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A Study of English Education at Secondary Level: With Special Reference to Assam.

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Abstract: As the primary language used for international communication, English is a crucial subject to study in schools. However, when it comes to teaching English in the local schools, the teacher faces a number of difficulties. Thus, an effort has been made in this study to learn about the difficulties encountered by English language instructors when instructing Assamese-speaking **secondary** school students in the language. Due to their limited exposure to the language in the academic curriculum, students who study in a regional language have difficulty learning English. The purpose of this essay is to contribute to a qualitative study on the effects of the English language at the level in the state.

Keywords: *Teaching English, teaching learning condition, English teachers.*

Introduction

English unquestionably holds the top spot among all the languages spoken today in the world. Consequently, English has played a key role in national life of all countries, including India, and will continue to do so. Even 73 years after achieving independence from British rule, English continues to rule every aspect of our lives, including politics, administration, law, and even education. According to legend, English serves as the language that binds the entire world together into a cohesive society. In every secondary school in the nation, including Assam, English is a required subject. F.G. French says, "No language ancient or modern can be compared with English in the number of geographical distribution of the homes, factories and offices in which the language is spoken, written or read…….Because of the spread of industrial development, science and technology, international trade and commerce, and the close interdependence of nations English has become a world language"[i]

One of the seven states of North East India is Assam. Assamese is the state's official language. Assam has multiple official languages, just like the rest of India. In addition to Assamese, diverse populations also speak Bengali, Hindi, Bhojpuri, Nepali, etc. Several of the languages that the Scheduled Tribes' members speak are taught in schools.

The Three Language Formula has been implemented by the state in its educational system. The Assamese medium schools begin teaching English in class V; recently, standard 1 has also begun teaching English. The study of English is required all the way to matriculation (HSLC).

But, in Assam, the standard of English language teaching in the Assamese Medium School is said to be going down day by day. Some teacher-oriented factors have destroyed the English language. There are fewer teachers who are trained to teach English, and even the trained teachers do not have English as a subject of instruction. Therefore, teachers do not know the purpose of teaching English. In general, teachers are so used to the traditional teaching method, especially in Assamese schools, that holding an English class, which is so necessary to equip students with language skills, is problematic. Therefore, it was considered necessary to analyze the problems faced by teachers in teaching English in secondary schools of Assam.

English as Global Language:

The most widely used language on the planet; English is spoken in almost every nation. The statistics indicate that this language is widely spoken by almost half of the world's people. Many native and non-native users have demonstrated that English is a successful language in all countries. English is also simpler to acquire than other languages. English, for instance, has only 26 alphabets that can be combined to make words, unlike Chinese, and many English words have roots in other languages.Since English is the language of technology, understanding English is required to use the internet to its fullest potential. Additionally, it facilitates tourists by improving cultural awareness. Any foreign gathering will also likely be conducted in English.

Because it is spoken and understood on a worldwide scale by a diverse group of people, English is regarded as a global language. English is the language that is spoken as a first or second language by the most people worldwide. Languages exhibit a clear relationship between societal power and dominance. Due to its strong foundation in politics, business, and the military, English as a language rose to fame. German, Latin, and other European

languages are where the English tongue originated. Because of this, English is not seen as a difficult language by Europeans to acquire. Linguists also contend that English's ease is what helped it become a universal tongue.

Features of English as Global Language

Education: Today, English is primarily used as the medium of instruction from elementary school onward. The English language is regarded as a universal tongue. As a result, instruction will generally be provided in English. Students will study and write about the subject of their choice in English. Arts, culture, and scientific education will be replaced by English-language instruction.

Research: All forms of research-based education and projects are founded on the English language because education is provided worldwide in this language. The English language is essential for scientific, technical, and medical study. English should be used as the language for research-based learning, which is now required in all educational fields.

To obtain knowledge: People use the internet to find knowledge about the smallest things in the modern era of technology. As a result, people have begun to access related content through the English language, which has steadily demonstrated its strong presence on a global scale.

Sources of Information: In the future, the majority of people will consume and create all information in English, whether it be through books, newspapers, print materials devoted to particular topics, etc. All of this content will be written and released in English. Therefore, we can state that educational materials will be translated into the English tongue. Thus, we have read about almost all aspects of English in this manner, making it a truly global language.

Need for English Language in school level: the Way forward:

English has been considered a global language of intercultural communication among the worldwide people who do not share a common native language. So, it is called the *lingua franca* of the modern world. It is a fact that two speakers of different languages meet each other trying to communicate using English language.

