

AN ANALYSIS OF THE COMMON GRAMMATICAL ERRORS IN ENGLISH WRITING MADE BY STUDENTS OF INTERMEDIATE AND BACHELOR LEVELS IN NEPAL

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ABSTRACT

English is very important language in the present era of globalization. When we mention the term "Globalization", we are, directly or indirectly, talking about English language. People all over the world speak, read and write in English language. English has been assigned as official language in many countries and it is estimated that two billion people speak English. In many countries, English is used as compulsory subject in schools and colleges. It is also a major subject in university level courses. English is dominant language in the field of business, education and communication. It is known as global lingua franca. English language is necessary to enter the global job market and research field. Most of the important books and films are published in English language. Due to this reason, English language provides us knowledge, wisdom and entertainment. English language has been as a main source of education today, which had been used since the British colonial rule in the world. Today, if someone wants to study or visit foreign countries, knowledge of English is very essential. In this era of globalization, information and communication process have got important place among people for which writing skill plays great role. So, this paper aims to find out the errors in writing skills made by students of (+ 2) level and Bachelor level about their constructing correct and incorrect sentences. The methodology of data collection was that an essay type test was administered on some students of Intermediate and Bachelor Level and mistakes were found in their writing. The mistakes are analysed and importance of the study of grammar is presented. Some researchers' literature is reviewed to provide proof for this research article.

KEYWORDS: English As A Global Language, Proficiency Of English Language, English Courses, Importance Of Grammar Study For Language Learning, Contrast Of Errors.

INTRODUCTION

English is regarded as a global language these days. There is great importance of English Language today. Today, the education system is

going to be global by attracting international students to enroll in them by using English as a medium of instruction.

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English has been as a global language. So everybody has to be fluent and competent in English. At the present era of globalization English has played the main role.

About globalization Rohmah has written as follows:

We are now experiencing a globalization era. Globalization is relatively new phenomenon of multi-dimensional nature that puts variety of complex trends in the economic, social and cultural fabrics of all societies. Globalization impacts on all conceivable aspects of life. Globalization has created a smaller world for people. When people of different backgrounds meet, they need to communicate using a particular language as a lingua franca. English is now a world lingua franca. Now a days, English is used by people in almost every part of the world (PP. 106 & 107).

But everybody cannot stand with the advanced networking challenges in developed countries. International students have to pass the exams of English language like TOEFL & IELTS which have announced minimum requirement of English language proficiency which is the ability of students to use English language in spoken and written contents. English language proficiency has become important issue because of the awareness of the role of English language ability for employment opportunities and meeting skill shortages in workplaces

LITERATURE REVIEW

English has been language of newspapers, hotels, education, politics, tourism and business. A person who has knowledge of English language, can adjust him/ her anywhere in the world.

About English as a global language, Crystal (2003) has stated as follows:

Of course English is a global language, they would say. You hear it on television spoken by

politicians from all over the world. Wherever you travel, you see English signs and advertisements. Wherever you enter a hotel or restaurant in a foreign city, they will understand English, and there will be an English menu. Indeed, if there is anything to wonder about at all, they might add, it is why such headlines should still be newsworthy. But English is news. The language continues to make news daily in many countries (P.2).

About the role of English, in fact, played to build the present world cannot be denied. Without English no any information is complete today. If any notice is in native language another language will be English.

Chang (2006) has written about English as follows:

It is, therefore, only natural that attention should be paid to education, including teaching of the most widely used foreign or second language, English. Education in the English language in the context of accelerating globalization has been approached from different perspectives because of the value of English as the most commonly used language for global political, cultural and economic exchange (P.513).

As Chang has written, without English language education, present education won't be useful to compete in the global job market. English has developed dominant characteristics upon other languages.

Regarding the dominance of English, Crystal, (2003:106) has mentioned as follows:

English permeates popular culture and has become the main language of popular music, advertising, satellite broadcasting, home computers and videogames; it is the language of international air traffic communication and is increasingly used in international maritime, policing and emergency services; it is used so extensively and deemed to be so important in the

academic, scientific and technological sectors that over 80 percent of all information is stored in electronic retrieval systems in English (as cited in Chang, 2006; P.514).

