Is 'Spoken English' Essential For Students? – A Perspective Study

Dr. T. Sharon Raju¹, Dr. Sampath Kumar Chavvakula², S.V.Sekhar Kumar³, S.Umamaheswara Rao⁴, Harini Peta⁵, Dr. Annusha Bonila⁶

¹Associate Professor, Head, Chairman - BOS in Education (UG), Department of Education, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India.

²Principal, St. John's College of Education Somavarappadu, Eluru, Eluru District, Andhra Pradesh, India.

³Research Scholar, Dept. of Education, Andhra University. Visakhapatnam, A.P & School Assistant (English), Z.P.H.S Jami, Jami Mandal, Vizianagaram District, A.P. India.
⁴Research Scholar, Dept. of Education, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, A.P & School Assistant (PS), Z.P.H.S Jami, Jami Mandal, Vizianagaram Dt., A.P. India.
⁵D.I.E.T Lecturer, Bheemunipatnam, Visakhapatnam District & Research Scholar, Dept. of Education, Andhra University. Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India.
⁶Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India.

Spoken English is crucial for present-day students as it enhances communication skills, boosts confidence, and opens doors to global opportunities. It enables students to participate effectively in class discussions, express their ideas clearly, and engage in a wider range of activities. Proficiency in spoken English also improves academic performance, enhances social interactions, and prepares students for future career paths. In our interconnected world, language proficiency plays a crucial role in shaping a student's future. Among the plethora of languages, English has emerged as the global lingua franca, breaking down barriers and facilitating communication across borders. For school students, the ability to speak English fluently is not just an academic skill; it is a gateway to countless opportunities in education, career, and personal growth. In this blog, we will explore the significance of spoken English for school students and why it is a key aspect of their holistic development.

Key Words: career, communication, English, language, proficiency, spoken, vocabulary

Introduction

Language is our primary source of communication. It's the method through which we share our ideas and thoughts with others. Some people even say that language is what separates us from animals and makes us human. There are thousands of languages in this world. Countries have their own national languages in addition to a variety of local languages spoken and understood by their people in different regions. Some languages are spoken by millions of people, others by only a few thousand. English may not be the most spoken language in the world, but it is the official language of 53 countries and spoken by around 400 million people across the globe. Being able to speak English is not just about being able to communicate with

native English speakers, it is the most common second language in the world. If you want to speak to someone from another country then the chances are that you will both be speaking English to do this.

English is also essential to the field of education. In many countries, children are taught and encouraged to learn English as a second language. Even in countries where it is not an official language, such as the Netherlands or Sweden, we will find many syllabi in science and engineering are written in English. Because it is the dominant language in the sciences, most of the research and studies you find in any given scientific field will be written in it as well. At the university level, students in many countries study almost all their subjects in English in order to make the material more accessible to international students.

On the Internet, the majority of websites are written and created in English. Even sites in other languages often give you the option to translate the site. It's the primary language of the press: more newspapers and books are written in English than in any other language, and no matter where in the world you are, you will find some of these books and newspapers available. In fact, because it is so dominant in international communication, you will find more information regarding nearly every subject if you can speak this language. There are several factors that make the English language essential to communication in our current time. First of all, it is the most common foreign language. This means that two people who come from different countries (for example, a Mexican and a Swede) usually use English as a common language to communicate. That's why everyone needs to learn the language in order to get in touch on an international level. Speaking it will help you communicate with people from countries all over the world, not just English-speaking ones.

Although many people think that it is very difficult and confusing, English is actually the easiest language of the world to learn because there are so many resources available. As soon as you decide you want to learn, there are thousands of resources on the Internet and in bookstores. I'm not just talking about lessons and grammar books. You can supplement traditional learning materials with children's TV shows and books. I suggest watching as much TV as you can, in English with English subtitles, and you will pick up conversational English in no time. With good understanding and communication in English, you can travel around the globe. Because it is the international language for foreigners, it's easy to get assistance and help in every part of world. You can test it by online travel. Any travel Oral tradition was very strong in early English culture and most literary works were written to be performed. Epic poems were thus very popular, and some, including Beowulf, have survived to the present day.

