

SHARAF

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TEACHING OF ENGLISH

For
B.Ed. ; M.Ed. & M.A

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Chapter 1

THE IMPORTANCE OF ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE IN PAKISTAN

1. The National and Foreign languages

Languages may be divided into two categories -- National and Foreign. Every civilized nation has got a language which is the expression of its thought and culture, its national life, its customs and manners, and the whole range of its social pattern. It is the vehicle of its thought in official, administrative and educational spheres, and helps the nation in carrying out its manifold activities. This is known as the National language of the country. In some countries, there arises the need of a foreign language for establishing communication with the other nations of the world, and for making access to the advancement of knowledge in physical and social sciences. This foreign language is incorporated in the educational curricula of the country as a second language.

2. Complex Position in Pakistan

In Pakistan, Urdu has been officially declared as the National language of the country. English is taught as a second languages in our schools and colleges. However, the position assigned to English language in our curricula is not true for most of our students whose mother tongue is not Urdu. In Pakistan there are a number of regional languages such as Pashto, Punjabi, Seraiki, Baluchi and Sindhi which are quite different from the National language, Urdu. A child learns to speak the mother tongue at home, but he has to learn Urdu at the Primary stage. Then, he is also expected to learn Arabic which is the language of the holy Quran. It

THE OBJECTIVES OF TEACHING ENGLISH IN PAKISTAN

Teaching of English to secondary classes in our schools is designed to fulfil a number of demands, some of which conflict with others. Among these demands are the need to pass an external examination, the necessity of achieving a minimum degree of competence in the use of English language, the need to teach a fairly large number of students in a limited time, the demand to stay within the limits of the resources available in the school. Because of the external examination system, the teacher is not entirely free to select his own books, his own syllabus and his own consideration of what is important. In spite of all limitations and difficulties, a teacher of English must try to achieve the objectives of teaching English to our students at school. The following may be called the "FOURFOLD AIMS" of teaching English.

1. Listening Comprehension

In order to learn a language, ear-training is very essential. Unless we hear the correct sounds and pay close attention to them, we shall not be able to produce the same sounds ourselves. There can be no learning of a language without exposing the learner to that language. There is little opportunity for our students to listen to the spoken English outside the classroom. They would naturally copy the model set before them by the teacher. Therefore, it is important that the teacher of English language must acquire a fairly good standard of speech. The teacher should provide to his students a variety of situations and experiences of listening to the spoken language.