Now a days, more people are in contact to each other around the world for education, business, job, treatment etc. and they need a common language. In this context, the role played by English as a global language has been widely recognized by the process and context of globalization. Bottery (2000:6) demonstrated that the development of "Globalization" has been associated with the dominance of the English language (as cited in Chang, 2006:P.515).

Regarding the role of English Chang (2006) has stated as follows:

Growing English competence has speeded up globalization by facilitating political understanding, economic activities and cultural exchange; meanwhile globalization has been functioning as a driving force to strengthen the position of English as a global language. Small wonder that many countries have been making efforts to promote English education so as to participate more fully in international activities (P.515).

So English as a global language has got broad outlook theoretically and practically. The context of changing global activities and as the driving force of the emergence of global English cannot be denied today. I want to mention that at the present context, if English was not used as global language, the world would not change into globalization.

English is widely used and taught in every part of the world. About the role of English in Chinese education system Hui (2001) has stated as follows:

Globalization is an influencing force everywhere in the world. In recent years China has chosen English as the major foreign language taught in all

colleges and Universities as well as in almost all high schools. English is the subject to be examined both in senior high school entrance examination and college entrance examination. In every college or University, English is a compulsory course for every non-English major student (PP.126-129).

Graddol (2000) has written, about English as follows:

Britain's colonial expansion established the pre-conditions for the global use of English, taking the language from its island birthplace to settlements around the world. The English language has grown up in contact with many others, making it a hybrid language which can rapidly evolve to meet new cultural and communicative needs. English has always been an evolving language and language contact has been an important driver of change (P.6).

So, it is true that higher education, English language and globalization are interrelated to one another. In between higher education and globalization, there in English language in reality.

Higher education should empower the people by opening the employment opportunities across the borders. It should help the students by breaking up domesticity and entering them into the global world for which proficiency of English language will be taken as an impetus.

There are certainly some drawbacks in our teaching and learning activities in our classrooms. Regarding such problems, Akpan and Beard (2016:393) have stated as follows:

Misconceptions on how students construct knowledge and how teachers should deliver instruction in our nation's schools currently exist. These include lessons dominated by expository methodology in which the teacher is expert. Using the expository teaching, students are viewed as "blank slate" onto which information is etched by the teacher. The teacher plays videos

to wipe away instructional time, assigns meaningless tasks for lessons which are predominantly textbook oriented.

Mentioning the challenges of present teaching system, Steele (2005: 11) has stated, "One of the most unique and challenging issues that parents, teachers, school administrators, politicians, and philosophers have debated is how to enhance the academic learning experience and opportunities for all students" (as cited in Akpan and Beard, 2016: 393). It is necessary that our teaching system should be reformed. It is necessary to apply constructivism in teaching learning activities.

STATUS OF STUDENTS' WRITING

It is a great challenge to the teachers of English about how to improve students' performance, proficiency in the use of English and minimize mistakes. Students should be conscious that English is the only one global language used all over the world. Although they know something about this, they seem to have not improved as needed. The students of Bachelor Level have made such types of mistakes, when a test was administered on them, as follows:

She choose.....

Jessie left her husband but still love him.

they will still goes.....

she commit.....

many kinds of peoples

childrens goes/ comes.....

Every people

They comes.....

they gets together and starts.....

all the children goes.....

all the childrens comes ...

few goes...

we can hear roaming hear and there..

youths.....takes rest.....

ANALYSIS OF THE ERRORS

The above sentences are taken from the original writing of the students on whom the test was administered. The sentences show that students make grammatical mistakes. They seem to have been unknown about subject- verb agreement and overall grammatical correctness. The students seem weak in the use of morphology. They have no clear knowledge about how to make agreement between a verb and a noun. The correct form of the above incorrect words should be as follows:

She choose. (chooses).

Jessie left her husband but still love him. (loves).

