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Research Papers

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## Aims and Objectives of Teaching English in India

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### ABSTRACT

*This paper throws light on how an English teacher can set about fulfilling their aims. It also point out the ground of the secondary school level. It is concerned with the means to achieving the aims and objectives of teaching English. It discusses how reading, writing, listening and speaking can be made more effective, how the basics should be taught and what a teacher should aim to do in teaching English at secondary school level.*

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### INTRODUCTION

In this era of globalization and Information and Technology, English has a special and predominant role in the communicative sphere of the world. This language is present taught everywhere in the world. This language enjoys most prestigious reputation in the world. It has a special identity in the field of education. We know it very well that teaching of any subject is a social and cultural activity. It is not so easy to teach any subject as it appears. While teaching, a teacher has to keep in mind the aims and objectives of his subject. In other words we can say that teaching of any subject becomes much effective when the teacher is fully conscious of the aims and objectives of teaching of that subject. A good teacher thinks that his teaching should be effective. All of us knows it very well that the basic principle of teaching is “know what you do and only do what you know”. Teaching requires certain directions. After all, success of teaching depends on the aims and objectives of teaching.

“ In teaching of English” P. Gurrey writes, “ It is highly desirable to know exactly what one is hoping to achieve. If this can be clearly seen, then the best way of getting to work usually becomes evident. We ought, therefore, to consider carefully what we are trying to do when we are teaching English”.

### AIMS OF TEACHING ENGLISH

Indian people consider English as a second language. It is studied as a compulsory second language. It is not the medium of instruction for a majority of the students. It is an instrument, a means for acquiring knowledge. The aim of teaching English in India is to help students to acquire practical command of English. In other words, it means that students should be able to understand speak English, read and write

Please cite this Article as : B.W.Somatkar , AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF TEACHING ENGLISH IN INDIA : Indian Streams Research Journal (June ; 2012)

English. These are the basic aims of teaching English. The teacher should keep in mind the aims of teaching English. The teacher should always emphasize on the aims of teaching of English. It will help to teach effectively. These aims are as :

- 1) To enable to listen English with proper understanding
- 2) To enable to speak English correctly. It means that producing sounds with the proper stress and intonation.
- 3) To enable the students to read English and comprehend and interpret the text.
- 4) To enable the students to write English correctly and meaningfully, i.e. for example writing letters, applications, description and accounts of day to day events.
- 5) To enable to acquire knowledge of the elements of English.
- 6) To enable to develop interest in English
- 7) To increase students ability to use planning, drafting and editing to improve their work.
- 8) To enable students to express themselves creatively and imaginatively.
- 9) To enable students to speak clearly and audibly in ways which take account of their listeners.
- 10) To enable students to become enthusiastic and reflective readers through contact with challenging and text level knowledge.

#### DEFINITIONS OF OBJECTIVES

An objective is a desired goal that is trying to be accomplished. It is the main point of something or the main point that is being proved.

According to the Dictionary of Education, objective is ,”the end towards which a school sponsored activity is directed”. Effective tangible changes in students behavior at the end of schooling is known as objective. Dr. S. R. Bloom has defined educational objective as, ”the desired goal or outcome at which instruction is aimed”

For example, if a teacher wants his students to improve speaking skill, the teacher will have to try his outmost level for speaking skill. Here the outcome desired or goal aimed at his improvement of speaking skill. In this way, a teacher can improve his other skills as writing skill, listening skill, reading skill and all that. After all, the teacher has to follow all his tactics for the improvement of his students. So the desired goal of improving speaking skill would be the objective of teaching.

#### CHARACTERISTICS OF GOOD OBJECTIVES:

The characteristics of good objectives are as follows-

- 1) It should be precise and specific.
- 2) It should be based on psychological principles.
- 3) It should be for the better improvement of the students.
- 4) It should be in terms of change expected in the student and not as duties of the teacher.
- 5) It should be for changing or modifying students behavior.

#### OBJECTIVES OF TEACHING ENGLISH

- 1) Listening, reading, speaking and writing are the four important objectives.
- 2) Graphics should be practiced by the students at primary level. The student must be able to write the alphabets, keeping space between two words in a sentence and write sentences using appropriate punctuation marks and capital letters.
- 3) Writing is also equally important. The students should be able to write composition.
- 4) All the four skills i.e. Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking become important as the student grows, particularly reading and writing at the later stage.
- 5) Students should be able to read other books excluding textbooks i.e. novel, poetry, drama, essay writing, autobiography, précis-writing etc.

