

Analysis of Learning of English Language Published in Leading English Newspapers of Pakistan

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Abstract

The purpose of the study was to analyze the newspaper articles published in the Daily Dawn and the Daily News International during the year 2012-2011. The researcher analyzed the articles from different aspects e.g. knowledge English language etc. so as to enhance the level of awareness of learning English language of the readers. One major hypothesis was formulated. The scope of the study was limited to the articles published in the important English newspapers of Pakistan (the Daily Dawn and the Daily News) and their readers in Karachi. The mixed research approach was adopted. The population was comprised of all the readers of the selected articles of the Daily Dawn and the Daily News newspapers published during the year 2012-2011 in Karachi. The researcher used the stratified random sampling design along with purposive sampling design. The mode of determining the role of English newspapers was through a close and careful analysis of the newspaper articles. Questionnaire was major techniques used for data collection. Data was collected through personal visits. Data was analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively. Content analysis of the articles discussed in important newspapers. It has created an

impact, specifically, on the authorities of the newspaper organizations and, generally, in the public. It was a sort of litmus test. The result of the test also showed that how much knowledge of English language was available for the readers. On the basis of findings concrete recommendations were made.

Introduction

Language is the greatest invention of mankind which enabled us to communicate and share the feelings with each other without facing any difficulty. Language controls the thoughts of the people and, eventually, controls the cultures which they belong to (Verghese, 1990). Language is very important in our life. It shifts the cultures and norms into next generation. We use it to communicate with every other human being (Naz, 2007). The researcher has chosen this study as English is lingua franca and official language of Pakistan. The newspaper shapes the thoughts of the people as per agendas of their organizations. It is accepted that only those news are broadcasted which gives benefits to the newspaper organizations or which inclines to grasp the interests of the people. Only selective substance is published in the newspapers. It may be due to financial limitations and economic problems with the newspaper organizations which tend them to run their organizations according to particular and preferred ways. Most part of the newspapers is formulated by keeping in view the preferences of the audience. Most of the newspaper organizations do not publish more than 75% of the potential news (McCombs, 2002).

The newspapers have limited space and thus can publish the specifically chosen news. Only few news stories are preferred and published according to public interests and others are briefly stated so as to attract the attention of the readers. Newspaper organizations are working under political pressures and, under financial and economic limitations. These organizations play very important role in the development of the image of the people (Riaz, 2008). The news is refined by two processes before they are presented to the public. First step is the gathering of the information and second step is the processing of the reports. Selection of the news changes during the course of the fabrication (Bass, 1969). The Daily Dawn is an

important Pakistani English newspaper which is published from Islamabad, Karachi, and Lahore concurrently. It is published under the product of Herald Publications. First governor general and the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam, was its first managing trustee. Initially, the newspaper published from Delhi. (Riaz, 2008).

The overall purpose of the study was to assess the benefits of reading the English newspapers articles, the help in learning the English language discussed by the important English newspapers (The Dawn & The News) and their impact on the readers and make recommendations to improve the effectiveness in the light of the findings.

The following hypotheses were formulated:

Hypothesis:

There is no significant difference in enhancing the level of English language knowledge.

The study will yield the following benefits as it will help in advancement of the knowledge. It is help the readers to improve the English language skills. It is help the editors to modify the newspaper articles accordance to the public demand. The scope of the research was limited to the articles published in the important newspapers of Pakistan (the Dawn and the News), their readers and editors of the newspapers.

DEFINITION OF THE KEY TERMS

Critical:

Containing or involving comments and opinions that analyze something, especially in a detailed way.

Analysis:

The examination of something in detail in order to understand it better or draw conclusions from it.

Important Newspapers:

The prominent and famous newspapers of Pakistan (the Dawn and the News).

The Dawn:

Important English newspaper of Pakistan.

The News:

Important English newspaper of Pakistan.

Article:

A piece of nonfiction writing in a newspaper.

Pakistan:

A country on the Arabian Sea in the northwestern part of South Asia.

Literature Review

The researcher has found that newspaper articles play very important role in the learning of the readers. Electronic learning is yet not in the access of everybody. Only few chosen seeds can afford it. Development in education is also inclining towards mobilized, convenient and portable luxuries. In this way learning is shifting from conventional to mobile learning (Chang, Sheu, & Chen, 2003).

English is the language of computer and it is the most prominent language of internet. Though nowadays many other languages have been introduced at internet but still English is the most important language of the internet world. When a language is known as a universal language, it becomes compulsory for everyone to learn it and use it (Naz, 2007).

