

PURGING THE INDIAN ENGLISH OF ITS DROSS:

A PREREQUISITE FOR ALL PEDAGOGY

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ABSTRACT

While the researchers, long ago, discarded the structural approach in the pedagogical practices and prescribed communicative practice for second language learning, a huge chunk of English teachers in India at primary and secondary levels of education still hold on to this inefficacious practice especially at a time when English as the global lingua franca is taking myriad newer shapes and forms day by day. After being subjected to ten long years of rigorous teaching at school level, the fact that majority of Indian students languish in the stifling pedagogical shackles poses a fundamental question as to the very usefulness of this approach.

This paper discusses various language prescriptions and practices which retard the process of English learning of Indian students. The ubiquitous prescription, i.e., 'reading the news papers and magazines' may prove to be detrimental to the second language learners as the variety of English used by Indian news papers does not improve the functional knowledge as it is more often riddled with remote expressions and haphazardly structured headlines. Overemphasis on phonetics in Indian curricula, especially, accentual patterns and phonemic transcription which are not essential for a reasonable level of functional proficiency in English is also discussed at length.

KEYWORDS: *Second Language Pedagogy, Commerciallese, Officialese, News Paper Reading, Phonemic Transcription*

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