

DIFFICULTIES FACING BY STUDENTS OF L1 IN ADOPTING L2

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to explore writing difficulties in the English grammar faced by second language learners and investigates factors that become student's obstacles to speak English in Pakistan. This project is concerning difficulties faced by middle level students in learning English Grammar and speaking English. It highlights those points where students have to face difficulties in writing and speaking. Sometimes they are unable to recognize the errors in grammar while writing. Students are unable in use of right form of verb in paragraph .They have also fallen victim of linguistics disorders such as lack of vocabulary, syntax, pragmatic, lack of fluency in speaking, lack of understanding of grammatical pattern and wrong pronunciation.

INTRODUCTION

Sample was taken from different schools of Teh. Malakwal Public school Wara Alam Shah, Dawn model school and Ghzaali model school, vital way public school are included. Sample was comprised of one hundred and fifty students. Fifty students were given questionnaire in order to find the major problems in writing and speaking . More than fifty Students are given a task, to write down a paragraph on different topics and then read these paragraphs. With the help of those paragraphs we proved our research comes true that students face many grammatical problems in writing and many pronunciation problems in speaking. There were horrible grammatical and pronunciation mistakes made by students in paragraphs. There is also a comparative study of male and female students through questionnaire. It is descriptive type research. It also gives suggestions to overcome the grammatical mistakes and solve their speaking problems. Major findings and suggestions them are very helpful for students of English grammar and teachers also and it will facilitate. Language is describe as a method of human communication, either spoken or written, consisting of the use of words in a structured and conventional way (oxford dictionary). Chomsky describes language as: "Language is a set (finite or infinite) of sentences, each finite in length, and constructed out of a finite set of elements" [Chomsky, Syntactic Structures (1957: 13)]. The objectives of the study were (1) To explore common grammatical problems students do in their writing work at secondary level and (2) To grant a foundation for progress of teaching English Grammar at the secondary school level in Pakistan. (3) To give suggestion in improvement of grammar of English. Research is personally conducted. Chief finding of my project are: Teachers were not sufficient qualified. Teachers, especially who were from Government schools, had not satisfactory awareness of teaching English methodology .Classes were over crowded in schools ,so the environment of classes was not good for learning. Main problem in learning of grammar of English as second learner is that student first think in Urdu and then translate it in their mind into English. So they make mistakes because the structure of Urdu grammar is totally different from English and also, this process of translation dims the creativity of students. This research paper will helpful for students as well as for teachers also.

LITERATURE REVIEW

It is a chief Problem faced by Pakistani students is accurate use of English grammar. This is one of the major problems. The grammar of English and Urdu are definitely different from each other. Writing is part of examination. Without learn appropriate grammar of any language we can't have grip on certain language. In learning there are many problems which students have faced by students. It's true that every standard language involves many linguistics aptitudes. Writing requires a lot of attention. Many researchers did work to find the writing problems and writing difficulties. The results of their researches help out to overcome the writing problems. Anser mermood and Dr. Mummuna Ghani conducted a research in September 2012 and found the features which influence on knowing a language. Another researcher conducted a research on language learning and says that there are six stages of the writing process: Determining the topic, talking account of readers; editing; proof reading, and revising (Edwin and Grundy, 1996) but this approach had ignored the selection. And it also ignored the discrimination on procedure of writing.

Role of English in Pakistan

English is the official language of Pakistan since independence. Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, gave importance to English in the first educational conference, language. Although he declared Urdu as the national language, but never ignored the importance of English. English is common mode of communication among all the countries of world as an international language. In Pakistan it is used in schools, colleges as well as in universities. It is official language and language of military. It plays very important role in every field of life. English is language of Newspapers, news casting, and information technology. In order to make progress in the field of science we have to conduct newer researches as well as have to study scientific books. English languages are used in all these objectives the scientific researches medicinal, foreign policies, websites, education system.

Major Problems faced Students of L2 Learner

L2 Learner face many problems in acquisition of English. There are number of mistakes students do in their writing work. They face grammatical problems as correct use of verb, surface problems, content problems, sentence structure, process (desire to write), problems use of conditional sentences, lack of vocabulary, use of past tense and spelling difficulties, punctuation marks. Major reasons of these problems are less skilled teachers, poorness of education system and assessment system, school environment, attitude to writing, strength of class, less qualified teachers, use of Urdu language as well as mother tongue in classroom and less practice of grammar.

METHOD

Objectives

In the present study following objectives will be achieved:

1. To find out the pronouncing and writing problems faced by Pakistani students at secondary level.
2. To prove this hypothesis that students are fail to speak English properly.
3. To highlight factors which are causes of their failure in speaking English.

Hypothesis

Students have to face problems in learning a second language.

Instruments

Data was collected from different schools through an activity of paragraph writing and through a questionnaire footed on five point Likert scale. This questionnaire consisted on 15 items related to pronunciation problems, grammar, punctuation marks, vocabulary. Reliability of questionnaire was 0.8 and validity was 0.76. This implement was authorized by seven experts.