Students acquire the concepts better, in multilingual classrooms, where the local language of students is used as additional resource. Language proficiency between language minority students in the USA has been brought into being to be a far stronger predictor of academic presentation than either cognitive style or intellectual development. Therefore, language proficiency gives the impression to be a strong predictor of cognitive functioning. On the other hand, linguistic proficiency in English, although necessary, was not brought into being to be a sufficient condition for high academic performance. A prospect for bilinguals to study in their home language till they improve ample knowledge of the language of instruction does enrich their learning outcomes in mathematics. On mathematics realization

uniqueness of Asian American students, by means of secondary data discovered that the language of a test has impact on students' success, chiefly when the test is not performed in the language the students are very skillful in. Researchers have revealed that it is most suitable to judge the cognitive ability of bilinguals in their most skillful language. The performance of the students is affected in problem solving when the language of instruction is the weaker language of the students. Students who require certain kinds of skill or whose experience has been different from or even contradictory to the experiences presupposed by certain word problems are right to encounter difficulties. The function of language intellectual capacity in mathematics problem solving that language deficiencies lead to misinterpretations of word problems. The consequential way out may be incorrect yet mathematically consistent with students' interpretation of the word problem (Davis et al., 2013).

English is so popular and important that it is used in a number of different countries in the world. Therefore, three circles are proposed to categorize the world according to the functions of English in the community. The three groups are valuable for showing the overall image of regions where English is used. In the Inner Circle, English is used as a mother tongue or a native language as the UK, New Zealand, the US, Australia and Canada. In the Outer Circle are past colonies of English-speaking countries where English is spoken as an official language as Singapore and India. The Expanding Circle contains the rest of the world in which English is used as a foreign language and frequently for international communication as China, South Korea, France and Japan. In specific terms, this categorization delineates native speakers as those in the Inner Circle countries (Kachru, 1985).

As the numbers of international students have grown up, higher education institutions in Asia have offered increasing range of English medium instruction degree programs. With globalization accelerating the knowledge based economy, unsurprisingly, it has become mandatory for universities to implement internationalization tactics in order to charm brilliant students abroad and also to retain local students. Their creditors have not been fully aware of how to start an

external quality assurance mechanism to measure the quality of these programs. Asian universities are in full swing to internationalize themselves in the late 1990s, targeting at enlightening the excellence and cultural composition of the student body, acquiring reputation, and augmenting the strategic alliances of colleges. Asian governments and higher education institutions have not thought intensely about how to safeguard quality of English medium instruction degree programs. Presently, Asian nations share two common internationalization strategies; one is to entice international students and the other is to boost universities to offer English medium instruction courses and degree programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. In response to global higher education competition, Asian nations are competing powerfully with western countries to attract the best and brightest from abroad (Hou, 2013).

Economic world of today has become very competitive. Everybody is striving to go beyond the limits. English is the language of business community of the world. It is mandatory for the people of Pakistan to learn English language skills in order to become equal modest allies of the business community of the world (Naz, 2007). English is a global language and it is the language of television, politicians from all over the world. We come across many signs and advertisement inscribed in English while we travel in any city of the world. In a foreign city, English is the main language used by the restaurants and the hotels. Menu of dishes is offered in English. Many countries have English news channels irrespective of their national language. Every country in the world has English as the official language. A man feels pride if he learns it as a mother tongue. He may have mixed feelings and may be strongly motivated to learn it as it is obvious that one will have connections with many people due to the knowledge of English language than any other language. Learning of English language needs great deal of hard work to master it. It is clear that who has made progress, feels pride in achievement. One may, none the less, feel that the people who have English as a mother tongue have unfair advantage over him. One may feel indignant, angry or envious (Crystal, 2003).

The importance of newspapers cannot be ignored as due to the advancement in technology as the radio and TV. The thirst and hunger to acquire the real news is not satisfied till the people read the newspaper daily. The News International and the daily Dawn are the important English dailies mostly revolve among the readers in Pakistan. A holiday is bad in newspaper organizations. This holiday must be given to TV and Radio news. The newspapers facilitates us with the latest news on the time of prayers, the time of the trains, the time of sunrise and sunset, the time of the trains, airplanes, the radio and television programs, weather reports and important telephone numbers of police, ambulance, hospitals, fire brigades station. The newspapers take no price of it. The announcement of seminars, conferences, books launching ceremonies and symposiums. Newspapers play very important role in the documentation and publication of the history. The newspapers publish the events in their dailies in chronological order as they happen. The research in the field of newspapers is more important than in developed countries. The newspapers also serve as a forum, where, even layman can participate in the activities of the newspapers. The public can give suggestions and can agree or disagree with the opinions, policies and contents (Khawaja, 1995).

History of the newspaper is remarkable in East Asia. Chinese developed it in 2000 years ago. The Korean learned it from Chinese and passed it to Japanese. Later on China developed it on wood-block technique. As compared to West the culture of modern style newspapers developed late in East Asia. The physical presentation of most newspapers was very similar of eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth century. It was consisted of a large sheet of paper that can be folded (Martin and Copeland, 2003).

Newspapers depict the relationship of specific events with the large area of present actions. Changes in international relations were seen in newspapers. Developments in industries, discoveries and innovations can help the mankind to think new ideas. (Mills, 1956). The editors of the newspapers keeps in mind the likes and dislikes of the people. Different approaches are used to convey the news to the public (Naz,

2007). Major newspapers always help a lot to develop a strong base to investigate questions for research concerning media contents. In an era of modern and advanced communication technologies newspapers still provide model and essential professional journalistic ethics across all media. Generally, the quality press gives prominence to foreign news, especially diplomatic, political and international news (Nossek, 2004).

