

## **Recent Trends in English Language Teaching in Andhra Pradesh: A Critique**

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### **Abstract**

Language Teaching in India is a prominent and remarkable academic accomplishment for it bestows the cultural, educational, and scholastic enterprise. Of all the languages taught in India, English Language Teaching, the global medium of education has become a challenging endeavour to the Teachers to teach the non-natives who are fluent in their mother tongue but has lacunae to imbibe the linguistic skills and competence of English Language.

The paper titled, ‘Recent Trends in English Language Teaching in Andhra Pradesh: A Critique’ purports to examine the innovative methods or strategies adopted by the English Teachers and the proficiency achieved by the learners in Schools, Colleges and Universities in Andhra Pradesh in accordance with the Tools, Techniques and Technologies used in Language acquisition and Learning. English language, the lingua franca of the world and commercial connoisseur of the present digital age has been discussed nationally and internationally about nuances of English Language Teaching pedagogy but at regional or local level the problems encountered by the learner and teacher are not redressed and researched in a large scale for developing proficiency. Hence an attempt is made to address the problem and find solutions with recent technological advancement and new trends followed by the teachers for transforming Andhra Pradesh as Knowledge hub in Anglo-skilled Competence.

**Key Words:** Recent Trends in English Language Teaching in Andhra Pradesh –Tools, Techniques and Technologies - Language acquisition – Anglo-Skilled competence

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English, the language of Westerners has been an international and important communicative competence for personal and professional development. Hence it is vital and dire need of the hour to learn English language as a tool for learning varied resources of knowledge and subject in order to gain access to ample global opportunities. Irrespective of the region, race and religion it binds the people of the world. It is apt to quote the words of Harry Mashabela, the South African Writer that,

“Learning and using English will not only give us the much-needed unifying chord but will also land us into the exciting world of ideas; it will enable us to keep company with king in the world of ideas and also make it possible for us to share the experience of our own brothers in the world”<sup>1</sup>

Language Teaching in India is a prominent and remarkable academic accomplishment for it bestows the cultural, educational, and scholastic enterprise. Of all the languages taught in India, English Language Teaching, the global medium of education has become a challenging endeavor to the Teachers to teach the non-natives who are fluent in their mother tongue but has lacunae to imbibe the linguistic skills and competence of English Language.

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## **Historical Trends of ELT**

East India Company introduced English language teaching in India in 1765. But its impact hasn't been seen. In 1835 Macaulay made English Education compulsory. Of course, his aim and objective is different it changed the attitude and aspirations of the Indians. It united the people of India to communicate and develop national integration and inspired to involve in freedom struggle. Earlier in the 19<sup>th</sup> century the people gradually acquired the four requisite skills in English.

In course of time English Language Teaching is Grammar Centric or Teaching of literature as prominence is given to score more marks in the written examination than developing Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Acquisition and enhancement of these four skills are often overlooked and neglected and more attention is on theoretical knowledge. English is taught as a subject but not as a skill to be learnt.

## **Literature Review**

Different methods are adopted by English teachers for ELT such as Grammar Translation method, Structural approach, Direct Method, Audio-lingual method, Communicative Language Teaching, Bi-lingual method, the silent way, Desuggestopedia, Content based Language learning. etc. The lessons are taught from examination point of view rather than developing skills. Penny Ur, Chomsky, Krashen and other linguists propounded several theories for enhancement of language learning. With the rapid development and globalization the ELT also witnessed gradual progress and novel methods from time to time.

## **Current Trends of ELT**

Modern learners are techno-savvy. This Google age has paved the way for the learners to learn from screen. Google classrooms, Google Forms and Survey Monkey.com is the order of the day. The current trends showcase E-content development and learner centered smart activities which helps the learners to adopt electronic gadget environment in the field of education. Web 2.0 Tools, ICT Tools, English Sitcoms, Blended Learning, Flipped Learning, Embodied Learning, Mobile Assisted Language Learning (MALL), Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) Massive Open online Courses (MOOCs), TED Education etc are some of the trends in ELT.

With these trends and technology based tools the learners will be curious to learn and enhance their language skills and classroom will be more meaningful, innovative, interactive and creative.

### **Andhra Pradesh and English Language Teaching**

Telugu language is the official language of Andhra Pradesh. English Language Teaching to the students who are first generation learners & Telugu medium background is quite challenging. Hence to cope up with the emerging trends in technology and computerization, the English teachers are provided training from school to colleges.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, UNICEF and the British Council have been working in partnership on various English Language Teacher Education and Development Programmes in South India. Developing English Language Teaching - Andhra Pradesh (APDELT) is an initiative by the project partners to improve the quality of the teaching and learning of English in primary classrooms across the state.

#### **Objectives:**

- To equip the selected Master Trainers (MTs) with the training and mentoring competencies to ensure the effective delivery of English training courses to primary teachers.
- To develop the fluency and confidence of the spoken English of the MTs to enable them to conduct training programmes in English effectively.
- To build a sustainable infrastructure of self-access English materials to support the Continuing Professional Development of teachers.

### **Ananda Lahari Abyasana**

- The students use workbooks instead of textbooks through this ALA system which increases learning levels in students. In this system, the primary students learn the lessons in the form of a play. This programme was designed with the collaboration of the Rishi Valley School, Madanapalle. The lessons were designed in a stress-free approach for the little students in TABs (Tablet Computers).