In India, English is used as a medium of instruction for higher order communication in the day to-day social interaction. Indeed it is a language which is commonly used in India for communication in a multi-lingual setting. For this very reason, it becomes necessary that English can be learned as a second language to be competent users of English.

The most crucial information in this text is that English is a crucial component of the Indian Educational System, is taught as a required subject in all schools, and is heavily utilised by students getting ready for competitive examinations. It is also the language used on the internet, where reading, writing, and searching are simple. Finally, because it enables them to communicate with other nations and exposes them to diverse cultures, it is one of the most crucial languages that students should acquire.

Anywhere in the globe, you can communicate with anyone using English because it is a universal language. Due to the fact that the majority of scientific study is written in English and published in journals or books, English is also the language of science. With more than 450 million speakers globally, it is a helpful tool for all students and is crucial for anyone wishing to continue their education in these nations. Additionally, learning English can give students access to a variety of job possibilities and teach them about other cultures. Since English is a widely spoken language, it is simpler to travel and interact with people in other nations.

It is also the language of the media, which aids in our understanding of other cultures and ideas as well as in keeping up with current events. Since English is a universal language and can be used to expand your network and forge connections with people around the world, it is a fantastic topic for networking. You can stand out from the crowd and get entry to online courses by learning English. Since the majority of classes are only offered in English, it is crucial to be proficient in reading, writing, and speaking the language.

Problems of Teaching English in Schools in India and Assam:

In India, how people feel about English is important. A person's employability is increased by knowing English, and they can learn about the literature and cultures of other nations. Student success in higher education and a better professional and career life is aided by language proficiency. Teaching people to think more logically and critically is one of the stated goals of language learning. Others include the appreciation of serious literature, students' growing maturity and self-awareness, their appreciation of other races and cultures, their communication with people abroad, and more (Cook, 2011). Students who learn successfully have high motivation as a result of instrumental motivation. High motivation to learn the target language results from having positive feelings about it. Only students interested in learning a foreign language for the possibility of improving their employment prospects, as schoolchildren have little exposure to an interest in foreign cultures.

The English textbooks for primary grade level provide teachers with guidelines on how to encourage students to engage fully in the activities and, if necessary, to add some of their own. It gives students the chance to practice the

target language more and recommends additional reading for self-improvement. The students must cultivate two qualities: creativity and self-learning.

A study by Ataur Rahman showed that when asked how frequently they utilised Assamese in the classroom, 20% of teachers responded that they did it frequently, 56% that they did so occasionally, and 24% that they usually did so in English classrooms. One of the alternatives on the questionnaire was "never use Assamese language," yet none of the teachers responded that way (Rahman, 2011).

14 (56%) of the teachers responded that they used Assamese to promote learning when asked why they used it in the classroom. 11 teachers (44%) claimed to have utilised it to clarify specific ideas (Rahman, 2011).

English is taught to people in India as their second or third tongue. In India, knowing English was once considered a privilege reserved for the affluent. The expression "Angrej Hai hai" is frequently used. There is a stigma attached to it — a type of social classism — for the "fault" of speaking English. Since higher class parents enroll their children in private English-medium schools, middle class parents send their children to government schools that only offer instruction in Hindi. Hindi is the most widely used language in India. Here are some additional examples to highlight the challenges faced when teaching English to Indians:

Indian English speakers in India experience a major issue. They immediately translate Hindi words and phrases. Learning adjectives and articles becomes very difficult as a result. You may have heard the expression "my health is poor," for instance. I feel ill would be the appropriate phrase, though. Indian speakers should start from beginning learning English before attempting to translate.

In our society, there is a dearth of knowledge and positive role models. Let's face it; not all parents are native English speakers. Kids pick up information through contact, so this poses a serious problem. India is a language-centric nation. Despite of the variety of regional dialects, here is nothing in common between the two. The lack of language has its roots in this. The education system is set up so that the thieves receive marks. Instead of helping us comprehend, we have been taught to learn the grammar rules. By listening to individuals speak, we can pick up grammar. What sounds nice to us is grammatically correct. We are forced to acquire English so that we can compete in the fierce environment. The wording irritates us. The terminology and meaning have been spoon-fed to us. Without a set goal, learning cannot be enjoyable. One of the most common issues faced by English learners in India is mother tongue influence. Their native tongues have a significant impact on pronunciation.

Conclusion: The root of the issue is sufficiently deep, according to numerous research. The state of India's and Assam's educational systems is concerning. Introduction and the correct teaching of English are crucial because primary education can be seen as the cornerstone of the future. The author has made an effort to identify the issues and offer some solutions in this research. All of our data are secondary type, which is a limitation of this study. To paint a clearer picture, the author intended to collect and analyse some source data.

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