L.A.C. Strong once proclaimed, “for us who speak English, English is everything... English is not a subject, English is our life”. In most of the schools in India, English is studied as a second language. Somewhere English is considered as a foreign language. English held the topmost position in India during British rule. Even after independence its importance still continues to be more or less the same. It is the medium of instruction in most of the universities in India. English is considered as the Lingua-Franca or vehicular language. Due to globalization, one has to know English language for international trade. In

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India its teaching learning in schools is inspired by one aim-the utilitarian aim. This aim can be achieved by acquiring practical command over English. A teacher should be a good planner and he should use innovative techniques and methods for teaching.

Thompson and Wyatt rightly remarked that it is necessary that the Indian students should not only understand English when it is spoken or written, but also he should himself be able to speak and write it.

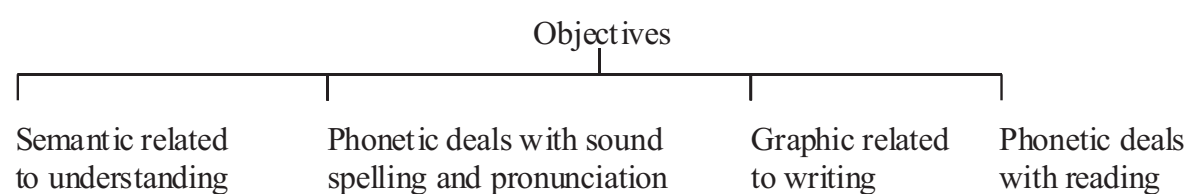
### MAIN OBJECTIVES OF TEACHING ENGLISH

There are two main Objectives of teaching English. They are as

- 1) Language development, and
- 2) Literary development

These two objectives differ from each other as far as the class and age of students is concerned.

### FORE-FOLD OBJECTIVES OF TEACHING ENGLISH



### ABILITIES TO BE DEVELOPED BY FOUR-FOLD OBJECTIVES:

- 1) To understand Spoken English :-

It includes recognition of English sounds without committing any errors. Also ability to point out meaning from what is heard.

- 2) Ability to speak English :-

It includes intonation and stress response in speech as reaction to hearing.

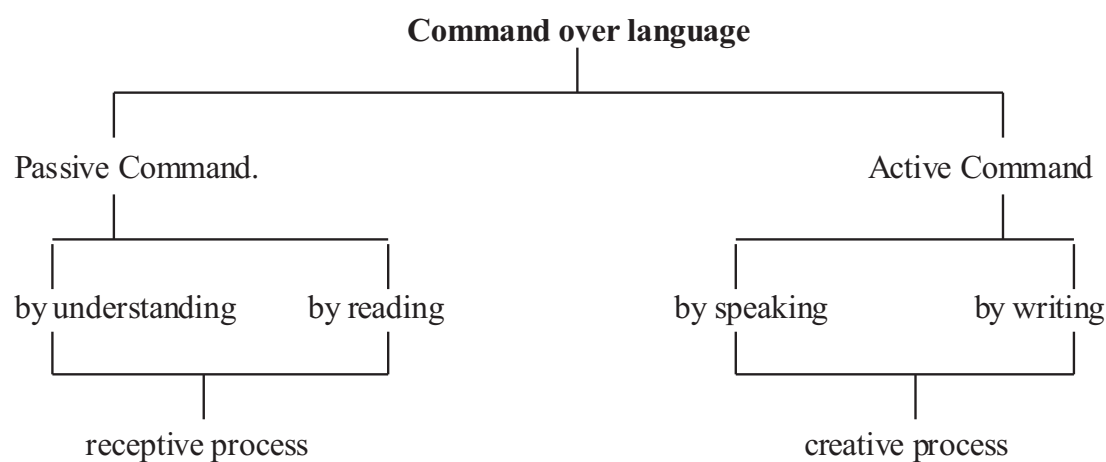
- 3) Ability to read English :-

4) It includes ability to read and understand various books reading like prose, poetry, drama, novel and so on. novel and so on.

- 5) Ability to write English :-

It includes ability to write guided composition followed by free composition. To select right words, to construct sentences.

The most important objective is to have command over the language. It can be explained with the help of following diagram.



**CONCLUSION :**

Some Indian people think that the students in our country should have only passive knowledge of English. Without proper aims and objectives we cannot make our efforts fruitful in English language teaching. Otherwise it will be of no avail. Proper aims and objectives help to evaluate students performance. All the four-fold objectives are as important as one. A. V. P. Elliott has rightly said, “the ability to speak and write English and the ability to read English should be regarded as of equal importance”. Champion's notion is, “all objectives should be regarded as of equal importance should be gift to each”. Objectives help us how a student should spell words correctly. Correct and proper objectives would not be taught by any teacher without knowing aims and objectives of teaching English. Hence aims and objectives plays an important role in teaching English language.

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