Research Paper

English

Linguish: A Smart Initiative Towards English Language Learning

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ABSTRACT

This paper focuses on the smart trend of English language learning by using Whats app group in smart phones. With the emergence of language learning software tools in recent years, such as language labs, different social networking sites and use of smart phones new opportunities in learning English Language have come into existence and became very popular even among the students who don't have natural flair for learning. Today, almost every student carries smart phones and uses social networking sites and different apps even after not knowing English properly. This paper is based on a small initiative that I have taken while working with LNCT College Bhopal which is affiliated to RGTU, (Rajiv Gandhi Technical University) Bhopal. Presently I am working here as an associate professor with the department of Humanities and teaching English and Communication skills to BE students. For some time, I had an opportunity to teach the students of MCA and Pharmacy also. Seeing the craze of Smart Phones among the students today, I have decided to divert some moments of such time which they spent in unnecessary things towards some useful learning. Linguish is a result of some of these efforts. Initially I stated a group of five members including me. Later, seeing the tremendous positive response within a month, it has been joined by many students, scholars and academicians. Linguish helps in learning English language in an effective and stress free way. It basically discusses the ways of enhancing the correct usage of grammar, syntax, developing vocabulary, using jargons, idioms, phrases, understanding spelling rules, mastering interview skills and thereby boosting up their confidence level and grooming up and so on. Time to time, the chapters and contents of the classes at Linguish are rescheduled. Through these columns I am presenting the outcomes of this small initiative.

KEYWORDS : Smart trend, Linguish, Whats app, Language labs, Smart phones, natural flair.

Introduction

Today, technology has gripped almost every area and the field of education and knowledge is not an exception. 'Linguish' is an attempt to take utmost advantage this technology by using the smart phones and latest possible apps to instill hopes in the minds of those who have an appetite for learning but due to the constraint of time to spare long hours in conventional classes. Moreover, many of them are out of pocket so far as paying huge amounts in coaching classes is concerned. Moreover, we are not confident of the content and material provided by most of these coaching centers. I formed the word 'Linguish' from the combination of two root words 'lingua' and 'ish'. Here 'lingua' means language and

'ish' has been formed from the last three letters of English.

Concept behind the initiative

I have noticed the craze of smart phones users especially our youngsters moving their fingers on buttons searching something or the other all the time. Moreover I have also realised even if there is no message or a call, they are impatient to have some or other message or a call. Seeing all this, an idea struck to my mind why not engage them in some productive work by which they may use they get something useful whenever they creep their fingers on buttons and thereby they are involved in the process of brushing up their knowledge apart from filling their bags with some or other useful information this is useful in the long run. Therefore as a result of this idea that struck to my mind on 23 September, 2015 Linguish came into existence with only five people including me. The others were my students who used to attend classes at my coaching.
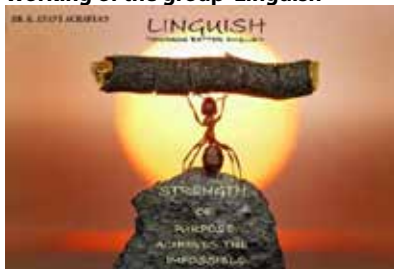
Working of the group 'Linguish'

Fig -1

As it is said that *Journey of thousand miles always begins with a single step*, Linguish has covered a long distance since its Natal day i.e. the day when came into existence (23rd September 2016) working

with full passion and strength. Of course it is what its Logo represents. The logo says Linguish, towards better English (Fig-1 above). In its initiative stage, the group had only the five members as I mentioned earlier. In the beginning, 'Linguish' provided all time coaching. Later, seeing the heap of messages of queries by the participants, it has been suggested by the members to schedule the timings of classes so that all may take full advantage of it. So keeping all these suggestions in mind, 'Linguish' has scheduled timings that is divided into different sessions like Grammar session, Vocabulary Session, Doubt clearing session, PD session, interview session and so on. These sessions have been designed on weekly basis. It worked tremendously. Later in order to maintain its quality and privacy of the participants, Linguish provided a link to each and every new joiner. The candidate who wants to be a part of Linguish, has first to follow the link and get himself registered by providing his details like father's name, his e-mail id, his contact number, e – mail id, address. Though some participants opposed it in the beginning, later realising its significance, they agreed upon the rules and regulations made by Linguish. Some of the rules of Linguish are…

Every new candidate will first follow the link, register his details and submit the same online.

No member of the group is allowed to send any personal message to any other member of the group except to the admin in order to consult doubts if any.

Members are not allowed to post any personal images, videos or else, without the prior permission of the admin. If he does so, he will immediately be removed from the group.
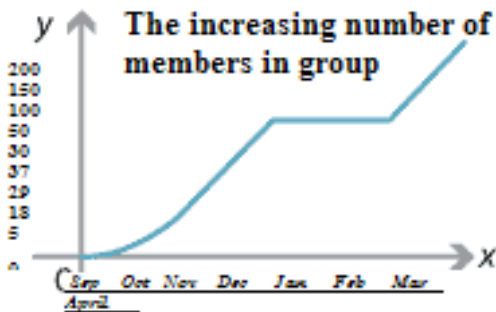
If any member violates the rules of the group and is thereby removed from the group, or he himself leaves the group, he will not be added in group again.

There will be no messages in the group except in the class timings.

In the morning the members will post a word of the day with his good morning wish in the group.

