Present scenario of English Language in Higher Education

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Introduction:

‘To survive in the modern society English Language learning is as important as water to us’
(http://iteslj.org/techniques/Kelly-Authentic.html.)

English is everything that one can think of—the tool of empowerment and alienation, the way of bringing about equity and creating divisions, the mass instrument of education. Education per se has never been free of its problematic relationship of its medium of instruction. Education is yet to take full cognizance of the onslaught of English. In the era of globalization, English has no longer confined to the four walls of a classroom—an affair between the taught and the teacher—but has been acclaimed as a link language for all human activities across the globe. Thus, far from being labeled as the language of the colonizers, it has today acquired the status of the international language, more so because of the globalization.

Use of English:

Today English is used at undergraduate level, at post-graduate level and at research level. English subject is added in all the streams like Aviation, Engineering, Medical, Business, Share market, Internet, Press and media, Education, Research, Science and technology, Communication, Social interaction. Almost in all the branches one subject is added. In arts, commerce, science, engineering, medicine, the students study this subject compulsory. Even in 11th & 12th standard this subject is compulsory. English subject is very useful in curriculum. Our textbook experts have designed the text in such a way that makes the students use English proficiently. Apart from this there are so many problems which occur in the use of English in higher education. A student passing his 12th std with distinction cannot meet the challenges of graduation. A first class graduate cannot write his own C.V. properly. A professional trained teacher (B.Ed) is not able to write his own leave application so the areas of problems are vast. Some of major problems are highlighted.

Areas of problems:

Students of higher education are facing problems towards English language as they feel fear in learning and speaking English. These students are not having good command over four skills of English language i.e. reading, writing, speaking and listening. Students are not able to read some
difficult words properly while reading any passage, news papers or text. Students even fail to understand the meanings of the words. They make mistakes in writing applications, letters, exams etc. they face problems with English language while writing because of lack of vocabulary. They are not able to distinguish between formal or informal language in letters or applications. Even they face problems in writing technical or simple language. They are not able to speak fluent English because of language fear. It is said that ‘if you listen properly, you can read properly, write properly and speak properly. Listening is very important skill among all. Somewhere students are facing problems in listening also. If they couldn’t listen properly, they may fail to express their views or ideas in front of the teacher and the class. Students even face difficulty in communication in the corporate world when they join as a higher official. Apart from this many students are unaware of ICT as Information and Communication Technology is the buzz world of the 21st century. In the 21st century “Information Explosion” and “Population Explosion” are the major problems in the higher Education. Realizing the danger of this disastrous situation, India has embarked upon a great adventure; the adventure of putting to use modern information and communication technologies for the delivery of education services. New experiences, creative innovations and appropriate strategies are being developed and tried out to improve education at all levels. E-learning is an approach to facilities and enhances learning using information and communication technologies.

The cause of the problems:

All the problems have their reasons in their roots. Without the reasons problems cannot be occurred.

Cause at students’ part:

Today the students are having the notion that ‘English is very difficult subject so they can’t be so fluent in it’. But they do not know that if they show the interest in this language then they can acquire the language very fast. Some students are over confident who think that ‘English subject is somehow like guide pass the exam in the last hour study, why waste time for English lectures?’, but when actually they have to speak or write in English they fail at the moment. The 3rd reason is they do not participate in the class introduction due to their poor language so they hesitate to take part in class conversations.

Cause at teachers’ level:

Teachers themselves are not skilled in the subject. They are in a hurry to complete the course as a result they are not able to empower the students to develop their skills. Teachers can only prepare themselves for their lectures to a certain extent. So by increasing the working hours or by the number of classes the standard of teaching naturally goes down. The status and emoluments of a teacher do not compare favorable with those of other equivalent posts. So good teachers after accepting the teachers job to start with for a better job elsewhere and as soon as they get government or another remunerative job they leave the teaching professions. They therefore, during their stay in the institutions do not show much interest in their work.

Suggestions:
• Teachers should not be over loaded so that they can prepare well and can pay proper attention in the class.

• The syllabus should be redesigned after every three years so that students could not easily get the guides. They themselves hunt for the sources from the library or internet and can improve their English well.

• Authentic materials like news papers, advertisements, magazines etc should be used in the teaching-learning process which makes the classroom environment real and natural language learning can happen.

• Teacher should teach through CLT (Communicative language teaching) or TBLT (task based language learning) instead of teaching only through grammar translation method.

• While selecting any faculty, merit should not be the priority along with this performance of the teacher should be checked in order to avoid the problems of fluency, accuracy etc.

• The research scholar should be selected through microscopic observation in the RDC programs as English has taken up a new status as the buzz world’s lingua franca enabling English users to communicate across cultures for various purposes mostly with non-native speakers from various L1 backgrounds.

• According to UNSC, ICT is a scientific, technological and engineering discipline and management technique used in handling information its application and association with social, economical and cultural matters so students should be made aware of ICT to access the learning process.

• The teacher should impart the knowledge of virtual class rooms and other E-learning systems in order to make them learn English Language according to their time and pace.

**Conclusion:**

Thus the knowledge of English Language has become a prerequisite for professional development in the modern world. English vocabulary encompasses almost all the subjects of sciences and humanities and all the emotions and expressions that human beings feel and conceive. The worldwide global markets have adopted English as their link-language for communication. The use of technology can and is reshaping the way we teach and learn. If we pay attention to the above problems and causes of English Language we can change the scenario of the English Language at Higher Education. To face the problems mentioned in this paper the higher education should focus the suggestions highlighted in this paper.

**Reference:**