METHODOLOGY

The purpose of the study was to analyze the articles published in important English newspapers, and make recommendations for further development and awareness regarding the quality of the articles published in the daily Dawn and in the News English newspapers. The scope of the study was limited to the readers of the English newspapers and editors of the newspapers. Mixed research strategy was adopted. It is a combination of qualitative and quantitative research along with combinations of different approaches. The population of the study consisted of all the readers of Karachi who read the articles of important English newspapers of Pakistan. Population is a group to whom the outcome is generalized (Fraenkel & Wallen, 2006).

Stratified random sampling was used. Total sample size was 200 readers. The researcher has asked questions about the efficiency of the newspaper. In purposive sampling the researcher assumed that he could use the knowledge of the population to judge whether or not a particular sample would be representative of the population, but rather that they possess the necessary information about the population.

Questionnaire and record analyses were main research instruments. Questionnaire was used for collection of data. Questionnaire was comprised of 31 items. The items

of the questionnaire were drawn from the relevant content field, in consultation with the jury of experts, review of the literature and personal judgment of the investigator. The researcher has used primary and secondary sources for data collection. They are qualitative and quantitative in their kinds.

Cronbach Alpha; Reliability of Research

The reliability of the research instruments used in the study was determined through computation of Cronbach Alpha. For this SPSS For this purpose SPSS 17 software was used.

Reliability Statistics Learning of English Learning

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.729	10

The calculated value of “r” of English language was .729. The validity and reliability of the items were found satisfactory.

A pilot testing was adopted for questionnaires. To make an instrument useful it is mandatory it must be reliable. Data was collected through personal visits.

TESTING OF THE MAJOR HYPOTHESES

Null Hypothesis

There is no significant difference in enhancing the level of English language knowledge provided to more experienced and less experienced in English newspapers.

Research Hypothesis

There is a significant difference in enhancing the level of English language knowledge provided to more experienced and less experienced in English newspapers.

Analysis of the Problem

1. **Ho:** $\mu_1 = \mu_2$
2. **H1:** $\mu_1 \neq \mu_2$
3. $\alpha : 0.05$
4. Test Statistics : t-test
5. Decision Rule : Reject Ho if completed $t \geq 1.96$

Computation of t Test

Experience	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	T	Df
English Below 10 Years	81	3.4568	.67767	.07530	-.302	198
Langua ge Above 10 Years	119	3.4840	.58974	.05406	-.294	155.689

Conclusion

Referring to table t, we find that the tabulated value of $t = 1.96$ with $df = 198$ at $\alpha = 0.05$ is bigger than the computed value of $t = .302$. Therefore the null hypothesis is accepted and it concluded that there is no significant difference in enhancing the level of English language knowledge provided to more experienced and less experienced in English newspapers. From the table it is clear that there is no significant difference in enhancing the level of English language knowledge provided to more experienced and less experienced in English newspapers.

Findings and Conclusions

The overall strategy of the present study was mixed research approach. The population of the study consisted of all the readers of the important English

newspapers in Karachi. A stratified random sampling design was adopted. Total sample size was 200 readers. Questionnaire was used for collection of data. A questionnaire comprised of 31 items was developed. The items of the questionnaire were drawn from the relevant content field, in consultation with the jury of experts, review of the literature and personal judgment of the investigation. Table with the frequencies and percentages were used. In item-wise analysis which involved categorized data the chi square was applied. The data analysis was done through SPSS 17 software. One major hypotheses and 31 item were formed to analyze the performance of the articles published in important English newspapers of Pakistan. The following hypothesis was formulated for the study; there is no significant difference in enhancing the level of English language knowledge. The item-wise analysis showed that one major hypothesis was rejected as viewed by the readers. The result shows that the readers are not satisfied about the publications of the information related to English language.

Major accepted hypothesis:-

There is no significant difference in enhancing the level of English language knowledge.

Opinions

Mixed opinions were found in respect of all the items of the questionnaire:-

1. English newspapers articles are helpful in learning English language.
2. There are no spelling mistakes in English newspapers articles.
3. There are no grammar mistakes in English newspapers article.
4. The English newspapers articles enhance the knowledge of English literature.
5. Vocabulary of English language is enhanced by reading English newspaper articles.

6. For complete understanding, it is mandatory for students to use dictionary during reading English newspapers articles.
7. By reading English newspaper articles the readers are motivated more than before to learn English language.
8. English newspapers publish special articles for the students.
9. The problem faced by the students in learning English is discussed in the articles of English newspapers.
10. English newspapers play positive role to improve the English grammar skills.

It is recommended that the authorities of important English newspapers should pay heed towards the publication of special articles for the learning of English language of the readers. The study found that readers are not satisfied regarding the knowledge of English language. There is no significant difference in enhancing the level of English language knowledge.

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