- Activity based Innovative methodologies which are student centric are introduced in classroom teaching to enhance the standard of school education.

In professional courses like Polytechnic colleges, In the first year The English textbook is titled as ‘Enhancing English and Employability Skills’, a student’s workbook issued by State Board of Technical Education & Training, Andhra Pradesh is an interactive, skill-oriented practical session of 50 minutes duration. In the ensuing years the lessons are meticulously designed to train in all the four LSRW skills of language.

The emerging trends of ELT in Government Degree Colleges are achieved by providing training to English Lecturers. To name a few -

1. Infosys Project Genesis (IPG) training was given to Lecturers of Govt Degree Colleges in Communication Skills at Infosys Campus, Hyderabad as part of Industry orientation programs to faculty.
2. The Andhra Pradesh English Lecturers Retraining Program jointly sponsored by the Department of Collegiate Education, A.P and the US State Department has been established with the goal of improving the communicative proficiency in English of undergraduate students of AP colleges by updating the teaching skills of English Language Lectures.
3. Andhra Pradesh Government (AP) and Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE) in partnership with the British Council aim to improve the English language proficiency and employability skills of 100,000 college students at select higher education institutes in Andhra Pradesh.
4. Virtual Classroom, Digital classroom, English Language Labs are established in many of the Government Degree Colleges under RUSA funds. They help a lot for improving the linguistic competence. Jawahar Knowledge Centres trains the students on communication Skills, computer skills, Analytical Skills and interview skills.

Students have more number of opportunities to learn the language at graduation level in Govt. Degree Colleges by utilizing the infrastructure, library facilities, English Language labs, Watching Mana TV lessons by subject experts, Swayam learning Portal and blogs maintained by their teachers.

### **Tools, Techniques and Technologies used in Language acquisition**

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Tools</b>	<b>Techniques</b>	<b>Technologies</b>
<b>Primary Schools</b>	<b>Radio T.V</b>	<b>CLT</b>	<b>Audio, Audio-Visual, ICT</b>
<b>Upper Primary</b>	<b>Radio T.V</b>	<b>CLT</b>	<b>Audio, Audio-Visual, ICT</b>
<b>High School</b>	<b>Radio T.V</b>	<b>CLT</b>	<b>Audio, Audio-Visual, ICT</b>
<b>Degree Colleges</b>	<b>Softwares, ManaTV, Computer, Mobile Phones, Digital Videos, E-learning (blogs, web, skype , podcasting etc)</b>	<b>MOOC APPS</b>	<b>Virtual Classroom Digital classroom, Certificate Course English Language Lab</b>

### **Proficiency achieved by the learners in Schools, Colleges and Universities in Andhra Pradesh in LSRW skills**

In a case study conducted on 300 students, out of which 100 from schools, 100 from colleges and 100 from universities comprising different districts of Andhra Pradesh are tested in LSRW skills in English. But unfortunately, the proficiency achieved by them in English language is average and needs specific attention. Most of the engineering students are not employable because of their less English scores and out of 6 lakh engineers that graduate annually, only 2.9% candidates are fluent in speaking English. A university postgraduate who is meritorious and received gold medal for securing highest marks is unable to express in English. Most of the teachers who teach at school are unable to converse in English. As they can't speak in English, the students also can't express in the target language.

### **Nuances of English Language Teaching pedagogy**

Recruitment of English teachers in government institutions either in school, college and university are done by written examination and interview. In private institutions the teachers are

appointed based on their performance. No doubt, teachers are meritorious, able and efficient. But the teaching pedagogy they implement in the classroom is not more student centric. Teacher talk time is more and student talk time in English is less. Students have no opportunity to use the target language i.e English. But of course, due to continuous training programs some teachers make great changes by adopting technology and eclectic approach which is preferable for language acquisition. This techno-savy world makes the language learning very convenient and handy. Teachers can update themselves with latest tools, techniques and technology by browsing the net, watching youtube lessons on ELT and thereby making their teaching pedagogy in English a motivating, inspiring, creative and enlightening for the learner.

### **Problems encountered by the learner and teacher of English at regional level**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Teachers</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Solutions</b>
1.	Telugu medium background	Telugu medium background	Watching English Television programmes, listening to English news and using digital dictionaries will help to improve LSRW Skills in English language
2.	Fear of making mistakes	Fear of making mistakes	Never bother of mistakes. Start speaking and concentrate on developing fluency rather than accuracy.
3.	Speaking and listening rarely outside the classroom	Speaking and listening rarely outside the classroom	Identify a friend who is also interested in learning English and start speaking in English
4.	Lack of Zeal and interest to learn English	Lack of Zeal and interest to learn English	Develop interest and motivation to learn and acquire English language by playing online games on grammar and vocabulary
5.	First generation learners as students	First generation	Language learning be a fun

		learners	activity i.e edutainment
6.	English is taught as subject but not as Skill due to time constraint and big class	English is taught as subject but not as Skill	English has to be taught as skill but not as Subject with proper plan. Strategic Teaching and learning
7.	Contents in the Textbooks are non-native and different	Contents in the Textbooks are non-native and different	Teaching English through native culture. For example discuss about Indian stories etc

### Conclusion

There is wide scope for research in this discipline and English teachers have to shoulder more responsibility to transform the society as knowledge hub in anglo-skilled competence.

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