.....they will still goes..... (go)

... she commit.....(commits)

....many kinds of peoples..... (people)

Every people (Everybody/ Every one)

They comes..... (come)

.....they.....gets together and starts.....(getstart)

....all the children goes..... (go)

... all the childrens comes (children come)

...few goes..... (few go)

....we can hear roaming hear and there..... (here and there)

....youths.....takes rest..... (take)

The students have shown confusion regarding the use of singular verb with singular subject and

plural verb with plural subjects. This situation is due the negligence of the study of grammar. The students have not known about regular plural forms and irregular plural forms. They should also know about which words fit for countable nouns and uncountable nouns. They seem to have not known about the differences between few and less forms. They should know about that “few” is used for countable plural nouns and “less” for uncountable nouns.

REASONS OF MAKING ERRORS

These students have made mistakes being not clear about forms of grammar. Researchers talk about behaviourist theory or mentalist theory of learning English as a second language. Chomsky (1971:359) has stated, “In general, then, it seems to me correct to say that empiricist theories about language acquisition are refutable wherever they are clear and that further empiricist speculations have been quite empty and uninformative”. In our teaching career, there is not pure use of either behaviourism or mentalism. These things are only in theory but not in pure use. Due to these reasons, students do not take care of grammar and also they do not communicate in English due to the lack of learning environment. The students do not learn grammar rules. Our English language teaching management in the process of learning English as the first language for our students cannot be referred.

The environment of learning English in public schools is not properly managed.

Dewey, (1916) has mentioned “The core of the teaching process is the arrangement of environments within which the students can interact and study how to learn” (as cited in Joyce and Well, 1997: 11). Mentioning to Dewey, it can be said that there is no arrangement of English learning environment in Nepalese schools and colleges, in both public and private sectors. In

most of the private schools also, the teaching system is making students in rote learning, but not so creative technique.

In our teaching system, knowledge of grammar is less and teaching is also not conducted with communicative system. English is a compulsory subject in Nepalese schools and colleges and there are crowded classrooms in public schools. Students who fail in English, in school level, will also be promoted and any way they pass SLC and +2 and join Bachelor level. There are rumours of English medium public schools in Nepal, these days. But in these English medium public schools, students from other boarding schools come for admission but not the proper students of the schools; which is only transfer of students. In this way due to proper policy of the use and technique of teaching English, students commit errors.

IMPORTANCE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING GRAMMAR

We try to avoid GT method and cannot apply direct method also in classroom. We have no management of audio-lingual method and communicative teaching method is only nominal. In such situation GT method may be beneficial so that students are taught English through the rules of grammar. In this era of globalization, use of technology will be more effective and interesting in teaching English.

Language lab is of great importance to teach English language and grammar. It is true that without the knowledge of grammar, language cannot be used correctly. The use of technology such as; videos, film, news, speech in YOUTUBE will be more supportive through internet connection in classroom. Language labs also play important role for English language practice for listening and speaking with correct grammatical order. Without correct grammatical use, a language cannot be made correct.

CONCLUSION

English is known as global language; a language used all over the world by many people although English is not their mother tongue. Application of Multimedia Technology.

In teaching, audio, visual, video animation etc. into full play in English class teaching and set a favorable platform for reform and exploration on English teaching model at the present situation. Teachers and their knowledge of modern equipment in teaching English.

Multimedia technology is more acceptable because it offers various resources as visual animation making more access to information and providing a sense of reality and functioning very well, which greatly cultivates students' interest. English parts of speech are not taught properly in former levels. Lack of knowledge of English tenses and grammar drives students towards making mistakes. Let us think about the question to reply "What type of English is global language?" in the context of English as a global language.

English should be of good standard in terms of grammar, vocabulary, spelling and pronunciation to make it as a global language. Teaching of grammar for students will be of good advantage. There is need of language lab in all schools and colleges to practice English. Use of internet connected technology/ multimedia power point will be of great importance for teaching and learning English. Ghosh (2009: 19) has stated, "English functional arguments emphasise the usefulness of English as a gateway to the world."

Rise of English as a global language, is related to power and influence of the people speaking English, which needs to be considered.

Inefficient teaching, shortage of facilities, lack of language teaching research and much criticised tests should be reformed. Class teaching hours of English should be increased.

Classes should be made not so much crowded. Teaching learning environment should be rearranged to teach English as a global language.

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