Much Old English verse in the extant manuscripts is probably adapted from the earlier Germanic war poems from the continent. When such poetry was brought to England it was still being handed down orally from one generation to another. Teaching English as a foreign language (TEFL) refers to teaching English to students whose first language is not English. TEFL usually occurs in the student's own country, either within the state school system, or privately, e.g., in an after-hours language school or with a tutor. TEFL teachers may be native or non-native speakers of English. There has been a mushrooming growth of coaching centres in countries such as India where BPO business is picking up speed.

There are branches of ASL, BSL etc. in almost every major city of India. Communicative language teaching (CLT) emphasizes interaction as both the means and the ultimate goal of learning a language. Despite a number of criticisms, it continues to be popular, particularly in Japan, Taiwan, and Europe. In India CBSE (Central Board of Secondary Education) has adopted this approach in its affiliated schools. The task-based language learning (TBLL) approach to CLT has gained ground in recent years. Proponents believe CLT is important for developing and improving speaking, writing, listening, and reading skills, and that it prevents students' merely listening passively to the teacher without interaction. Dogme is a similar communicative approach that encourages teaching without published textbooks, instead focusing on conversational communication among the learners and the teacher. Blended learning is a combination of face-to-face teaching and online interactions (also known as CALL or computer-assisted language learning), achieved through a virtual learning environment (VLE). VLEs have been a major growth point in the ELT industry over the last five years.

There are two types:

- Externally hosted platforms that a school or institution exports content to (e.g., the proprietary Web Course Tools, or the open source Moodle)
- Content-supplied, course-managed learning platforms (e.g. the Macmillan English Campus) courses with games, activities, listening exercises, and grammar reference units contained online.

This supports classroom, self-study or remote practice (for example in an internet café). Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan in India has launched a web portal ECTLT where learners can learn English and other subject online and interact with their own teachers of KVS across the country. Advances in technology made it possible to get a TEFL qualification online. Students can enroll into online classes that are accredited by organizations such as Accreditat. It should be noted that there is no single overarching accreditation body for TEFL. Study materials are divided into modules. Students take one or multiple tests per study module. Support is handled by tutors, who can be reached via email. After successfully finishing the last module the student is granted a certificate. It comes in digital form or can be shipped to the student's address. Getting such a certificate can be beneficial in many ways. The student can get a bigger paycheck or teach English in foreign countries.

Here's a more detailed look at why spoken English is so important:

• Improved Communication:

Strong spoken English skills allow students to articulate their thoughts and ideas clearly, fostering better understanding and collaboration with peers, teachers, and future employers.

• Increased Confidence:

Being able to speak English fluently boosts self-esteem and confidence, making students feel more comfortable participating in discussions and presenting their ideas.

• Better Academic Performance:

Students with strong spoken English skills are more likely to succeed in various academic activities, including class participation, presentations, and exams.

• Global Opportunities:

English is a widely spoken language, and fluency in spoken English opens doors to international education, travel, and career opportunities.

• Enhanced Social Interactions:

Speaking English confidently allows students to connect with people from diverse backgrounds, fostering cultural understanding and empathy.

• Future Career Prospects:

In today's globalized job market, strong communication skills are essential for success, and spoken English proficiency can provide a significant advantage.

English can be improved by constant usage, by watching films, reading books with high level Grammar, playing games and trying to use new words. English can be improved by practice. As we know, practice makes the man perfect as well as using good pronunciation and grammar. Most of the jobs in today world are based on English such as IT sector, business field, call Centro jobs and teaching job, etc. So students aspiring for good jobs need to stress upon their English and usage of it because their job depends on this simple structure. English is quite easy in comparison with other languages. Basic English one can learn easily and effortlessly. Mostly people can learn English easily if they try to mater some rules and regulations. Unlike many languages, English does not have a complicated structure and except for a few areas of Grammar, it is quite simple. English is mainly divided into two accents - US and British. US accent is very slow compared to British accent.

