

LEARNING LANGUAGE THROUGH LITERATURE WITH REFERENCE TO ASHWIN SANGHI'S NOVEL *CHANAKYA'S CHANT*

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This paper emphasizes the importance of learning language through literature. Language can be taught through real life settings. Literary sources can act as a complementary resource material for language learners. The aim of this paper is to focus on language learning with reference to renowned novelist Ashwin Sanghi's novel *Chanakya's Chant* which serves as a literary source. Ashwin Sangi is an Indian Writer. He was born on 25th January 1969. All his novels are based on Mythology and History. He has an excellent narration technique. The way he narrates makes the reader realize the equal importance of literature and his choice of words is so admirable which paves the way for the readers to improve their vocabulary and also getting better in terms of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing skills which focuses on learning and attaining Target language culture.

Key Words: Language, Literature, Narration, Vocabulary, Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing.

The English language would have evolved before fifteen hundred years or even more than that. Language was considered only as a medium of speech or oral communication. Later After the invention of printing press written documents came into being. If we take a thorough look at the language evolution we can notice the change in the usage of language which varies from Julius Caesar's period to modern age. Grammatical Construction was also considered as barbarism during those days. American influence has a great role in the modification of language through Movies, BBC and other television programmes.

English language is considered as a vehicular language, link language or common language in terms of higher education in different parts of the world. It has gained International popularity. When English play its role as a foreign language it creates a lot of difficulty in readers to cop up with the lingua franca.

Most of the language learners read a lot of literary texts like novels, poetry, and drama in their own mother tongue. The uses of text in native language enable them in creating learning experience and passion towards literature of native tongue. The same passion and love can be transferred in learning second language or third language (English language) learners. The biased mindset of the foreign language learners can be altered initially by reading the same known text (story) in foreign language which one has already read in their native language. For initial improvers instead of learning the grammatical structures and language areas like vocabulary, morphology, pronunciation which is well linked and accepted by all using a novel which they are already familiar with will serve as a substitute.

There are many powerful resource tools like newspaper, cartoons, magazines, articles through which a native language learner can improve his language skills but literature

(Novel) can serve as an authentic and powerful resource material to learn language in a classroom setting. Literature relates the readers with real life incidents. In Literature there is love, faith, politics, friendship and very many things which every human being can relate to. If we try to see the way by which English language is taught we will be able to view only techniques (Syntax, semantics etc). At the same time Literature is a medium which appeals to emotions, thoughts, feelings and imaginations because of its settings. When a reader is able to relate things to his life, he can easily grasp and learn things.

When a foreign language learner learns the language through literature he not only learns the language but paves the way to see and feel outside his country and culture. He learns about the cultural codes and symbols which gives shape to literary semiotics and cultural grammar for foreign language learners.

Literature can engage the readers in full form and catch their attention for more time. The remarkable feature of Literature is Sociolinguistic richness. Language used by the characters in a novel changes in different situation and at different places. So, they easily learn different dialects. When we hear the word language it is a natural thing to associate our mind with all technical aspects like Grammar, Morphology, Graphology, Punctuations, accent, idiom, jargon etc which seems vague. Literature on the other hand creates an agreeable and pleasing experience because it is a medium through which human expression can be obtained. While learning language through literature learners can relate it to their own life experience and enjoy the process of learning language through literature.

Learning language through literature enhances LSRW (Listening, speaking, reading and writing). Reading can be acquired by reading aloud which will improve the pronunciation of students and creativity. Role play is one of the best techniques which can be implemented by language teachers for improvement of listening and speaking skills. When a learner is asked to write about a similar character, plot, conversation which in an improvised manner enables the readers not only to improve the creative faculty and critical thinking but also develops writing skills.

The novel chosen for the study is *Chanakya's Chant* written by a renowned author Ashwin Sanghi who writes his novel in thriller genre linking history and mythology. He was born on 25th of January 1969. He is Mumbai based Indian novelist. *Chanakya's Chant* is a novel about Chanakya who was educated in Takshila University and author of Arthashastra, a treatise on political economy and who makes Chandragupta the ruler of Magadha through his tactfulness. The same novel has another parallel story of Pandit Gangasagar Mishra who is considered to be the modern Chanakya who makes Chandini Guptha, the eighteenth Prime Minister of our country through his efforts like Chanakya.

There are some activities by which an Initial learner can improve his LSRW.

