CONSTRAINS FACED BY L2 LEARNERS IN EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

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ABSTRACT

'Nothing succeeds like the appearance of success' In this globalized world, success can be attained only when he/she could communicate in English. Not just technical knowledge would help him whether he is an executive working in a multinational company, professional Engineer, academician, entrepreneur, a technical student he needs effective technical communication skills in order to be successful. English has become a global language now. Knowledge of English language opens the door to diverse opportunities. At the same time lack of English fluency could doom his life. In this changing scenario English has become inevitable in everyone's life. L2 learners have to face many constrains to overcome the obstacles on their way to attain competence in English fluency. This paper highlights on few communication barriers of the L2 learners in day to day life and the areas they need to focus on.

KEYWORDS: Communication Barrier, Ambiguity, Hesitation, Constrains, Frame of Reference, Articulation, Homophone, Semantic Relations

INTRODUCTION

Communication makes professional interaction possible and directs the flow of technical information and knowledge for the guidance of technocrats, engineers and other in their professional activities, if he/she is good in communication, it ensures free exchange of information, ideas and maintain a good professional relationship. It is true that some technical skills are as important as communication skills but knowledge of highly sophisticated technical or professional skills will be useless if one doesn't know how to communicate the information.

A good presentation can do wonders for a person. It may help in getting a lucrative job offer from the company he always wanted to join, or get a big business deal or the promotion he had been waiting for.

The process of transmitting information from an individual or group to another is a very complex process that to for a second language learner it becomes more changeling process. A study says that usually a 40 - 60 % loss of meaning in the transmission of message from sender to receiver .If there is a lack of understanding on the part of the receiver; it leads to confusion and misunderstanding which result in communication barrier.

On careful analysis it is revealed that Communication barriers are generally created by (few reasons were discussed below) Hesitation, Ambiguity, Cultural differences and Frame of reference

Hesitation

Second language learners hesitate to talk in English as they are not very sure of their language use. They were

taught English from the exam point of view. They don't have enough practice in spoken English as a result they are so conscious that they are scared of becoming the symbol of shame. Language is not a subject that theories will not help to master the language. Rather it needs practice. They think in Tamil and then they translate it into English. There they struggle a lot in want of words which result in poor vocabulary. Improper encoding is a persistent barrier in the communication process. As there is a lack of understanding on the part of receiver, it leads to confusion and misunderstanding. To overcome this problem they have to come out of their shell and expose themselves to English language by reading lot of books, and practice the new words which they have learnt from books. In order to achieve the desired clarity and fluency, Articulation, pronunciation, voice quality, accent and intonation need to be improved.

Ambiguity

[ref.1] In language, limited sounds are interwoven to form more number of colorful words satisfying our communication needs, which pay way for formation of homophones in large quantities and limited grammatical rules and structures are repeatedly organized to form numerous phrases, sentences causing different semantic relations. These make it possible that ambiguity emerges in communication. A sentence is said to be ambiguous when the listener or reader interprets two meaning. Ambiguity sometimes is unavoidable. Joseph F. Kess and Ronald A. Hoppe have pointed in their book 'Ambiguity in Psycholinguistics' that upon careful consideration, one cannot but be amazed at the ubiquity of ambiguity in language. It causes obstacle because of distortion and misunderstanding during the process of transmitting the information.[More..] For example, 'she cannot bear children' may be understood to mean she cannot tolerate children or she is unable to give birth to children. Here the ambiguity have raised because of the usage of homonyms, it can be eliminated by adding few more words to it like, She cannot bear children if they are noisy,

She cannot bear children because she is sterile.

Similarly ambiguity can be caused by homophone, sign, symbol, phrase, term or any other form used for communication. Ambiguity arises not from the range of meaning of single word, but from the relationship between the words and clauses of a sentence and the sentence structure implied thereby. The students though have good command over the language hesitate to talk in English because English is a language where any small mistake will lead the receiver to interpret two meanings. Ambiguity can therefore be a hindrance to effective communication.

Example

"John met David after his visit to Bangalore". In this sentence it is not clear whether john went to Bangalore or his friend David went to Bangalore.

"They are hunting dogs". In this sentence a reader can interpret either "They" are hunting for dogs or those dogs are a type known as hunting dogs but for the surprise most of the time the listener can disambiguate the sentence with the help of the context.

Cultural Differences and Frame of Reference

Owing to difference in their cultural backgrounds, there is a difference in their upbringing, due to which there is a difference in their views and belief. In fact, our values are our personal guides to thought and behavior, and exert a strong influence on us. We should be sensitive to cultural difference and take into account the values of our listeners while communicating with them.

Your weakness in viewing others within your frame of reference may also lead to confusion and misunderstanding. The moment you interpret other's point of view from your angle, you allow your preconceived notions and prejudice to start working for you. Your frame of reference is individual to you as it is based on your experiences, exposure, education, personality and several other elements peculiar to you. In order to ovoid communication failure, you have to be sensitive to this fact and try to put yourself in the others person's position.

Communication can be considered effective only when the receiver's is congruent with the meaning the sender wanted to convey. When the L2 learner tries to focus on the above mentioned problems he/she may over the barriers of communication.

CONCLUSIONS

A good speaker usually understands their listener. Avoid abstract words and phrases on which both sender and receiver do not agree. Words mean a different thing to different people. Age, education and cultural background are three of the more obvious variable that influences the language a person uses. In order to avoid misunderstanding you should use familiar words with concrete meaning so that there is no scope for confusion.

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