

Language of Scientific Discourse



Education

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ABSTRACT

Mother tongue has an important role in Education. At some point of time in the past educationists and social reformers have made conscious efforts in favour of mother tongue. Using the language regularly and spreading the same is the key to its sustainability and eternity. It is every ones responsibility to protect and preserve endangered Indian languages by speaking with their tiny tots at least at homes by avoiding the use of foreign language. If we do not regard our own language and always trying to speak in foreign language staying in our mother land with the people of same language and culture mean doing injustice to our mother tongue.

INTRODUCTION:

The basic purpose of any language is to communicate. It is the duty and responsibility of every citizen of our Country to preserve their respective native language and pass on to the next generations to keep the cultural ethos and civilisation alive. Mother tongue has an important role in Education. At some point of time in the past educationists and social reformers have made conscious efforts in favour of mother tongue. Using the language regularly and spreading the same is the key to its sustainability and eternity. This language is primarily used in concept formation and creative thinking, which are important aspects of language education. Mother tongue is the language by which one emotionally identified. It is the language through which one can express their ideas, thoughts, needs, joys, sorrows and other things very easily.

The Indian Education Commission under the Chairmanship of D.S.Kothari than Chairman of UGC in its report observed that the use of mother tongue "Can make Scientific and Technical knowledge more easily accessible to the people and thus help not only in the progress of industrialisation but also in the wider dissemination of Science and Scientific outlook."

Right of the Child:

One cannot advocate the denial of the right of a child to be educated in his/her mother tongue. It is found that child from its birth until the stage of admission in a school acquired enormous amount of learning from the linguistic community in which they brought up. Promoting mother tongue doesn't mean it needs to have an anti English stand. In the global world we live in, knowledge of English is a huge advantage and the states shouldn't deprive kinds of opportunities by making the local language as the medium of instruction. Teaching core subjects in the mother tongue can benefit tiny tots as far as their understanding in concerned.

Save our languages:

It may be worthwhile to mention here that according to a news report published in the Hindu, dated February, 21,2009 of the 196 languages' listed as endangered by the UNESCO, India tops the list of countries having the maximum number of dialects on the verge of extinction. These facts were revealed in the latest Atlas of World's languages in Danger of Disappearing unveiled by the UNESCO. Most of the non English speaking Countries like Germany, Japan, Italy, China and Russia never felt any need to teach their people in English, especially content subjects like Engineering, Science, Arts and Philosophy. In fact they all have become 100% literate Countries because of the use of their own languages.

Origin and Role of English language:

In India with the breakup of the Moghul empire and the conse-

quent decline of Muslim supremacy in the country Persian and Urdu began to lose some ground to Hindi and Provincial languages. In the British rule English has been introduced as the medium of Education. English began to assume a unique place such as no other language had occupied before. The English language links us to the rest of the world and is the gateway to unmet opportunities. It encourages development and employment. English language has enabled us to construct bridges and establish contacts with the outside the world, which is necessary for progress and prosperity more especially in these days of globalisation. It is also a fact that proficiency in English is considered a cornerstone to success and a passport to prosperity. Knowledge of English is often the key to getting good job in our Country.

Growth in the service sector has not really touched the lives of ordinary people in our country, part of the reason lies in the English/Vernacular medium divide in our educational system.

Ways by which mother tongue/Regional language can be preserved:

1. The Three language formula is best suited for multi lingual society like ours.
2. The State Government should not impose their regional language or Mother tongue as medium of instruction; instead the Regional language/Mother tongue should be made compulsory as one of the subject throughout the school education. This will enable the children to preserve its rich literacy heritage and also the states culture.
3. Making the mother tongue/Regional language the sole medium of instruction will lead to marginalisation of students when it comes to higher learning. So, this language must be taught as one of the language/medium of instruction up to high school or higher secondary level.
4. All language Universities in India should come forward in protecting the Indian languages before they perish off.
5. As citizens of India it is every ones responsibility to protect and preserve these endangered Indian languages by speaking with their tiny tots at least at homes by avoiding the use of foreign language. If we do not regard our own language and always trying to speak in foreign language staying in our mother land with the people of same language and culture mean doing injustice to our mother tongue.

"Nobody should neglect their mother tongue/state local language and at the same time a spirit of nationalism should inspire every sections of the society to accept and learn their mother tongue/Regional language as a pride, Unfortunately this spirit is lagging behind in some parts of the Country."

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