

Learning English “enjoyment or need” for the Students in Oman

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ABSTRACT: *The purpose of this study is to identify whether students in Oman enjoy learning English. To find whether students learn English as an enjoyment or they just learn English out of necessity. The study identifies the % of students who love to learn English and who hate to learn. The study also endeavours to find out whether learning English is essential in Oman. This paper highlights the findings of a study conducted in Global college of Engineering (GCET), Muscat, Sultanate of Oman. The subjects used in this study are the third semester Foundation Studies students of GCET. Questionnaire comprising two parts, viz. Part-A and Part-B was administered to collect the information. The findings of the study highlight various benefits in learning English as enjoyment and not as compulsory subject under pressure.*

Keywords: *Communication, efficiency, English Language, enjoyment, peer learning, proficient*

I. INTRODUCTION

These days the world has become small or a Global Village. The technology has bridged the distances and barriers and brought people closer. The reasons and purposes could be different depending upon the case, but because of increased opportunities for interactions there is a lot of communication on the National and International levels. English as an international language helps to bridge the communication gaps. And Oman is not exception to this phenomenon.. There is a steep growth in the industrial development of Oman. Oman is doing business with many countries in the world and hence there is increasing need for the use of English Language.

1.2 The History of English in Oman

The Sultanate of Oman, which is also referred to as Oman is located in the Middle East region and is part of the Arabian Peninsula. His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said acceded to the throne in 1970. From that time till now there has been steep growth in education in Oman, particularly in learning English as foreign language. Prior to 1970 there were only three schools in Oman with around 900 students. These schools were only for boys. To promote education and encourage people to learn English as foreign language His Majesty built and started several schools. The formal education system in Oman started in with Government support, the total number of pupils in various schools has grown from 900 in 1970 to about 701,100 during 2015, with over 55,000 teachers to instruct them in 1534 Government and private schools. The current Educational Enrollment Rate is around 76% at Primary level, 67% at Secondary level.

The Study

This study was conducted to find out whether Omani students enjoy learning English or they learn English language just as a need.

II. METHOD

A questionnaire was administered in two parts and the responses of the students were analyzed.

Sample

The questionnaire comprising two parts, viz. Part A and Part-B was given to 50 students of two sections of Foundation Studies Programme of Global College of Engineering and Technology, Muscat, Oman.

Procedure

There are 9 questions in part A of the questionnaire, which are to be answered as ‘Yes’ or ‘No’. More than 80% of the responses were with the answer ‘No’. This means the students don’t enjoy learning English. In part B of the questionnaire there are total 6 questions. In response more than 70% of the students answered ‘No’, which shows that the students know and realize the need and importance of learning English. They also know that with proficiency in English they can get a good job.

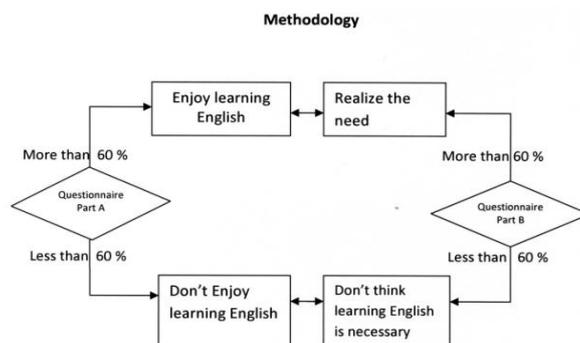


Figure 2.1 Methodology

Data Analysis

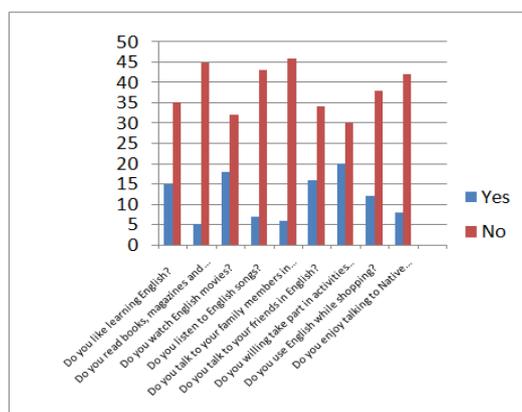


Figure 2.2 Questionnaire part A respondents responses

The above figure illustrates that the majority of the students who took part in this study don't enjoy learning English.

