
A STUDY ON LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGE SKILLS PERFORMANCE WITH REFERANCE TO POST GRADUATE STUDENTS OF ENGLISH

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Keywords:

Linguistics,
Language skills,
Communication

Abstract

The relationship between linguistics and language skills shows that how linguistic tools help the teacher to teach language skills effectively in classroom. Language is often called a skill rather than a subject. In linguistic communication, meaning is conveyed chiefly through the channels of language. The study mainly focuses on PG students' performance level on linguistics, reading and writing skills as well, in addition the listening and speaking skills of students are also tested. This study finds overall linguistics performance level of PG students of English. Any language skills- reading and writing skills performance were tested. The paper also focuses on students' socio economic background. The student's background helped a lot to find their language background. Sixty students were selected for this study. The data were collected from Post Graduate English Literature students in Bharathiar University.

Introduction

Language enables people to express their feelings, ideas, and wishes. It is a tool of knowledge through which the worldly knowledge is acquired and preserved, and also an indicator of cultural identity of a linguistic community as well as individual personality 'Language is the medium through which the child acquires the cultural, moral, religious and other values of society' (Klein, 1986:6). Further, every language plays a crucial role in maintaining social relationship between and among the people of same linguistic community and of various cultures, customs and beliefs. English is used as the official language and as the medium of secondary and higher education, sometimes for primary education also. Everyone should know that for getting in touch with the outside world, English is inevitable as it is the most widely understood language in the world. Language occupies an important place in human life for communication. It is the vehicle for their social

interaction. Human experiences are shared through language. Language is based on a set of definite rules through man-made

Teaching English in India and in Tamil Nadu

Among the language used in India, English occupies a dignified but delicate position. English is used in various domains in India. It plays an important role in administration and education. It works as a link language within India and also between foreign countries. English has been rightly described as a gateway of world culture. It is also described a pipe-line for the stream of knowledge in all branches of learning. In India, there is no doubt that English of late has lost a good deal of its importance as a subject for school and college education. In schools, Teachers are teaching English for about six periods a week for about eight years. But they hardly know 1,800 words by the time they have been hardly able to learn English words at the range of one word per period. They do not know how to use the commonest structure of English.

What are the reasons for the low students of English in Tamil Medium Schools? There are several aspects that impede the progress of public acquiring English as a second language. Even in high schools, teachers cannot create proper English atmosphere in classrooms, whether they be graduates or post graduates, their main subject is not English. They are not equipped with current methods of teaching as second language, H.G.Widdowson (1983) rightly observes in his article.

Aims and Objectives

The study aims at Linguistics Knowledge and Language Skills performance level of PG students of English. The present study is undertaken to know the linguistics and language level of PG students and to bring out their language skills. It is conducted to find out their problems on linguistics learning. It is on how linguistics helps the students to unearth the problems in language performance and learning English with the help of linguistics competence, and to avoid the problems in language teaching and learning. The study also focuses on the various areas of linguistics such as phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics.

Limitation of the Study

The study mainly focuses on Linguistic performance level and reading and writing skills of PG students in addition the listening and speaking skills of students were also tested. This study finds an overall linguistic performance level of PG students of English. In language skills- reading and writing skills performance were tested. The paper also finds students' background information to find their socio economic background. The student's background information helped to find their language background. Totally 60 students were selected for this study. The data were collected from Post Graduate English Literature students.

Methodology

Descriptive research methodology has been adopted for this study. Descriptive method is also

called as statistical research. The main goal of this type of research is to describe the data and characteristics about what is being studied. The idea behind this type is to study the frequencies, averages and other statistical calculations. Descriptive research is mainly done when a researcher wants to gain a better understanding in topic. Descriptive research is used to obtain information concerning the current status of the phenomena to describe "what exist" with respect to variables in a situation. Descriptive research methodology has following features in it.

- ✓ Preparation of Questionnaire
- ✓ Selection of informants
- ✓ Data collection
- ✓ Analysis of Data
- ✓ Evaluation of Data

Preparation of questionnaire

The questionnaire was prepared to test the linguistic knowledge and the ELT performance level of PG students of English. The questions were also set based on their level. At first the background information of students helps us to know the students' school education, parental educational qualification and economic background and their environment like their living place. In this questionnaire some questions are set related to speaking skills. The linguistic performance was tested with objective type questions. The questions are based on Phonology, Morphology, Syntax, and Semantics and Pragmatics in the field of linguistics. Students' performance in the language skills were tested with one passage. The students have to read the passage and they have to answer the questions related to the passage. It will bring out the reading and writing performance of the students.

Selection of Informers

Informers are the PG students of English in the Bharathiar University. Totally 60 informers were selected for our research. The students of English have language and linguistics in their syllabus. So they were selected for this data collection. This questionnaire is specially made for PG students of English.

Collection of data

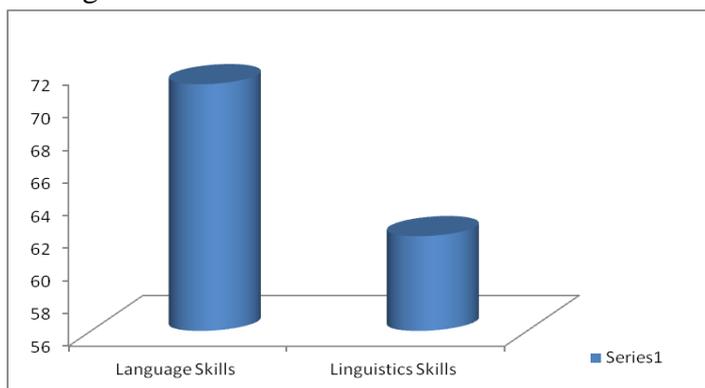
The students showed much interest when they were given the data. The students took 20 minutes to finish the data. The students were requested to fill the data individually. The data which they have given are original and more valuable. It is also a back bone of our research.

Analysis of Data:

The data was analyzed fully based on the student's performance. Analysis based on their performance was made using the chart. Individual and group student's performance were analyzed and marks were given based on the performance of students.

Evaluation of Data:

At last the data was evaluated. The findings and results were announced.



Language Skills- 71.13

Linguistics Skills- 61.89

Chart No: 1 - Language and Linguistics Skill level of the Students

Interpretation

A perusal of the chart reveals the scores of the experimental group. The table clearly indicates the Linguistic competence of the post graduate students of English. Through the questionnaire it is clearly known that without teaching Linguistics in deep, post graduate students of English have known some basic components of Linguistics such as Phonology, morphology, syntax, sentence pattern, semantics and pragmatics etc.,

Observation

The PG students have some basic knowledge in it but the problem is they are straggling to learn linguistic competence. They

are seeing language in one eye and linguistics in another eye. The basic thing is one cannot divide language and linguistics. The students' usage of linguistics term is less. They have knowledge in linguistics but they don't have an open knowledge in it. They are studying many things in language but very few are studying about language. It is the major observation in our work. They have linguistics in their subject but they are not applying it.

Conclusion

This study had aimed at a study of assessing the linguistic and language performance of PG students of English. The data were collected through a questionnaire and used for the analysis and performance level of students. The students of English have no problem with listening and speaking, most of the students have very good social economic background. It's also one of the reasons for their language skills based on their linguistic performance. One can study about language through linguistics. Linguistics knowledge helps the students to rectify their problems in language skills. With the help of linguistics one can analyze any language.

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