

A Study of English Needs of Engineering Students

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ABSTRACT:

A try has been done here to know English needs of engineering students. It was concluded that, analytical skill was much needed to them rather than their grammatical portion. The use of technical terms, and their meaning was more concern of the students rather than their dictionary portion. Language skill and communication was their priority than that of writing and listening skill.

Keywords: Analytical skill, Language skill, Communication Skill

INTRODUCTION

English is an international language. In non-Hindi regions like Gujarat, it is second language which is spoken and written by us. In professional courses like medical and engineering, it is an essential language. Here, a try has been made to know English needs of engineering students. It would be interesting to know various uses of English language by engineers on the job in industry.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM :

A study of English needs of Engineering students.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY :

1. To identify the various used of English language by the engineers on the job in industry.
2. To analyse the engineering text-books in use and representing the several subjects taught in each of the conventional branches i.e. Civil, Mechanical and Electrical engineering in terms of the thirteen communication categories.
3. To identify the language skills required for learning in engineering.
4. To correlate the ranks of the language categories identified by job analysis, text-book analysis and questionnaire method.

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5. To list the needs of engineering students in their use of English for studies and future career.

QUESTIONS OF THE STUDY :

1. What is the need of English language of engineering students ?
2. What is the priority of English in terms of skill ?
3. Their concern regarding English (a) technical terms and their meaning or (b) Use of dictionary (grammar) of English language.

POPULATION :

The population of the present study consisted of students of Birla Engineering college, Vallabh Vidyanagar.

SAMPLE :

300 students (100 students from each branch i.e. Civil, Mechanical and Electrical) were randomly selected.

TOOLS USED :

- (1) Personal interview
- (2) Questionnaire

METHOD :

The researcher use survey method to collect information (data) regarding English needs of engineering students.

COLLECTION OF DATA :

The researcher prepared self-constructed questionnaire considering objectives of the study with the help of friends and experts in the field. He consulted principal of the engineering college and made him convinced with the object. Then questionnaire was given to students and information (data) was collected. He also took personal interview with students and teachers.

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ANALYSIS OF DATA AND DISCUSSION :

1. 85% engineering students gave priority of need of analysis skills and only 15% students gave priority to grammatical knowledge.
2. The need of priority of skill was as under : (a) Language skill 45% (b) Communication skill 30% (c) Communication categories 15% (d) Language element 10%
3. Use of English (a) Writing 40% (b) Listening 28% (c) Speaking 20% (d) Reading 12%
4. Concern of English (a) Technical terms and meaning 70% (b) Dictionary (Grammatical part) 30% of English Language.

FINDING :

1. Engineering students understandably recognised the need for analytical skills of English rather than grammatical knowledge of the language.
2. The study revealed the priority of the above four needs in the following order : (a) Language skills (b) Communication skills (c) Communication categories (d) Language element.
3. The use of English for speaking and reading was very limited to that for writing and listening.
4. The use of technical terms and meaning was the concern of the students rather than using the dictionary (grammar) of English language.

CONCLUSION :

It was concluded from the study that engineering students recognised the need for analytical skill rather than their grammatical portion. The use of technical terms and their meaning was more concern of the students rather than their dictionary portion. Language skill and communication skill was their priority than that of writing and listening skill.

REFERENCE LITERATURE :

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