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TEACHING METHODS OF SPOKEN ENGLISH TO TECHNICAL AND MANAGEMENT
STUDENTS IN BIHAR

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ABSTRACT

Exploring feasible methods and approaches for teaching spoken English to Technical and Engineering students in Bihar is indeed the need of time as English communication skill will academically and professionally complement their education and degree. There is a need assessment required to see the specific language requirement for fulfilling academic and employability aspirations of the students. Technical lexical resources, subject-specific terminologies, and real-life scenarios must be brought into the curriculum to enhance coherence and participation. Moreover, inclusion of technology for the acquisition of language skills should be encouraged. Some already established methodologies such as Communicative Approach, Task-Based Learning, Role Play and Simulation and practices as such have already promoted speaking skills among students everywhere, but to add pace to it, we must ponder about it as to what more should be done so that learning becomes remunerative for students studying in technical and management colleges of Bihar. More focus during suggestive methods should be on peer-practice, collaborative task, and interactive communication. Teaching spoken English to Technical and Engineering students in Bihar can be enhanced by bringing in use various strategies including active learning, project-based learning, gamification, audio-visual aids, and real-time assessment. These methods should engage students in the learning process, and capitalize technology to make the learning curve interactive and effective. However, the importance of flexibility, adaptability, in the teaching process, cannot be ignored so that whenever there is a scope of improvisation for the facilitators to tailor their methods to the evolving needs, it can be worked on. In the end, it will not be wrong to say that with the implementation of such pedagogical strategies and approaches, students can easily be equipped with spoken proficiency to succeed in their pursuit.

Keywords: Methods. Technical and Management students, spoken English, lexical resource, peer activity, role paly, simulation, audio-visual aid, facilitators.

1. Introduction

As we all know English is the medium of instruction in technical and management studies. Not only during studies but also after study when students look for job opportunities, the importance of English cannot be underestimated. Usage or learning of English is categorized into functions of Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing and the students from various backgrounds adopt to this accordingly. However, students somehow manage and develop their listening, reading, and writing skills. But, majority of the students succumb to the pressure of Spoken English during studies and afterwards as well. As a result, the efforts of many students go futile. There have been numerous instances where students even after being subject experts fail to make early breakthrough in good companies only because of lack of Spoken English abilities. More importantly, it is their oral proficiency which boosts their confidence, helps them in believing in themselves in creating an impression of their personality. Since time immemorial, Bihar has been lagging in areas of development, especially in the fields of education and better employment. As a result, there has always been a migration by the students of Bihar to other places in search of better opportunities of education and employment. Not much effort has been put in the field of English Language training. They have been few and far between. One such instance was a BLISS project. It was a language Initiative for Secondary Schools. But the efforts of uplifting English education in the state have been meagre which has let students face many hurdles in nurturing their careers. Keeping this in mind and the great need to enhance students' oral proficiency in English, some measures should be taken for the students studying in such colleges. Also, there is still a lot of apprehension among the students and they are very unsure regarding how to enhance their oral proficiency which can lead to better career prospects in the country and outside.

Challenges faced in learning spoken English by technical and management students in Bihar.

Technical and management students in Bihar face a lot of challenges while learning spoken English.

- i. **Lack of knowledge:** Students struggle with subtle language aspects like grammar, parts of speech, use of articles, pronunciation, and syntactical formation.
- ii. **Regional Language Background:** Many students in these colleges come from vernacular language backgrounds. They mostly find it difficult to adapt to English as the medium of instruction.
- iii. **Lack of Comprehension:** Some students face issues in comprehending English and therefore struggling to comprehend concepts regardless of the language used.
- iv. **Unsuitability for Jobs:** Reports indicate that a significant percentage of engineering and management graduates lack English communicative skills, impacting their employability and suitability for technical and management jobs.
- v. **Multilingualism Challenges:** In professional institutions, English is supposed to be the third language for students, after their regional language and Hindi, posing challenges for effective communication and language learning.
- vi. **Educational System Reform:** The current system of teaching communicative English to address the challenges faced by students and teachers in engineering and management colleges needs to be revamped for better learning outcomes for employability

2. Methodology

Effective teaching methods for teaching spoken English to technical and engineering students in Bihar is the need of today. But before we talk about different methods, we must ensure certain attributes like personalisation, being culturally aware and prioritizing practical applications for the students. Student-centric discussion, collaborative learning styles should be encouraged. Active participation, practical relevance, improvised approaches will cater to specific and result oriented needs in academic and professional success of

technical and management students in Bihar. Let us investigate some of the spoken teaching methods which will work towards enhancing the career growth of the students:

- i. **Lexical Approach:** This type of method focuses on the value that learning a language can be obtained by the ability of being able to use lexical phrases and chunks rather than strictly adhering to grammar rules.
- ii. **Total Physical Response (TPR):** TPR is a comprehensive approach to language learning. It is like as one learns one's first language through actions in response to commands given by the teachers.
- iii. **Grammar & Translation Method:** This traditional method focuses on grammar rules and translation exercises. It aims to familiarize students with grammatical structures.
- iv. **Communicative Language Learning:** This method focusses on language functions like request, thank, invite using activities of role play, group activities and discussions to promote communication skills in real-life.
- v. **Direct Method:** The direct method or the natural method targets only on using English as the language of communication rather than any other native or regional language between the teachers and the students. Most of the times, it is used as a substitute to grammar and translation method.
- vi. **Suggestopedia:** This method uses physical environment of the classroom like music, and decor to create a conducive learning atmosphere for language acquisition.
- vii. **Audio-Lingual Method:** Learners through audio-visual aids listen to sentences, dialogues and repeat, imitate and practice them to develop their speaking skills.
- viii. **Role-Play and Simulation:** Role-plays and simulations allow learners to choose a scenario of their choice and practice speaking skills. These scenarios could be an interview, a doctor visit, a customer service interaction.
- ix. **Storytelling and Drama:** Different types of stories, scenes of plays or dramas are used to engage learners in imaginative way them learn with interest and better their speaking skills.
- x. **Flipped Classroom:** Learners engage with instructional materials outside of class (e.g., watching videos, reading texts) and then use class time for interactive activities, discussions, and speaking practice facilitated by the teacher.

Apart from this, there are many other ways and methods which can be used from time to time to improve students' spoken English skills.

3 Results

Improving spoken English skills in technical and management colleges in Bihar can have several positive outcomes:

- a. **Employability:** Effective spoken English proficiency is the gate pass to a job and is highly valued. As a result of globalization, students with good spoken English skills are in demand.
- b. **Better Academia:** Strong spoken communication leads to better academic performance as they participate in discussions, understand lectures delivered in English, and present their ideas confidently.
- c. **Increased Confidence:** Having command over spoken English boosts students' confidence levels and they perform well in academic and professional career.
- d. **Global Opportunities:** Proficiency in spoken English opens avenues to global tie-ups, such as studying abroad, or working for multinational companies.

- e. **Professional Development:** Improvement in spoken English is the key to students' lifelong learning and professional development. Global network and connections allow them to stay updated with the latest trends and research

4. Conclusion

To sum up, we can say that teaching spoken English to technical and management students in Bihar is significant in enhancing their employability, academic performance, confidence, global opportunities. By arming them with skills of spoken English, colleges can prepare them for the demands of workplaces and facilitate them into a globalized economy. However, the effectiveness of spoken English teaching in technical and management colleges is a two-way approach and require efforts from both the ends. The college or the educational institution as well as students have to ensure that they are putting their efforts neither of them should make the efforts of other futile by ignoring the importance of spoken English skills in the present age.

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