



INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING : A BRIEF ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

Sharing information across different cultures and social groups. It started with people becoming immigrants and colonization. Cultural aspects were given more importance and many new changes were made. Communication methods changed from symbols and signs into written and spoken language. Language developed from culture, it was one of the aspects which made culture different from that of the other. Gesture and behaviour was observed to learn cultural differences as people of various places had different behaviour. This had a huge impact on learning a language or to know a culture in detail. Slowly art, education and trade started to emerge people had intermediate to communicate with other people of other culture. Later, which lead to writers and critics to show interest on knowing other literary works. Translation methods was introduce and they started to translate works from other literature, which made them understand their culture and got new ideas and themes which was a representation of their own life and cultural habits. Bilingual method of teaching was introduced to learners leaning a new language apart from their native language. Slowly intercultural communication was introduced by exposing learners or people more than one language. Strategies and many new methods in teaching a target language was used by the students and teachers in learning and teaching, which made it easy and simpler to learn a new language.

Key words: Intercultural communication, target language, cultural importance

INTRODUCTION

“To have another language is to possess a second soul”

-Charlemagne

Intercultural communication is a form of communication that aims to share information across different cultures and social groups. This started during the post World War-II era. It slowly began

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with people who lived in a variety of cultures and gained more knowledge about other cultures that is different from their own.

At this stage people move from one place to another to establish the livelihood and have a place of their own, which also brought in colonization. Many cultural aspects were exchanged and an intermediate was put in charge to communicate information passed by. Evolution in people brought in great change in culture and art. It had many developments and was more refined, than that of the old culture and art works. Literature was given more importance. Writers and critics interested in other culture and literary works, and slowly started learning new language and there and their culture to understand their literary works. Then they started to translate other cultural works into their own language for people to enjoy the new ideas and themes.

Later on people started to learn new languages when they had to work in other cultural background places to have a basic knowledge and communication because communication was the only source to communicate with others. Behaviour and dialects were the most important aspect in intercultural communication. On the whole intercultural communication is cultural and individual, personal and contextual, characterized by differences and similarities, and by both privilege and disadvantages.

Culture is the characteristics and knowledge of a particular group of people, encompassing language, religion, social habits, music and arts.

It defines the characteristics of a man, and the civilization. When we try to learn something based on culture, we gain more knowledge of the language spoken by that particular group of people than that of their culture. Cultural aspects or view gives more idea and opinion in learning a language. It is also a “fixed pattern of a group, with contextual symbolic patterns of meaning, involving emotions”.

The most important thing which defines the culture or brings the difference between various cultures is language. Language gives a specific characterization to culture. Each culture follow system and they have a language of their own.

“Language is the infinite use of finite means”

-Wilhelm von Humboldt

Language was transformed into verbal form from symbols and sign language, which was first used for communication. Cultural influence divided language into many subdivisions where the same language followed a different dialect or slang according to the group of people in an area.

Language plays a major role in communication evolution and development changes made language learning a must. When it comes to learning a new language apart from the native language, it becomes little difficult. In ELT the trainer or instructor concentrated on teaching only the new language or the target language, using many methods and strategies. Especially when teaching English language the teachers intend to use bilingual method in teaching the language.



Bilingual - more than one language used in speaking or teaching. Slowly it leads to more languages, where the learners of the classroom seem to have different L1 language this is where intercultural communication is being introduced in a language learning classroom. The students not only learn the target language, they are being exposed to various languages and their culture.

In the language learning classroom not only the students but also the teachers are able to learn many languages, when there are students from different cultural background. Intercultural communication not only helps in learning many languages, and knowing the culture, but also gives a perception of many new ideas and contextual things in literature. Interpreting the meaning of the target language in their own language helps the students to learn the language more easily and in a simple method.

CONCLUSION:

Language begins communication; multiple languages bring in more knowledge. Intercultural communication may seem difficult at the beginning, in a language classroom but slowly when there are students from different culture it makes it simple and easy. The students get to share their knowledge about their native language and the others are gradually attracted and interested in learning a new language. Ideas and opinion are shared between the students and it makes language learning effective and simple. It gives a new vision of life and learning.

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