Most people of the world follow British accent and only some people follow American accent. In the modern world English is highly useful to have business relations as well as social network with friends and family. A better communicator can communicate effectively and this reaches people very well and chance of misunderstanding is quite less. People can be influenced with your thoughts and ideas as well as they can connect to them without much complications in understanding. English is only a mode of communication; apart from English there are many languages but English is understood by many people and is the most commonly used language. English is taught to small children at pre-primary level itself. This makes understanding it easy. English is simple at the basic level but if we go deep into it, it is quite tough. The functional grammar is very hard.

English must also be learnt because it is used to read various instructions on the road and many other places. It becomes a medium to study various subjects and master them. If you have good English, you can answer questions in examinations in your words as you have mastered the usage. Any language can be master by constant usage, the more you practice the more you can learn the language. You can watch video about various speeches about communication skills, role play, jam section, debates and group discussion. Watch English news for updating knowledge and movies to catch good ascent and listening skills. Watch movies with subtitle, read newspaper, various articles in internet and good books for developing or improving listening skills. To improve your speaking skills you must prepare power point presentation and practice explaining to your friends and take suggestion. Learn at least ten new words and improve your vocabulary, just learning words won't make big different using them at proper situations makes a lot of difference. Your pronunciation and ascent is observed by people so focus more on them and try managing your voice. Speak with

confidence. Apart from this play vocabulary games. As we all have different ideas and we need to express it to other to implement them. An effective communication means the way your word connect other and your ideas are express to other in the manner that they can follow your words and understand without any problem. It convinces the others to accept to your ideas. This is more useful in software practices as half of their work is based on communication, any miscommunication might result in loss of lots of money as well as valuable time. An effective communicator can become a successful person. Effective communication has lot of advantages in field of education, public sector, private sector and business zone also as English is required in all fields.

Enhanced Communication Skills

The primary purpose of language is to communicate effectively, and spoken English empowers students to express themselves with clarity and confidence. A strong command of spoken English enables students to articulate their thoughts, ideas, and emotions precisely, both in the classroom and beyond. Effective communication fosters better teacher-student interactions, making it easier for students to seek help, participate in discussions, and engage in collaborative projects.

Academic Advantages

English is the medium of instruction in many schools and universities worldwide. Students proficient in spoken English have a significant advantage over their peers as they can comprehend lectures, understand textbooks, and present their ideas coherently in examinations. This advantage extends beyond English language classes; it positively impacts performance in other subjects as well, as students can grasp concepts more effectively and engage in critical thinking.

Global Opportunities

As students transition into adulthood, they will encounter a highly competitive global job market. Proficiency in spoken English opens doors to a vast array of international opportunities, especially in multinational corporations and industries where English is the primary language of communication. Furthermore, fluency in English enables students to pursue higher education abroad, broadening their horizons and exposing them to diverse cultures and experiences.

Nurturing Confidence and Personality

The ability to speak English fluently instills confidence in students, which reflects positively on their personality and self-esteem. Confidence plays a crucial role in overcoming challenges, taking on leadership roles, and effectively engaging with others. As students become more confident in their communication skills, they develop a stronger sense of self-assurance, making them better equipped to face life's hurdles.

Access to Knowledge and Information

English is the dominant language in the digital world, and an increasing amount of information, research, and knowledge is available in English. Students who are well-versed in spoken English can access a vast reservoir of online resources, academic papers, and

educational content, enabling them to expand their knowledge base and stay up-to-date with the latest developments in various fields.

Fostering Cultural Understanding

English serves as a bridge between cultures, allowing students to interact with individuals from diverse backgrounds. By learning and using English, students can foster cultural understanding, empathy, and tolerance, promoting a global perspective. This not only enriches their personal lives but also prepares them to be responsible global citizens in an interconnected world.

