

PROBLEMS OF MISPRONUNCIATION AND RECTIFICATION

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ABSTRACT

"Learning is a bitter medicine that needs sugar coating of entertainment to become palatable" - Resnick.

Teaching English as a second language is always been a problem among Indian students because English is only taught as a subject and not considering it as a language. When it is not considered as a language the students don't know about the importance of it and they ignore it. Therefore most of them mispronounce the words wrongly and the teachers also don't take it seriously. Taking this into consideration, the students have to be taught English as a language not as a subject they are not able to learn it successfully. This paper tells about the causes of incorrect pronunciation among the students and how to rectify it.

INTRODUCTION

A large number of languages are spoken in India by different people. So the interference of mother tongue and the pronunciation also varies according to the speakers. If you take the speakers of different places as an example like Hindi speaking people Hindi and English (Hinglish), Tamil and English (Thanglish), Malayalam and English (Manglish), Bengali and English (Manglish). The teachers have to put effort in order to improve the English pronunciation of the students because students don't know proper pronunciation. This paper discusses the mispronunciation and how to rectify them.

Stress

Most of the errors made are due to the difference in the sound systems and due to the misinterpretation of spelling symbols. Pennington and Richards (1986, p.2) The misinterpretation of words are mainly due to wrong stress. Word stress is not used in all languages. For example some languages like Japanese or French pronounce each syllable with equal emphasis the language, English for example use word stress. What is stress? The degree of a speaker pronounces

a sound or a particular syllable in a word is called its stress. The syllable of a word is pronounced strongly, it is called word stress.

Intonation

The students must know about intonation. The pitch of the voice with which how a voiced sound is pronounced. They should be taught about all four tunes. They are Falling, Rising; Rise-fall & Fall-rise.

The statements have a falling tune. E.g. I am a student.

The questions express with a doubt usually start with Rising Intonation.

E.g. Is this your pen? The answer could be Yes or No 'Wh' questions expect some information in reply. So they take a Falling Intonation.

Eg. 1) What is this? 2) When did you go?

The complex sentences be it be main or sub-ordinate has a Fall-Rise Intonations. When the students come to know the different kinds of tunes, it will be easy for them to pronounce the words easily.

Phonetic Symbols

The sounds in mother-tongue tend to interfere with our articulation of English sounds. So students should know what phonetics is and what the importance of phonetics is and how words should be pronounced. They should know the difference between voiced sounds and voiceless sounds. The students should be taught

- Phonological and phonemic awareness
- Word decoding and phonics
- Vocabulary & Fluency

Pronunciation Guide Lines

Though English is a highly accented language, wrong accent may appear jarring to the ears and English sensibility. One of the important are in pronunciation is silent letters. Some of the rules which are to be followed is;

- The letter 'b' is silent when it is at the end and is immediately preceded by the letter M

Eg. Comb

- The letter 'C' is silent only in words ending in "scl" Eg. Muscle.
- The letter G is silent when followed by 'N' Eg. Sign
- The letter 'K' is silent when followed by the letter N at the start of the word Eg. Knife
- The letter 'S' is not pronounced only in the following words Eg. Island,

Listen to Native English

The teachers have to help the students to understand how native speakers pronounce various words and phrases. The more we listen, the more words we gain, and they'll be helpful in our everyday vocabulary. It can be a boost to our self-esteem. Listening is also vital for learning new languages as non-native speakers gain exposure to words used in context, which will ameliorate their own speaking and writing fluency (Pennington and Richards, 1986; MacKay, 1967).

Audio - Visual Aids

According to Carter. V. Good, Audio visual aids are those aids which help in completing the triangular process of learning that is motivation, classification and stimulation. These are materials which help people to quicken their learning. Through Audio - visual aids the students can improve their listening skill. They are very helpful in capturing the attention of the students. They also help to save time and energy. They motivate the students (<http://linguistics.stackexchange.com/questions/180/whats-the-difference-between-phonetics-and-phonology>).

ADVANTAGES

- It helps the students to learn phonetic symbols easily.
- It helps them to learn stress easily.
- It helps the students to learn phonology by using phonetic symbols
- They learn how to speak silent letters.
- It gives them practice how to open their mouth while speaking.

CONCLUSION

Mispronunciation is quite common among Indian speakers since their mother tongue is not English. To meet the present day challenges, proper pronunciation is very important. So it is the duty of English teachers, to let the students know about the importance of pronunciation and rectify the problems of mispronunciation.

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