



## Teaching and Learning English: A New Approach

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**Abstract-**The present paper throws light on the new approaches of teaching and learning English. The paper discusses both types of approach-traditional and modern. The main point of this research is to show the significant improvements in learners, particularly in vocabulary acquisition, grammar comprehension, and communication skills. The study also highlights the role of teacher and learner throughout the learning process. The study proves that the classroom teaching is not sufficient to become fluent in the English language. The paper also discusses about the importance of atmosphere and social milieu in learning a new language. Apart from the above discussed points, the present research also focuses on the importance of several applications and websites in the process of learning the English language.

**Keywords-**English language, grammar comprehension, communication skills, classroom teaching, vocabulary.

I would have English as an associate, additional language, which can be used not because I do not wish the people of non-Hindi areas to feel that certain doors of advance are closed to them. So I would have it as an alternative language as long as people of India require it.

(Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru)

India is a developing country and the English language has become a prime factor for India's complete development according to the demand of the generation. Due to being a second language, English is very difficult for Indians. The foremost reason for this difficulty is the inappropriateness of the socio-cultural milieu. In spite of having a desire for English learning, people can not attempt the height of English fluency. So, this research finds out the hindrances in teaching and learning English and how the new approaches are helpful for attaining success.

The English language is the most spoken language across the world. But in our country, people still lament for their inability in English communication. And in the 21<sup>st</sup> century,

communicating in English is essential. English has been added to the syllabus of schools and colleges for several years, but this step is not looking like a successful weapon for killing the fear of English.

The position of English may be stronger in the urban areas but the people of rural areas are still in a battle with the English language. In spite of doing hard work on the English language, they can not attain the accuracy and fluency in it. The reason for this difficulty may be long lasting techniques of English teaching and learning which need to be changed. This research paper focuses on the traditional and modern new approaches for English teaching and learning.

### Traditional Methods of Teaching English

In the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, some modifications were applied to the direct method when structural linguistics came into being. According to structural linguistics, language is a highly systematic and structured entity that is arranged in a hierarchy. It suggests that it is a step-by-step learning process and it can not acquire directly without any structure.

Harold Palmer and A.S. Hornby introduced **The Oral Approach** which is also known as **Situational Language Teaching**. This method focused on the use of language according to situation or context and on the practice.

Educators should educate their learners in such a way that proves helpful not only for their exam purpose but also for improving their English in general routine. Bilingual teaching may be helpful in order to explain the concept of grammar easily, but it should be used according to the requirement. Educators should try to develop the habit of their students for understanding the concepts in English. They should reduce the use of Hindi or any other native language in the classroom. Teaching should be facilitated in a manner that encourages students to participate in speaking activities, thereby overcoming their hesitation. To achieve this, a friendly and supportive atmosphere should be fostered, where students feel comfortable and empowered to engage actively." For speaking and writing wrong English, students should not be mocked and scolded, but educators should correct



and inspire them for their continued efforts. For example, if a student uses 'swimmed' instead of 'swam' as a second form of the verb 'swim,' so they should be corrected and inspired for the next time.

Teachers can use the situational approach in the classroom for teaching English. He can start a topic for conversation which is familiar for the entire class. For example, he can talk on social media which is the most popular topic these days. On this topic, students can definitely construct one or two sentences. In the beginning, the topic should be confined within a single type. For example, a teacher can teach his students the application of 'Present Indefinite' -

"Social media provides us many pieces of information."

Now students can make several sentences by using the same structure, like-

Social media links its users to the modernization.

Or

Social media proves helpful for the people of all age groups.

So, this technique can give an exposure to the students for learning English confidently. Once the teacher feels that students are comfortable, he can jump on the next type of sentence with another or the same interesting and familiar topic.

Transformation Generative Linguistics emerged throughout the second half of the twentieth century. It focuses on Noam Chomsky's concept of cognitive development. This notion holds that everyone is born with the ability to learn a language. During the early phases of language acquisition, children encounter language rules and become conscious of their inherent understanding of the language. They gradually become aware of their ability to form a variety of statements.