In today's globalized world, learning English can open up new opportunities for communication and networking. English is the primary language used in international business, trade, and diplomacy, making it essential for building connections with people from different cultures and backgrounds. By being proficient in English, you can effectively communicate with a broader range of people, expand your professional network, and gain access to a wealth of information and resources available in the English language. Additionally, learning English can enhance your travel experiences, as it is widely spoken in many countries around the world, allowing you to navigate and connect with locals more easily.

Enjoy Travel Experiences

If you work abroad or want to travel the globe, learning English is a great choice. With so many English-speakers worldwide, learning the language can help you communicate with locals along the way. When traveling, it's always wise to brush-up on the standard questions, greetings, and phrases the local language. Doing so shows respect for the country you are visiting.

Basic knowledge of English is also needed to communicate with tourism-related businesses. Paying for a hotel, ordering at a restaurant, or asking for directions is a lot easier.

Make More Money

When you're bilingual, you open up the opportunity for a higher earnings potential.

Research from Wharton and LECG Europe found that studying a second language is correlated with about 2% more in annual income. And while that may not seem like a lot, the return on investment over many years is much higher. If you're a foreign professional that is learning English as a second language, the payoff is even higher. When bilingual English speakers return to their homeland, they often earn higher salaries.

Be a Better Student

Many students around the world study English as a second language. When they do so, it opens up promising academic and career opportunities in the future. Do you hope to one day attend a prestigious university such as Harvard, Stanford, Oxford, or MIT? Then, being proficient in the native tongue gives you a competitive edge.

Enjoy Classic Literature & Films

Many of Hollywood's most celebrated works of film and literature are made in English.

Nanotechnology Perceptions 20 No. S16 (2024) 3397-3405

Forget translated copies. Everyone knows that there's nothing quite like the original masterpiece. The only way to truly experience a great work in film or literature is to experience it in its native language.

Stay Sharper for Longer

Picking up a new language is an excellent way to keep your mind sharper for longer.

Many attribute an ability to fight off symptoms of dementia and Alzheimer's disease to high levels of bilingualism. This paper reveals shows that bilingualism has a somewhat muted effect in adulthood but a larger role in older age, protecting against cognitive decline, a concept known as 'cognitive reserve.'

Advantages in Personal and Professional Life

Learning spoken English opens doors to a wide array of advantages in both personal and professional spheres. On a personal level, it enhances social interactions. Engaging in conversations becomes easier, allowing for deeper connections with friends and family. When you can express yourself clearly, relationships flourish. Professionally, the benefits are even more pronounced. Many industries prioritize candidates who communicate effectively in English. This skill is often seen as a marker of competence and professionalism.

Networking Opportunities Expand

Networking opportunities expand significantly as well. Fluency allows you to interact confidently with colleagues from diverse backgrounds during meetings or conferences. Moreover, expressing ideas articulately boosts your image at work. It fosters collaboration and helps convey your thoughts persuasively during presentations or discussions. Mastering spoken English truly enriches life experiences while elevating career prospects simultaneously.

Improved Communication Skills and Confidence

Learning spoken English significantly enhances your communication skills. It empowers you to express thoughts clearly and effectively. This clarity reduces misunderstandings in conversations, whether personal or professional. As you practice speaking, your confidence grows. You start engaging in discussions with ease, contributing ideas without hesitation. This newfound assurance can transform how you interact with others. Moreover, the ability to articulate yourself well opens doors to meaningful connections. People appreciate good communicators; they feel understood and valued during exchanges. Additionally, improved spoken English helps navigate social situations more comfortably. Whether networking at a business event or chatting with friends, having strong language skills makes interactions enjoyable and fulfilling. Ultimately, mastering spoken English cultivates an atmosphere of collaboration and mutual respect in all forms of dialogue. Your voice becomes a powerful tool for influence and connection as you develop these essential skills.

