



THE IMPORTANCE OF ENGLISH AND STUDENTS' ATTITUDES TOWARDS LEARNING IT

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Abstract:

English is a globally significant language, serving as a medium for communication, education, and professional development. Students' attitudes towards learning English play a crucial role in their academic success and future career prospects. This research paper explores the importance of English as a subject and examines the factors influencing students' attitudes toward learning it. By analysing various studies and surveys, the paper aims to highlight the challenges and provide recommendations for fostering a positive learning environment.

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Introduction:

English is often regarded as the global lingua franca, connecting people across different cultures and nations. As an academic subject, English holds a critical place in educational curricula worldwide. However, students' attitudes toward learning English vary based on personal interest, educational background, and social influences. Understanding these attitudes is essential for educators to develop effective teaching strategies.

The Importance of English:

- 1. Global Communication:** English is the most widely spoken second language in the world. It is the primary language of international communication, business, and diplomacy. It acts as a common medium of communication between people from different countries.
- 2. Academic Opportunities:** Proficiency in English grants access to higher education institutions and research materials that are predominantly available in English.
- 3. Education and Research:** Most international academic resources, research papers, and higher education institutions use English, making it

essential for global learning and academic advancement.

- 3. Career Advancement:** Many multinational companies and industries require employees with strong English skills.
- 4. Technological and Scientific Development:** Most scientific publications and technological advancements are documented in English.
- 5. Cultural Exchange:** Learning English helps students access literature, movies, and cultural content from around the world.
- 6. Internet and Media:** A vast majority of content on the internet, movies, books, and news are in English, giving speakers broader access to information and entertainment.
- 7. Travel and Tourism:** English serves as a universal language for travelers, making it easier to navigate foreign countries, ask for help, or understand signs and directions.

Students' Attitudes Towards Learning English:**1. Positive Attitudes:**

- Motivation from career aspirations.
- Interest in Western culture, media, and literature.
- Supportive teaching environments.

2. Negative Attitudes:

- Fear of making mistakes and lack of confidence.
- Perception of English as a difficult subject
- Limited exposure to practical usage outside the classroom.

Factors Influencing Attitudes:

Attitude plays a crucial role in how students learn and perform in any subject, and English is no exception. A student's attitude towards English can greatly affect their motivation, participation, and overall success in learning the language. Several factors contribute to shaping these attitudes—both positively and negatively.

1. Teacher's Influence

The way a teacher teaches can strongly impact how students feel about English. A passionate, supportive, and encouraging teacher can spark interest and confidence, while a strict or unapproachable one can cause anxiety and fear. Teaching methods, feedback, and classroom environment all play key roles.

2. Learning Environment

A positive and engaging classroom environment makes students more willing to participate and take risks in using the language. Access to resources like books, multimedia, and language labs also contributes to a more enjoyable learning experience.

3. Personal Interest and Motivation

Students who enjoy reading, writing, or watching English movies are naturally more motivated. On the other hand, those who see English as difficult or boring may lose interest. Motivation can be either **intrinsic** (personal interest) or **extrinsic** (grades, rewards, or career goals)

4. Peer Influence

Classmates can influence one another's attitudes. If peers show interest and are actively participating, others are likely to follow. Conversely, a lack of

enthusiasm among peers can lead to disinterest or fear of being judged.

5. Parental and Societal Support

Encouragement from parents and society can shape how seriously students take English. In communities where English is seen as important for success, students are more likely to have a positive attitude toward it.

6. Previous Learning Experiences

Positive past experiences, like achieving good marks or enjoying fun learning activities, create a sense of confidence and interest. Negative experiences—such as repeated failure, embarrassment, or boredom—can lead to fear and dislike of the subject

Challenges in Learning English:

English is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world and plays a crucial role in global communication, education, and business. However, learning English is not always easy. Many learners face various challenges that can make the process difficult and frustrating. Understanding these challenges is the first step toward overcoming them.

1. Complex Grammar Rules:

English grammar is full of rules—and just as many exceptions. Learners often struggle with irregular verbs, the correct use of tenses, and articles like “a,” “an,” and “the.” For example, while most verbs form the past tense by adding -ed (like “walked”), many do not follow this pattern (“go” becomes “went,” not “goed”).

2. Difficult Pronunciation and Spelling

Another major challenge is pronunciation. English is not a phonetic language, which means words are not always pronounced the way they are spelled. Words like “knight” or “colonel” can be confusing, and different spellings can produce the same sounds (e.g., “to,” “too,” and “two”).

3. Vast Vocabulary and Idioms

English has a large and diverse vocabulary. Many words have multiple meanings, and learners must also understand idioms and phrasal verbs that don't always make literal sense. Expressions like "kick the bucket" or "break down" can be confusing for non-native speakers.

4. Listening Comprehension

Understanding spoken English can be difficult, especially when native speakers talk quickly or use slang and informal expressions. Different accents and dialects also add to the difficulty.

5. Fear of Making Mistakes

Many learners are afraid to speak English because they worry about making mistakes. This lack of confidence can prevent them from practicing, which is essential for improving fluency.

6. Cultural Context

Finally, understanding the cultural background behind the language is important. Humor, expressions, and even body language can vary greatly between cultures and can lead to confusion if not understood properly.

Recommendations for Improvement:

- 1. Interactive Learning:** Incorporating technology, games, and multimedia can make learning more engaging.
- 2. Practical Usage:** Encouraging students to communicate in English outside the classroom.
- 3. Teacher Training:** Enhancing teachers' skills to adopt innovative teaching methodologies.
- 4. Positive Reinforcement:** Rewarding students' progress to build confidence and motivation.

Conclusion:

English is an essential subject with significant academic and professional benefits. Students' attitudes toward learning English play a crucial role in their language proficiency. By addressing the challenges and fostering a supportive learning environment, educators and policymakers can enhance students' motivation and success in learning English. Future research should explore the impact of emerging technologies and personalized learning approaches in improving students' attitudes toward English.

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