

PalArch's Journal of Archaeology
of Egypt / Egyptology

THE PROBLEMS OF TEACHING ENGLISH IN ASSAMESE MEDIUM
SECONDARY SCHOOLS OF ASSAM

¹ Dr. DarsanaChangkakoti

^{1,2,3} Assistant Professor, Department of Education, Pandu College, Guwahati, Assam, India

Dr. Darsana Changkakoti: THE PROBLEMS OF TEACHING ENGLISH IN ASSAMESE MEDIUM SECONDARY SCHOOLS OF ASSAM-- Palarch's Journal Of Archaeology Of Egypt/Egyptology 17(9). ISSN 1567-214x

Keywords: English language teaching, Assamese medium schools, Secondary Schools

ABSTRACT

English occupies the place of international link language and thus is regarded as an important subject of study in the secondary schools. However the teacher is faced with a number of challenges when it comes to teaching of English in the vernacular schools. Thus an attempt has been made in this study to know about the problems faced by the English language teachers in teaching English to the secondary school students of Assam with special emphasis on the Assamese medium secondary schools of Assam. Self constructed interview schedule was used to collect the necessary data and simple percentage and graphical representation was used to analyze the data quantitatively. A sample of 30 teachers from 10 schools were selected purposefully for the present study. It was found that most of teachers neglect the use of teaching aids in their teaching of English. They also lack necessary training in teaching English and hence are faced with numerous difficulties.

1. Introduction

Among all the languages being used in the world today English undeniably occupies the place of pride. Therefore, English has been and will continue to play a significant role in the national life of all countries including India. Even after 73 years of attaining freedom from the British Rule, English continues to dominate every sphere of our life that includes education, administration, law, politics, etc. English is said to be the international link language that connects the whole world together into a closely knitted

community. English is the compulsory subject in all the secondary schools of the country and Assam is no exception.

2. NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

In Assam, the standard of English language teaching in the Assamese Medium Secondary school is said to be going down day by day. There are certain teacher-oriented factors that have caused havoc to English language. There is less number of teachers who are trained to teach English and even the trained teachers do not have English as method subject. Therefore, teachers are not clear about the aim of teaching English. In general, teachers are so used to the traditional method of learning especially in the Assamese schools that there is a problem of maintenance of English class which is so essential for giving linguistic command to the students. Thus it was thought necessary to analyse the problems faced by the teachers in teaching English in Assamese medium schools.

3. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Keeping all these present conditions of teaching English in view, the present study is entitled as-

“The problems of teaching English in Assamese Medium Secondary Schools of Assam”.

4. OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

- i. To study the problems faced by teachers in teaching English in the Assamese medium secondary schools.
- ii. To study the different methods and techniques adopted by the teachers in classroom situation to teach English in Assamese Medium schools.

5. AREA OF THE STUDY

Hajo is an ancient pilgrimage centre for three religions : Hindus, Buddhists and Muslims . It lies on the banks of the Brahmaputra River, 24 km away from the city of Guwahati in the Kamrup district of Assam , India . The area is dotted with a number of ancient temples as well as other sacred artifacts . The HayagrivaMadhavaMandir is the most famous temple of Hajo.

6. DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

1. The study is delimited to the English language teachers of Assamese medium secondary schools only.
2. The study is delimited 10 schools of Assamese medium Secondary schools.
3. The study is delimited to the secondary schools of Hajo area of Assam only.

7. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Bhattacharjee , R(1976) in the study, “*A critical study of the present teaching of English in the Secondary Schools of Greater Shillong*”.The study aimed at locating the various problems of teachers teaching English in the secondary schools of Greater Shillong .The important findings of the study were-the overall performance of all the teachers are poor, and the difference between the trained and the untrained teachers is highly significant .

Bhattacharya , H.(1983) in “*An Investigation into the Teaching of English in the High schools of East Khasi Hills District of Meghalaya*” found that majority of the teachers are not professionally equipped to teach English in the school.

Mishra , J.N.(1968)in “*A study of the problems and difficulties of teaching Hindi, English and Sanskrit Language teaching at Secondary Stage* ” found that about 66% teachers found difficulties in teaching prose in English the main problem being related to explanation and meaning of words and only 32% of teachers encouraged the students to develop the reading ability.

8. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

In the present study , the investigator has used descriptive method. Descriptive survey method is the process of collecting detailed descriptions of existing phenomena with the intent of employing data to justify current conditions and practices or to make more intelligent plans for improving them .

9. SAMPLE OF THE STUDY

The investigator selected 10 schools considering the factors like medium of instruction , location of schools etc . In the selected 10 schools , there are 30 teachers in class viii, ix, x . who were allotted to teach English . The investigator decided to take total of 30 samples from selected 10 schools .

TABLE 1: SAMPLE OF THE PRESENT STUDY

Sl. No	NAME OF THE SCHOOLS	NO OF TERCHERS
1	HAJO S.B.S.K.R.H.	3
2	DAMDAMA H.S.S	3
3	KULHATI G.H.S	3
4	PANCHGAON H.S.S	3
5	BARAMBOI G.H.S	3

6	RAMDIA H.S.S	3
7	RAMDIA G.H.S.S	3
8	HAJO G.H.S	3
9	BARAMBOI H.S.S	3
10	CHECHAMUKH H.S	3
Total	10	30

HSS: Higher Secondary Schools

SAMPLING TECHNIQUE USED

In this study , the investigator applied purposive sampling to select the sample for the present study

TOOLS USED

The investigator used self constructed interview schedule for the present study.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED

In the present study, the investigator primarily used simple percentage for analysing the collected data.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

In this present study an attempt has been made to analysis and interpret the data on the basis of information collected through the administration of data gathering tools.

ANALYSIS OF OBJECTIVE NO.1

Objective :1*To study the problems faced by teachers in teaching English in the Assamese medium High schools.*

Table 2: Showing the problems faced in teaching English

Sl. No.	Items included in the questionnaire	YES(in %)	NO(in %)
1	Regarding possibility to pay individual attention to the students	36	64
2	Availability of library facility	70	30
3	Whether difficulties faced while teaching English	64	36
4	Availability of reading materials	23	77
5	Availability of co-curricular facility	46	54
6	Availability of sufficient no of	16	84

	periods for teaching		
7	B.Ed training	23	77
8	Student interest in reading English newspaper	16	84
9	Availability of present curriculum	36	64
10	Parents aware of English language	30	70

INTERPRETATION

1. The above table shows that 36% of the teachers pay individual attention to students in English class while 64% of the teachers do not pay individual attention to students in English class.
2. In the entire sample, 30% of the teachers are satisfied with their school library facilities whereas 70% of the teachers said that their schools have not school library with good books on English language and grammar.
3. The above table we found that 64% of the teachers face difficulties teaching English at the high school level whereas 36% of the teachers do not face difficulties teaching English at the high school level.
4. The above table shows that 23% of the teachers are said that their library contain enough facility with modern techniques of teaching English whereas 77% of the teachers said that their library does not contain enough facility with modern techniques at teaching English.
5. From the entire sample 46% of the teachers arrange co-curricular activities while 54% of the teachers do not arrange any co-curricular activities.
6. From above table, it was found that 16% of teachers are satisfied with their sufficient no of periods for teaching English whereas 84% of the teachers are not satisfied with their sufficient no of periods for teaching English, they want to increase their no of periods for teaching English.
7. The above table shows that 23% of the teachers are B.Ed trained while 77% of the teachers lack B.Ed training.
8. From entire sample, 16% teachers are of the opinion that students interest in reading English newspaper whereas 84% of the teachers are of the opinion that students does not show interest towards reading English newspaper.
9. The above table shows that 36% teachers think that the present curriculum is enough for learning English while 64% teachers think the present curriculum is not enough for learning English.

10. It was found that 30% teachers think the parents encourage child to learn English whereas 70% teachers think the parents do not encourage their child to learn English.

Objectives -2: To study the different methods and techniques adopted by the teacher in classroom situation to teach English in Assamese Medium schools.