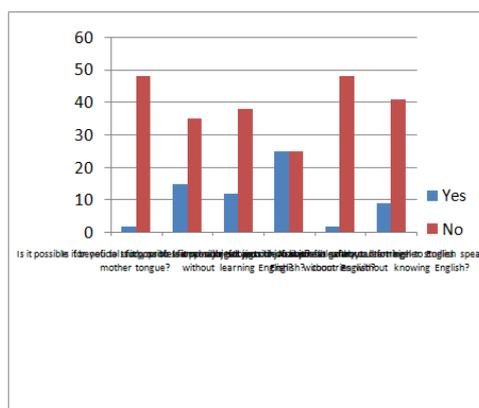


Figure 2.3 Questionnaire part B respondents responses

1. Percentage of the students who love and hate learning English.
2. Whether students enjoy learning English or they learn out of compulsion.
3. Is Learning is a must to get jobs, to do business or for survival in Oman?

From the above analysis it is clear that those who enjoyed learning English learnt English with ease, perfection and in relatively shorter time or faster and proved to be proficient in English. Enjoyment and perfection are found to have a direct relationship and are proportional, in other words more the enjoyment in learning English, higher is the level of proficiency in English. Learning English opens the gate to more options for higher study. Also the student finds it easy to get along with the students and faculty of other nationalities. It also improves the chances of the student getting a better job. Enjoyment and happiness in learning a foreign language come from commitment.

III. SUGGESTIONS

Learning English can be made enjoyable:

➤ By adopting different language learning strategies.

Tutors can make teaching interesting and enjoyable by having activity based learning and not only lecturing.

➤ By introducing Peer Learning students can learn more effectively.

Peer learning is beneficial and involves sharing of knowledge, ideas and experiences between the participants. It can be described as a way of moving beyond independent to interdependent or mutual learning (Boud, 1988).

Past researches have indicated that peer learning activities typically result in:

1. team-building spirit and more supportive relationships;
2. greater psychological well-being, social competence, communication skills and self-esteem; and
3. higher achievement and greater productivity in terms of enhanced learning outcomes.

Academic Advisors play an important role in students' life. They are the role models for many of the students. Interest in learning can be created by advising learners. If the learners take interest in learning, study willingly and not by force, they will enjoy learning. A link between enjoyment and learning is a longstanding hypothesis Griffin (2005). More recent analyses in the late twentieth and early twenty-first century in both England and the USA suggest that absence of enjoyment is one of the fundamental reasons for young people failing to achieve their potential (Goetz, Nathan, Hall, Anne, Frenzel, & Pekrun, 2006; Shernoff, Csikszentmihalyi, Schneider, & Shernoff, 2003).

Exchange programmes can be of use in bringing enjoyment in studying. Exchanges- change minds of students, create lifelong benefits for participants, help address critical topics.

IV. CONCLUSION

It's a fact that English is one of the most popular and widely used Languages in the world. English has therefore attained the status of an international language (for communication). English is also widely accepted for conducting international businesses. Therefore the language used in most of the world's business deals is English. Hence knowledge of and proficiency in English Language is a must now a days.

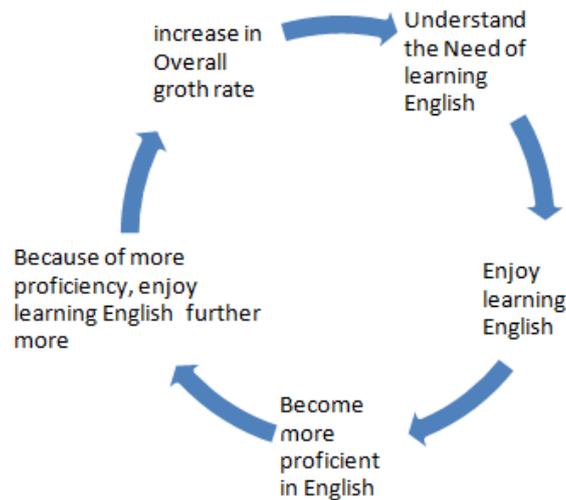


Figure 4.1 Suggested Model

The % of near native speakers is increasing day by day. People have started realizing and understanding the need of Learning English Language and they have started enjoying learning English thereby producing better results. They learn better so they actively participate in class activities. Because they actively participate in class activities they benefit more and learn English language in relatively short time.

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