### Modern Approach

The above-defined methods can be used in schools, but the responsibility of improving English speaking is not only up to schools. The atmosphere outside the classroom and the learners themselves are equally responsible for it. It is necessary to create a suitable atmosphere for English communication outside the classroom. Apart from these traditional methods, some other helpful methods are also in existence in this world of digitization and artificial intelligence. For fulfilling this purpose, students should be in touch with modern techniques like applications of spoken English, websites, and YouTube.

**BBC Learning English** is a very useful application that can improve English in daily

routine. It provides daily mini lessons of 3 minutes only so, it can improve English without consuming time. By these lessons, one can improve his vocabulary, pronunciation and fluency.

**Cake** is an English learning application by which one can not only improve his vocabulary and fluency but it also provides a function for recording the learner's voice. By recording one's own voice, one can judge oneself and can find out on what points he is facing problems in speaking English so that he may improve it next time.

**Hello Talk** is another useful application that provides a chance to talk with native speakers that can be helpful in improving accent and pronunciation. By using the video feature in this application, one can remove his hesitation and can improve public speaking also.

**Grammarly** is a well-recognized web application that proves useful for improving written communication. It assists in correcting grammar, correcting structure, spelling, word choice, and punctuation. It provides solutions with explanations that can be useful in the future. It is a free platform structured by linguistics that can be added in Chrome and Firefox. So, Grammarly works like a teacher that always improves and ornaments one's writing skills and written communication.

Apart from the above-mentioned applications, there are several other applications like ELSA, Speak Peak, Hallo, and Lingbe. These apps have the potential to be both a teacher and a partner. Hence, the digital approaches are very useful for creating a productive atmosphere for English learners.

### Self-Direction

No one needs to learn his/her native language and its grammar because, from very childhood, people remain in touch with their native language as a language instead of studying it as a subject. They learn their native language automatically. And while learning L2, they face several problems because people learn L2 as a subject instead of learning it as a language. In college and school time, people study English only as a subject for achieving good scores in the exam. For this purpose, they use materials like a passbook and become a bookworm. In the future, this rote learner strategy keeps them behind in this English communicative era. To get out from this constant difficulty, English should be taught and learnt as a language. In several educational institutes of India, English is taught and learnt in Hindi or in any other native language. Through this bilingual method, the concepts and rules of English grammar can be



explained, but it does not help learners in developing their English communication. Secondly, the learners are taught only about the rules and concepts of English, but it is not taught how and where these concepts should be applied in our day-to-day English.

For applying this process, learners should follow these steps:

**1. Think Words –**

For the beginners, it would be difficult to think in English directly. So to make it bit easier, the beginner should start thinking from words. Beginners should try to think words in English instead of their native language. One should recite the surrounding things in his mind in English no matter if the words are easy or difficult because it is just for practice. These will help in preparing one's mind to speak in English. For example, while walking in the garden, one should recite the objectives of the garden like grass, leaves, playing children, birds and much more.

**2. Think Sentences –**

Thinking in English is a very fruitful step for attaining success in English speaking. So after becoming habitual of thinking the words in English, one should expand his thinking to the sentences. This step will boost the confidence of a learner, and gradually one can start to talk to himself in the mirror.

The above steps and all suggested applications make it clear that learning English is a responsibility of a learner and not of a teacher. Students can acquire fluency in English only after their consistency. They should treat English like a language and not like a subject. Everyone learns his native language without any hard work. A child learns his native language without any extra effort because he listens to that language on a regular basis, and his mind functions accordingly. The same process can be applied for learning English language. First of all, it is important to listen to English and to instruct your mind to think in English. After doing this, speaking in English would be easy for all learners.

In short, this study has explored the effectiveness of a new approach to teaching and learning English, one that incorporates innovative methods and techniques to improve language acquisition. The results of this research suggest that these new approaches can lead to significant improvements in English language proficiency, particularly in areas such as vocabulary acquisition, grammar comprehension, and communication skills.

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