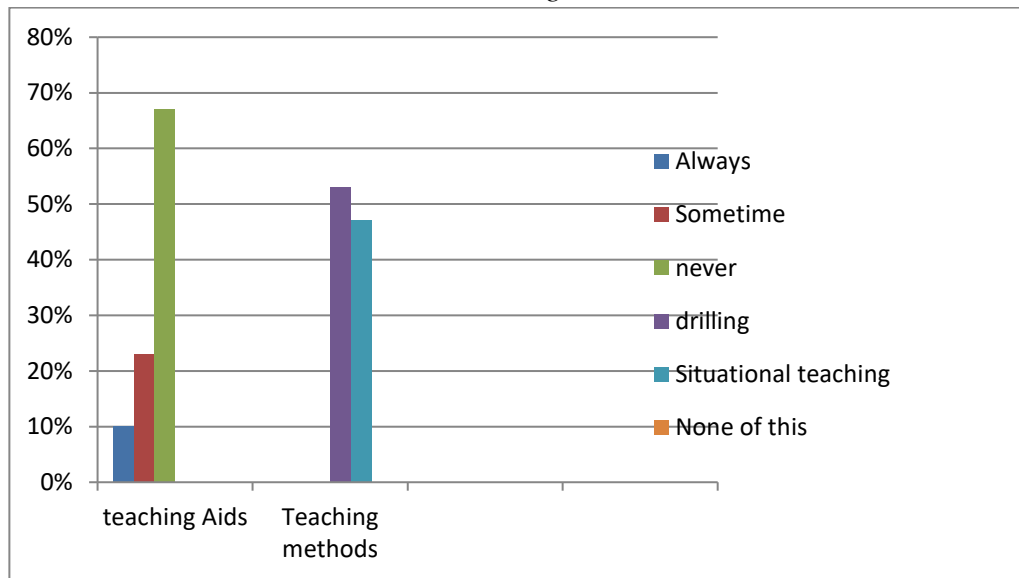


FIGURE-1: Showing teaching aids and methods used

INTERPRETATION

1. In the entire sample 10% of the teachers always use teaching aids in their teaching of English, 23% of the teachers use teaching aids sometimes only whereas 67% of the teachers never use teaching aids while teaching English. It indicates most of the teachers neglect the use of teaching aids in their teaching of English.

2. Again, it was found that 53% of the teachers adopt the drilling method whereas 47% of the teachers adopt situated teaching.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY (based on observation)

The major findings of the study are given below:

1. It was found that all of the teachers encourage the student to interact with teachers while teaching English.

2. It was observed that most of the teachers are facing difficulties in their teaching of English.

3. It was found that the school libraries are not well equipped with necessary books on English language teaching. Further, they lack English periodicals, magazines, and journals as well.

4. The findings of the study showed that the majority of English teachers are trained, but most of them do not have training in the English Method.

5. Only ordinary and traditional teaching aids like- blackboard, duster, chalk etc. are used by all of teachers in classroom teaching.
6. It was also noticed that parents/guardians are not aware of the importance of English language.
7. It was found that most of the teachers do not pay individual attention to students during their English class.
8. It was found that the lack of training of the English teachers teaching English in the high school level lead to their difficulties in teaching English.

SUGGESTIONS

The following suggestions may be put forward for solving the various problems of the teachers teaching English in Assamese medium school.

1. The huge classes should be divided into sections so that individual attention and instruction should be given to everyone by the teacher.
2. Library facilities should be available in every secondary school. The libraries should be properly equipped with books, magazines, newspapers in English for the teachers.
3. Number of periods of English per week should be increased to facilitate teachers achieve all the objectives of teaching English through modern techniques of teaching.
4. English teachers should make use of teaching aids available in the school because it makes teaching learning effective and happier.
5. Proper English curriculum should be maintained throughout the different stages of schools.

CONCLUSION

English as a language occupies an immensely significant place in the context of academic, administrative and other pursuits indicative of civilized existence in our country. However, the study of this subject at the secondary stage of Assamese medium schools of Hajo continues to be plagued by a host of undesirable and unhealthy factors. Teaching English in the secondary stage of education is not an easily solvable problem. The findings of the study revealed that many of the teachers are still un-trained and majority of the trained ones do not have training in English method. In the present study it was found that English teachers faces difficulties teaching English in Assamese medium secondary school.

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