

A Study on Pronunciation Problems of English among the Students of 9th standard, Sankardev Sishu Vidya Niketan, Tihu, Nalbari, Assam, India”

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Abstract: Every country aims to provide basic education, but the systems and terminology remain unique to them. Secondary Education typically takes place after six years of primary education and is followed by higher education, vocational education or employment. In most countries secondary education is compulsory, at least until the age of 16. Children typically enter the lower secondary phase around age 11. Compulsory education sometimes extends to age 19.

English is important for students as it broadens their minds, develops emotional skills, improve the quality of life by providing job opportunities. Moreover, the use of English as an International language is growing with time because it is the only medium for communication in many countries. English subject is an essential part of education. This subject is very important for all younger to older generation. English is almost certainly, the most important subject that a child can learn in school. Without knowing proper English, a child will not be able to communicate effectively with the English speaking nation. Now-a-days the important of English language is very much gives importance in all over our country. So, it is very important to make necessary English subject from primary to higher level of education. There are various studies we have found in relation to pronunciation problems of English language. This paper is also an attempt to find the pronunciation problems of English among the students of 9th standard in the respective school. The main objective of this study is to find the causes of the pronunciation problems regarding English subject among the students of 9th standard and another objective of this study is to provide extra classes for removing the pronunciation problem and developing the pronunciation of English words of the students of 9th standard, Sankardev Sishu Vidya Niketan, Tihu, Assam, India.

Keywords: Pronunciation problem, English, 9th standard students etc

1. Introduction

Education is a life-long process. From birth to death in every aspect of our daily life is touched by Education. Without education a society cannot run properly. In wider meaning, Education is a social process. Education is mainly three types-formal, informal and non-formal Educations. Education is very important to make our life easier and happier. It removes superstition, prejudice among the societies. Education helps to develop thinking capacity of all individual. From pre-primary to higher stages of education it is very important to provide quality education to every student. Educational stages are subdivisions of formal learning, typically covering early childhood education, primary education, secondary education and higher education. The secondary stage of education is the most important stage because in this stage the students enter in the high school. Secondary education covers two phases on the International Standard Classification of Education Scale. Level 2 or lower secondary education (less common junior secondary education) is considered the second and final phase of basic education and level 3 (upper) secondary education is the stage before tertiary education. Every country aims to provide basic education, but the systems and terminology remain unique to them. Secondary Education typically takes place after six years of primary education and is followed by higher education, vocational education or employment. In most countries secondary education is compulsory, at least until the age of 16. Children typically enter the lower secondary phase around age 11. Compulsory education sometimes extends to age 19.

English language plays an essential role in our lives as it helps in communication. It is the main language for studying any subject all over the world. English is important for students as it broadens their minds, develops emotional skills, improve the quality of life by providing job opportunities. Moreover, the use of English as an International language is growing with time because it is the only medium for communication in many countries. English subject is an essential part of education. This subject is very important for all younger to older generation. English is almost certainly, the most important subject that a child can learn in school. Without knowing proper English, a child will not be able to communicate effectively with the English speaking nation. Now-a-days the important of English language is very much gives importance in all over our country. So, it is very important to make necessary English subject from primary to higher level of education. To provide English language by English textbook, the teacher may face various problems in every stages of education. Generally, in classroom the problem found regarding teaching English subjects is like- vocabulary problem, problem of English grammar, hesitation of speaking English in classroom, spelling mistakes etc. Maximum students in primary to higher stages did not like English subject. They used to ignore this subject as they can. It is an important cause of the problem related English subject. To develop English subject in school level, various step should be adopted by the teacher.

Many linguist and researchers had found in their investigation that the English pronunciation problems among speakers of other languages are the same but it is according to each language background. Many studies in this field discussed the factors that hinder achieving native like- pronunciation among foreign languages learners in general and among Sudanese learners in particular(O' Conner, 2003; Yule, 2003).

Several works have been conducted on the influence of L2 in learning English Language (Catford,1977), (Moosa, 1972) and (Swan; Smith, 2001) had found that /p/ and /b/ sounds are two different phonemes and each one is distinguished by a native speaker.

2. Identification of the Problem

From the study it is identified that there are various problem found regarding teaching of English subject or textbook. From the study done by the investigator among the students of 9th standard, it has been identified that the problem of pronunciation is a major problem. Maximum students of the class do the same mistake of proper pronunciation of English. So, this study is an attempt to identify the problem of pronunciation of English words among the students of 9th standard of Sankardev Sishu Vidya Niketan, Tihu, Nalbari, Assam, India and how it can be reduced.