Broader Career Opportunities

Learning spoken English opens doors to a wealth of career opportunities. In today's globalized job market, proficiency in this universal language is often a requirement.

Employers seek candidates who can communicate effectively with diverse teams and clients. Speaking English fluently enhances your ability to collaborate across borders. Many industries value employees who can engage in international negotiations or present ideas clearly. Being articulate in spoken English classes gives you an edge during interviews and promotions. Additionally, many prestigious companies operate on an international scale where English serves as the primary mode of communication. Your chances of landing a role at such organizations increase significantly when you're confident in your spoken skills. Furthermore, networking becomes easier when you can connect with professionals worldwide through conversations that transcend linguistic barriers. This skill not only broadens your horizons but also enriches your professional journey.

Conclusion

English has become a global language that connects people from different countries and cultures. It is the primary language used in international business, science, technology, and diplomacy. Learning English can open up opportunities for communication and collaboration with people from around the world. Proficiency in English can enhance your career prospects and give you access to a wealth of information available in English, including academic resources, literature, and entertainment. In today's globalized world, the ability to speak and understand English is crucial for success and personal growth. Learning spoken English offers numerous advantages, enhancing communication, opening career doors, and boosting confidence. It improves global connectivity, facilitates travel, and broadens cultural understanding, ultimately leading to personal and professional growth.

References

- 1. Alwasila, A.C. (2000). Pokoknya Kualitatif. Bandung. Pustaka Jaya
- 2. Amelia, M. & Komariah E. (2017). Investigating English Speaking Skill Problems Encountered by Students at Islamic Modern Boarding School. READ publication, 119-126.
- 3. Baxter, P., Jack, S. (2008). Qualitative case Study Methodology: Study Design and Implementation for Novice Researchers. The Qualitative Report, 13, 544-559.
- 4. Brown, H.D. (2003). Language Assessment Principle and Classroom Practice. New York. Longman.
- 5. Burkart, M., Panunzi, F., Gromb, D., (1998). Why Higher Takeover Protect Minority Shareholders. The Journal of finance 50 (5)
- 6. Chomsky, N. (1965). Pesistent Topic in Linguistics Theory. SAGE Journals.
- 7. Crotty, M. J. (1998). The foundations of social research: Meaning and perspective in the research process. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage
- 8. Denzin, N. K., Lincoln, Y. S. (1998). Collecting and interpreting qualitative materials. London, England: Sage.
- 9. Doris & Jessica. (2007). Jurnal Deaaries Fitria, RW.A Study on the students English Speaking problems in speaking performance.
- 10. Fulcher, G., Reiter, R. M. (2003). Task Difficulty in Speaking. SAGE Journals. Research articles
- 11. Heriansyah, H. (2012). Speaking problems faced by the English department students of Syiah Kuala University. Lingua Didaktika: Jurnal Bahasa dan Pembelajaran Bahasa, 6(1), 37-44.
- 12. Kagan. S., Kagan. M. (2009). Teaching to Training Teachers Through Cooperative Learning.
- 13. Kuiken. C., Simmonds. P. (2009). Nomenclature and numbering of the hepatitis C Virus.

- 14. Lynch, D., Hennessy, J. (2017). I Choose to Become A Teacher. Asia- Pacific Journal of Education 45 (2) p. 106-125 [18] Brown, H.D. (2001). Teaching by Principles. An Interactive Approach to Language Pedagogy. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice Hall.
- 15. Nunan, D. (1999). Second Language Teaching & Learning. USA. Heinle & Heinle Publisher
- 16. Syafryadin, S. (2020). The Effect of Talking Chips Towards the Improvement of Student' Speaking Achievement at one of the Senior High School in Bandung. Linguists, Vol 6, No. 2
- 17. Taiqin, Dong. 1995. "I can try it at least": A strategy for Effective Inter-Class Oral Communication. English TeachingForum. 33 (1): 28-29
- 18. Uhr, Penny. 1996. A Course in Language Teaching Practice and Theory. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press