1. Magic Square

In Magic square is an activity where the learner will have to match the definition which is given in numbers with the vocabulary which is given in alphabet and if their answers are correct and if it matches the context then the sum of all the rows and columns will be the same. An example from *Chanakya's Chant* is given below

A. Takshila B Prayer C Nanda's Hell D Mahatma Gandhiji E Arthashastra

F.Author G Chandini Gupta H Chanak I Chanakya J Novel K Present Chanakya
L Chandragupta M Vishakanyas N Paurus O Suvasini P Kanhaiya

1. Adi Shakti Namō Nama 2.Eighteenth prime minister 3 Pandit Gangasagar Mishra
4. Mighty emperor of Kaikeyi and Magadha 5 Horoscopes of widowhood
- 6 New Emperor of Magadha 7 Chanakya's Father 8 World's first University
- 9 Hero of Hindu Epic,Mahabharatha 10 The wise guru of Chandragupta Maurya
- 11 Chanakya's treatise of Political Economy 12 Non Co-operation Movement
- 13 Torture chamber 14 Ashwin Sanghi 15 Chanakya's Chant 16 Childhood friend of Chanakya

A	B	C	D
E	F	G	H
I	J	K	L
M	N	O	P

Fig-1 (Question- Only Alphabets)

Answer

A =8	B =1	C =13	D =12	= 34
E = 11	F = 14	G =2	H = 7	= 34
I =10	J =15	K = 3	L = 6	= 34
M = 5	N =4	O = 16	P = 9	=34
34	34	34	34	

Fig-2(Answer- Alphabets Matching Numerals)

2. Word Search

In this activity the learner should find the words in the maze and circle them with the help of the clue. An example is given below from the novel *Chanakya's Chant*.

Clue

1. Daily prayer is in ____ language-(8)
2. Drinking taverns is otherwise called-(10)
3. Brahmins lock of hair -(6)
4. The other name of Vishnu Guptha- (7)
5. Miss Feversham focused on chadini's-(7)
6. Grasmere is a loveliest spot-(17)
7. Ambhi is studying in ____ University -(8)
8. Son of senapati Maurya-(12)

ANSWER

- 1 Sanskrit
- 2 Madiralays
- 3 Shikha
- 4 Chanakya
- 5 English
- 6 William Wordsworth
- 7 Takshila
8. Chandragupta

A F G B R I K L M N O S M N V Z I O P L G C O P M N O P Q U D C F V T G B Y H
N J U O P K L Z X C V B N M A S D F G H J K L Z W R C H A N A K Y A I R T Y C
D E R F V T G B Y N U J M I K L O P Q A Z S D F H E T Y U I O P X C F E R Y T
W X Q P M A D I R A L A Y A S J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W A P E N G L I S I H
J N M O H Q R S T U V W X Y Z S W X E D C R F V T G B Y H S H I K H A R L P Q
W R R T Y I O P L H F S C Z B S A N S K R I T U I O P T Y U I O P E W Q R A S D
F G H J I K O L P R V B S E R T Y U I O P A S D F G H J K L Z X C V B N M U I
W E R T Y U I O P A S D F G H J K L Z X C V B N M D F G T A K S H I L A U Y T
R E W A S D F G H J K L Z X L C H A N D R A G U P T A H U J I K O L A S D F G
W I L L I A M W O R D S W O R T H K L Q W E R T Y U I O P Y U I O P R E D F
G H J K L Z X C V B N M Q W E R

Fig-3(Answers of word Search)

Magical Square and Word Search are interesting games and will enable the reader to improve his listening skill and writing skills. Reading can be enhanced only by reading aloud the novel by which the instructor can check the pronunciation and instruct the learner and teach him stress and pauses which will come under punctuations. Naturally when listening, writing and reading is improved there is a natural tendency for the learners to improve the

speaking skill . Special care can also be taken for improving speaking skills by asking the learner to narrate the story in his own words.

In order to master Target Language it is a best way to use Novel because the learner can understand it in a better way in comparison to rules and regulations which is used in studying the language. In the Novel *Chanakya's Chant* the primary figure is a well known person named Chanakya which any learner can imagine and relate. The novel helps the readers to relate to authentic and actual life settings by which the learner can acquire target language culture which is very essential for learning Target language. It also paves the way for the readers to improve their creative and critical thinking ability which is very essential medium in improving listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.

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