Sample

We collected data from different schools of Tehsil Malakwak including Dawn Wara Alam model school, Ghzali Model School and Public school Wara Alam Shah consisting of 100 students between the age ranges of 13 to 16 years. Sample was further divided into (n=50) female and (n=50) male students. Purposive convenient sampling technique was used in the present study. Sample was directly collected.

Data analysis and interpretation

Data was investigated by using descriptive and inferential statistics through SPSS 16. By using descriptive statistics the features of writing problems were displayed according to their mean value in descending order.

Operational definition

Language

The method of human communication, either spoken or written, consisting of the use of words in a structured and conventional way (oxford dictionary) "Language is a set (finite or infinite) of sentences, each finite in length, and constructed out of a finite set of elements". Chomsky, *Syntactic Structures (1957)*.

Grammar

The whole system and structure of a language or of languages in general, usually taken as consisting of syntax and morphology (including inflections) and sometimes also phonology and semantics (Online oxford dictionary).

Vocabulary

Vocabulary is the body of words used in a particular language. It is a list or collection of words or of words and phrases usually alphabetically arranged and explained or defined. (Online dictionary)

Spelling

It is a process or activity of writing or naming the letters of a word, the way a word is spelled. (Online oxford dictionary). The act or process of writing words by using the letters conventionally accepted for their formation; orthography. (Collins English Dictionary)

Table: Analysis of difficulties through questions.

Sr.	Statements	Mean	Std.dev
1	Do you find difficult to pronounce English words?	3.48	1.21
2	Do you feel any hesitation participating in speaking?	3.69	1.04
3	Do you find it hard to participate in discussion going on in your class in English language?	3.71	1.23
4	My verbal expression is not good in describing the past events.	3.67	1.29
5	While speaking I often face the problem of connecting ideas.	3.43	1.15
6	I use different words to express the similar meanings.	3.75	1.31
7	The frequent problem which I face while writing is the correct use of tenses.	3.78	1.34
8	I write English essays in the way I do in Urdu.	3.55	1.25
9	I use some simple words to replace difficult ones.	3.38	1.14
10	I think of a sentence in Urdu first and then translate it into English.	3.45	1.25
11	I sometimes use Romanized Urdu (e.g. Mubarak ho) when I can't find the exact English expression.	3.42	1.33
12	I usually lengthen the sentences as I don't find the exact words.	3.64	1.15
13	I face difficulties while using passive voice in my writing.	3.54	1.03
14	I take time to recall what exact spelling is.	3.12	1.18
15	Writing is difficult for me because I have lack of vocabulary.	3.74	1.26

Note: Strongly agree = 5, Agree = 4, Neutral= 3, Agree= 2, Disagree =1.

The table shows that mostly problems that students have to face are grammatical as well as pronouncing (mean=3.76) on the other hand the least problems are spelling mistakes (mean=3.12) and the average of vocabulary mistakes (mean 3.42). It also proved that students are facing many other problems as in expressing of ideas, rules of English grammar, connecting paragraphs, punctuation marks, conditional sentences etc.

CONCLUSION

English language is universal mode of communication in all over the world. Language is very complex phenomenon. Actually writing is not a phobia but a skill more we practice more we learn. We pronounce a word according to our surrounding. We can facilitate student by making environment of our class room friendly and a centre of learning. At secondary level, the grammatical mistakes which Pakistani students do in writing due to lingual and cultural differences and these differences might cause of incorrect sentence structure, grammatical errors, problem in spellings, learn to rules of L2, difficulties to make conditional sentences and many other difficulties. Education system is main hurdle in the way of learning. Teachers are not sufficient skillful in their methodology. With the help of paragraphs, I found that Students are unable to use to correct form of verb, tense, in their writing work. Sometimes students are unable to decide when and where to use “may” and where to use “might”, “could” and “should”, “its” and “it’s”, “s” and ”es”. As writing is a part of examination, so because of poor writing student get fewer grades. While writing they fail to express their ideas proper way.

SUGGESTIONS

Students should change their attitude towards second language acquisition. Process of thinking in Urdu and then translate into English is a germ in our students, it must should be stopped. Environment of classroom should be friendly and to facilitate students. Classroom should not be teacher centered but like learning centered. There should more practice of grammar. Students should give small activities in classroom. Our government should increase the number of teaching training institutions for teachers. There must should encouragement for students. In classroom there should be activates on writings and after finished it up, there should be group discussion on that written form to improve their speaking abilities. If a student do some written work then there should be teacher Feedback so students identify their mistakes and avoid those mistakes in next writing. During conducting research, I found that there are no certain criteria for teaching. A single teacher, from government schools, was teaching English, Mathematics and science at a time so government should set strict criteria in selection of teachers. In the light of above conducted project, all problems can be overcome with a little attention.

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