3. Statement of the Problem

The study is entitled as “A study on the pronunciation problems of English among the students of 9th standard, Sankardev Sishu Vidya Niketan, Tihu, Nalbari, Assam, India”.

4. Operational Definition of the Study

School: In this research study, ‘School’ refers to Sankardev Sishu Vidya Niketan, Tihu, Assam, India.

Student: In this research study, ‘Student’ refers to class 9 of Sankardev Sishu Vidya Niketan, Tihu, Nalbari, Assam.

Pronunciation problem: In this research study Pronunciation problems refers to the problems related to pronunciation of English words among the students of class 9, Sankardev Sishu Vidya Niketan, Tihu, Nalbari, Assam.

Subject English: In this study, main focus goes to the subject English and the problems regarding this subject among the students of 9th standard, Sankardev Sishu Vidya Niketan, Tihu, Nalbari, Assam.

5. Significance of the Study

There are so many significance of the study of English subject and its problems. This study is very important to improve the quality of the subject English. It is also important to improve the teaching quality of English by the teachers. This study has been given importance to remove or reduce the hesitation about this subject among the students.

6. Delimitation of the Study

- a) The study has been delimited to the Sankardev Sishu Vidya Niketan, Tihu, Nalbari, Assam, India.
- b) The study has been delimited only to the Nalbari District, Assam, India.
- c) The study has continued only to the students of class 9 among all the students of Sankardev Sishu Vidya Niketan, Tihu, Assam, India.
- d) The study was based on the sample of 35 students which are relatively small.

7. Objectives of this Study

- 1) To study the causes of the pronunciation problems regarding English subject among the students of 9th standard.
- 2) To provide extra classes for removing the pronunciation problem and developing the pronunciation of English words of the students of 9th standard, Sankardev Sishu Vidya Niketan, Tihu, Assam, India.

Analysing the Probable Causes of the Problem

In the study, it had been found different probable causes of the problems. Such as-

- Improper background of the students.
- Lack of extra classes regarding English subject,
- Improper pronunciation of English words by teachers and other family members.

- Untrained teachers.
- Teacher's unhealthy attitude towards their students.
- Improper guidance regarding English pronunciation in lower classes.

Formulating Hypothesis

The hypothesis is precisely defined as a tentative or working proposition suggested as a solution to a problem. The hypothesis is a powerful tool in research process to achieve dependable knowledge. It helps the researcher to relate theory to observation and observation to theory.

- a. Proper action:
 - Extra classes on English pronunciation.
 - Regular feedback on homework's.
 - Given to do assignments on difficult words of each lessons of English subject.
- b. Anticipated consequences:
 - By providing more classes on English pronunciation with special skills will reduce the problems of pronunciation of English words among the students.

8. Appropriate Methodology of the Study

In Action Research there are mainly three types of methodology. They are-

1. Case study method
2. Diagnostic method
3. Experimental method

In this study, case study method has been adopted for getting better knowledge by the investigator.

Population

In the present study, the students of class 9, Sankardev Sishu Vidya Niketan, Tihu of Nalbari District, Assam, India can be regarded as the population.

Sample

The students of Section B of 9th standard, Sankardev Sishu Vidya Niketan, Tihu, Assam, India has been regarded as the sample of the study.

Tools And Techniques For The Data Collection

In this study, the investigator has used graphs, questionnaire, rating scales etc. for better improvement of mistakes done by the students regarding English pronunciation. These tools and techniques were helped the investigator to cover the area of the study.

Procedure of Data Collection

To collect the data from the study, the investigator has used some procedures i.e. interview, pre-test, result analysis, post-test etc. The investigator has been thrown a close type questionnaire, tries to know the interest of the students.

9. Findings of the Study

In this study there were so many causes has been found by the investigator, regarding the pronunciation problems of class 9, Sankardev Sishu Vidya Niketan, Tihu, Assam, India. They are-

- The teachers were not well trained to teach how to pronounce a English word.
- There hasn't any provision of extra classes.
- The classes on English were not regular.
- To remove such type of problems, there are also some suggestions. They are-
- The teachers should be well trained to teach English.
- It is very important to give extra classes on English.
- There should be regular class on English pronunciation to develop the speaking confident on English.

10. Conclusion

From the study on pronunciation problems on English word among the students of class 9, Sankardev Sishu Vidya Niketan, Tihu, Nalbari, Assam, India, the investigator has been found various problems which can affect the students future educational life. The investigator focuses the problems towards the school administration and helps them to recover the weakness among the students. This study helps the investigator to make aware the students as well as the school administration.

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