qualification, and not to mention it can develop their civilization.

Methods to adopt for learning English easy:

Students should be eager enough to know about different things. So they need to be perfect with English language. They need this language while reading and nowadays email internet and other electronic media have been using English. Electronic media have globalized the people across the world through English language. So English has been an important part of life for modern students now-a-days.

One of the most important international languages is English Language. It is considered as a requirement for studying abroad for several decades. In particular, most of the textbooks in all the different disciplines are in English, including business textbooks.

Students who aim at getting master or Ph. D in one of the business disciplines, they must consider that. However, some student may be confused or misled to become fluent English speaker or may don't realize how much English language is important, or they are frustrated because they don't speak well.

Now a day, everybody's confusion is what English fluency is or how can they learn English language. In fact, this is an important and wide question as well as it is elusive question. First of all, the student should differentiate between textbooks language and real English Language. For textbooks, student should study and read business textbooks line by line to get familiar with business terms, namely, economic, financial, accounting and management terms, such as fiscal and monetary policies, derivatives, materiality, accounting theory, pensions, capital leases, etc.... therefore, this process allow student write in business language. In addition, you should focus on grammar in order to write statements free from mistakes.

On the other side, real English Language is the daily language used by native speakers in the street, supermarkets, companies, public places, in buses, etc.... For example, In Arabic Language, there are two versions: standard Arabic Language which used in literature, poems, while colloquial Arabic Language which is used in our daily life. To get fluent English Language speaker, some tips for international students regarding learning English language are to be introduced.



First, individual words should not memorize, but phrases and statements are to be studied and memorized.

Second, articles, conversations, stories are to be read and try to write new statements and imagine stories that simulate the stories you read before.

Third, Download videos, films, conversations and repeatedly listen to them (listen for more than 20 times)

Fourth, try to repeat what the native speaker said during the conversation.

Fifth, study the words and phrases that are familiar and repeatedly used. This requires listening to movies, CNN, BBC, WWE, Euro news agencies.

Sixth, focus on pronunciation, be patient to listen conversations several times, try to repeat what do you hear, and sometimes try to write the difficult idioms that native speakers used.

Fortunately, with the introduction of internet, students find easy access to websites in this respect, and download hundreds of articles, stories, conversations that related to our life aspects.

For our business school, English Language is the PILLAR of it. In addition, our business school adopts four English Language courses focusing on business communication skills. It also supports and motivates students to get part of learning English language programs that conducted outside the university. However, students who face significant problems in English Language, they fail to get the required score, and then they are dismissed.

To conclude, Listening and speaking are the keys to get proficient in English language.

Practice, Practice, Practice and Practice.....

Don't be frustrated, Always try, try, try, try and try.....

Hard working is the key to success.....

Conclusion

In this global era, where everything is globalized and people are urged to be able to communicate globally; English language plays a very important role, especially in international communication. Furthermore, it has also been a global lingua franca which is used by most people in all around the world to communicate with each other internationally. Therefore, it is very important for us to acquire English as the second language in order to be able to keep up with the globalization. With good mastery of English, people will have more chance in the world competition, especially when it deals with job-fields. People are considered qualified if they are able to speak in English. Moreover, English has also been one of the



prerequisites in the job-fields, especially in the higher position such as managerial positions, public relations, and so on. Thus, it can be said that by mastering English, people will obviously get a better life. Instead of it, English is very important in technology and science development, for it has been a medium language that is used in technological and scientific fields. By mastering English, people will be able to learn more knowledge, gather more information, and not to mention be better informed. Not only that, even by learning English language; its culture will also influence people's perspective which then will influence their culture including their habit and their ways of life. It's a general fact that English culture is considered as high culture on which people tend to do useful things and have useful habit such as reading, writing, considering the health value and so on. Therefore, by learning the language, people, will be able to upgrade their cultural life into the better one.

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