Member found inactive for more days without any genuine reason is liable to be removed from the group.

All the postings in group will be in English, even if the sentences contain any errors. The errors are rectified by the admin at times.

The increasing number of members in group

Surprisingly, the number of interested participants has touched to an unbelievable number by the time I started writing this paper[1]. Moreover, all those who have come to know about the benefits of this group from the participants and members, started sending their membership requests to 'Linguish' showing their interest to join the group. The group that started with the initial five members in September 2015 reached its century in mid December 2015. After attaining the figure of 101, Linguish stopped registrations in order to maintain quality instead of quantity only. As a result the number of members remained 101 between mid December and mid March. But because of the continuous requests for membership, Linguish restarted registrations and the number of members has amazingly increased nearly by nearly 50% and touched the figure of 150 members in just five days. (Fig 2 left) Moreover the article (Fig 3 left below)[2] published in a DB star on 26th March 2016 in a local Hindi daily of Bhopal city, Dainik Bhaskar appreciating the efforts and work of   Linguish, helped the group to attain a stunning figure. In this way today, the group has nearly 200 members and this figure is continuously increasing.

Members of the group
'Linguish' is a place where the knowledge seekers from different fields quench their thirst regarding English language and vocabulary enrichment etc. (Fig 4 below)

The members in this group are from different sections of society such as school goers, college students of different disciplines, technical and non-technical people, professionals, housewives, job seekers, retired personnel and so on (Fig-3). Today the group has the participants from Police Department, Medical, Engineers, Students who are preparing for Campus recruitment tests and so on. Whenever a new member joins the group, on the very first day, he seems to be interested to make others also a part of it.

Content that is discussed
As it is said that it is not quantity but the quality that proves the significance of any work, the members appreciate its content and its usefulness. Linguish has planned the sessions very carefully covering all the aspects of language learning and boosting up the motivation and personality of the members. Linguish has divided the sessions in two groups. First Language and the second one is Personality Development. So Monday to Thursday sessions are have been designed for language development including basic and advance grammar patterns and their uses, syntax, common errors for daily use and all competitive exams, formation of day to day sentences in English. The first session includes doubt clearing and solution of questions and discussion of answers on important points and rules and vocabulary section covering antonyms, synonyms, misspelt words, idioms and phrases, proverbs, and Jargons. The second session is especially designed for Personality Development and Personal interviews. The second session focuses on boosting up confidence, time management, designing self image, important tips for personal interviews and much more…. . Though the group keeps rescheduling its sessions, it keeps the members informed about all the changes in contents, sessions and changing in timings if any.

Outcomes of the group
The significance of 'Linguish' can be imagined from a statement of one of the members who stated, "Linguish is a panacea for the students who are preparing for different competitive exams."[1] another student comments, "It's a super knowledge hub" Linguish is continuously receiving positive comments. The group itself is a symbol. One of the professors of LNCT, Bhopal has stated, "It is the group that is serving different latest and tasty dishes of our own taste and requirement even without placing order" So it is very soothing to know that Linguish is on its way towards being better and better. I would like to highlight one more thing that it is the because of the popularity of the group that the students of Andhra Pradesh and newly formed Telangana State have sent their requests to form a separate group for the interested students. So seeing the heap of requests from the students of Andhra and Telangana, I have formed another group named Linguish (AP/TS) on 18th March 2016. Today of course the number of students in this new group is not much but the members are taking maximum interest. Presently the group has 15 members. In short, on the basis of the comments received from different members of the group we came to know that the member who becomes a Linguishian has the following advantages of being a Linguishian…

•   Reduced need for face-to-face meetings
•   Building a deeper trust between students and instructor
•   Provide a larger scope of feedback
•   Help motivate students better on an on-going bases
•   Offers minute-by-minute level feedback.
•   Welcomes suggestions from the group members for the betterment of the group and thereby the members.

Future Planning
As is said that 'Success is not your destination, its mere a journey towards destination', still there is a long way to cover. The members of

the group are planning to make its presence on face-book as well so that more and more knowledge seekers are benefited. Linguish offers an opportunity to extend the classroom experience outside of class time also. As whats aap has also some limited number of participant inclusion, I realise that there must be some other ways also so that Linguish can reach more and more number of people who have an appetite for learning English language and want to groom their personality. Linguish is therefore trying to connect the people through Skype and other ways also so that the learning may be made more and more comfortable and interactive. Moreover, the group is planning to make a registered app available on smart phones so as to make its presence just under one click only. Press the smart phone button, open the app, and you are in the knowledge hub. I know it will take some time. But we must not forget that Slow but steady improvement is considered to be better just like a race horse that runs slower in the beginning, gallops and attains speed in the long run and comes out to be successful.

Conclusions

A smallest deed is greater than the greatest intention. Yes dear friends, this is what I have tried to say through these columns. Today smart phones have become part and parcel of our lives. They may be of a great help for knowledge seekers provided used in a proper and in an intelligent way.   Linguish has proved that Whats App application can be used to learn the language skills as well. Many students expressed their satisfaction with Linguish using a medium that they understand and use it on regular bases.

References

1.   Personal interviews of BE and MCA students at LNCT College, Bhopal.
2.   The article by Zaid Meer titled, '*Linguish va English World se judkar seekhen Angreji*' in the utility column of DB Star Page number 02, dt 26th March 2016.
3.   www.google.com