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IN SEARCH OF A TECHNO-COMPLETE LANGUAGE FOR ENGINEERS

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ABSTRACT

The form and quality of English to be imparted to the Engineers in non-English speaking countries is a long sought for question. Researches are going in every such country as to the right form and structure of English language suitable for those countries and interestingly the opinions have not converged as yet. This paper attempts to pinpoint the lacunae in those approaches and suggests a unified approach for an acceptable solution that will transcend the age-old barriers.

KEYWORDS: Techno-Complete, Vocabulary

INTRODUCTION

The search for an English Language with profound impact in Engineering Education and practice has been going for almost a century in different non-English speaking countries of the globe. The output has not been very satisfactory as yet though a more or less stable position has been achieved. The English sought for is not yet technically complete in the sense that the English that is being used nowadays often fall short of the desired effect. The papers [1] have amply demonstrated the lacunae of the present technical language widely used and have made some sensible suggestions, but the overall result is far from the desired success. In this paper we have tried to investigate the requirements and suggested some crucial points to be counted on and implemented.

Why English?

English has been accepted as a language for communication for many reasons.

The following are only few of them:

- Due to globalization the importance of English has grown enormously. It is by an international treaty the official language for aeronautical and maritime communication. It is also one of the official languages of the United Nation and many other international organizations such as WHO, UNICEF including International Olympic committee. Any scientific or commercial projects taken by any multinational organization involves persons from different countries, the only common language for communication being English.
- English is studied most often in the European Union. Among the Europeans 67% are in favour of English, 17% in favour of German and 16 % in favour of French. .Among the non-English speaking EU countries, the following percentages of the adult population claim to be able to converse in English in 2012

Netherlands	-	90%,
Malta	-	89%
Sweden	-	86%

Denmark	-	86%
Cyprus	-	73%
Austria	-	73%
Finland	-	70%
Greece	-	50%
Germany	-	50%
Luxemburg	-	50%
Slovania	-	50%

It is noteworthy that 38% of the Europeans consider that they can speak English. [3]

- Of all books, journals and magazines published all over the globe, almost 90% are written in English. Indeed English is the most commonly used language in Science and Technology.
- Most of the advanced technologies and scientific advancements are the work of Europeans; English is the most desired language for communication.
- English is language with a very rich vocabulary which provides the power to express any idea precisely and effectively.

Meaning of Techno-Completeness

A language is said to be *techno-complete* if the language has such a rich vocabulary that one is able to communicate and write any scientific report easily and comfortably. This requires

- A collection of scientific terms
- Simple grammar
- A collection of words that help express ideas most effectively, e.g., phrases, idioms, correlatives, antonyms.[1]
- The words useful for effective communication.

Thus a techno-complete language is one which facilitates an engineer to express ideas precisely and concisely and write reports in an effective way.

Method of Achieving this

It is to be noted that the techno-complete language is needed for two purposes, namely (a) Report writing and (b) Verbal Communication.

For report writing

- One has to take care in the usage of words. Particularly, the language must be as simple as possible. Not complicated, bomb bursting/ magnanimous, ambiguous words should be used. Only simple sentences should be used to the extent possible.

- For presentation, power-point may be used for better conveyance with emphasis on the nodal points.

For verbal communication,

- Simple but persuasive language should be used with minimum number of compound sentences.[6]
- Care should be taken in proper use of technical terms.
- Sincere attempts should be made to increase the confidence level in this regard by psychological counseling.

Our Suggestions

- A Task Force be constituted by Higher Education Department, Government of India, to build up a vocabulary for each discipline of engineering. This vocabulary should also cull the widely used phrases and idioms for precise expression of thoughts and ideas.
- A plan be drawn to teach simple English with equal emphasis as in technical subjects from the first year to the last year of the undergraduate courses with special emphasis on verbal communication.
- A training of how to write engineering projects be imparted to all students in the final year of all courses including Power Point Presentation. For this the best exemplary reports written by experts in different engineering disciplines be shown to the students. They may also be subjected to practice of writing reports.
- These programmes should be tagged with university examination but marks shall not be counted for promotion but included in mark sheet which will have a bearing on selection by recruiters.
- By now many software's have been developed to facilitate students to learn communication. The students should be subjected to the use of this software's.

CONCLUSIONS

If the above steps are followed and the suggestions implemented, it is expected that in a few years the scenario will change drastically and the engineering world will turn into a easily communicable world speeding up into desired success.

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