Impact of English Language in Engineering

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Abstract

Language, verbal or non-verbal is an important tool of communication. Languages are created by humans and are a lot different from human communication systems. It is through language that traditions, belief, system, information and knowledge are transferred from one generation to another. There is multitude of languages across the world, despite of this. Effective communication , where the listeners interprets message in exact manner as the speaker intends to while speaking , requires accurate use of language. Languages cannot exist in isolation. Any language that is not a native language of any community is called dead language. A dead language may be studied for academic purposes but not communication (verbal or written) is preformed in that language apart from educational purpose. Ancient Sanskrit, Hebrew, and Latin are some of the examples of dead language.

Introduction

English communication can never be overlooked as all living beings communicate. It is valuable gift of God by which all living beings exist and survive. The ability to communicate effectively is necessary to carry out our thoughts and visions. Whether we are in one situation or another communications is inevitable. Without communication there is no way to express thoughts, ideas and feelings. Before we elaborate the concept of communication let us study the history of communication first. The History of communication dates back to prehistoric time with significant changes in communication technology. Communication can range from very subtle processes of exchange to full conversation and mass communications. Human communication revolutionized perhaps 200,000 years ago. Symbols were developed about 30,000 years ago and writing about 7,000 years ago. The oldest forms of symbols were created with the purpose of communication through the caved paintings, a form of rock art which was followed by Petroglyphs, carving into rock surface. It took about 20,000 years for homo-sapiens to move from the first cave paintings to the first Petroglyphs, which dated to around 10,000 BC. The alphabets which was developed by Phoenicians from 3500 BC to 2900 BC, was a significant episode followed by the creation of first encyclopedia in 1270. Some more major inventions in the field of communication are listed below:

- 900 BC: The very first postal service for the Government use in China.
- 530 BC: The Greeks started the very first library.
- 105 BC: Chinese invented the paper as we know it.
- 1650   : First daily newspaper- Leipzig.
- 1831   : Joseph Henry invented the first electric telegraph.
- 1843   : First Fax machine was patented.
- 1867   : First successful typewriter patented.
- 1889   : Almon Strowger patented first directed telephone.
- 1904   : First regular comic books.
- 1927   : Time magazine names the computer as "Man of the year" and first cellular phone network started in the United States.
- 1928   : First television broadcast in England.
- 1966   : Xerox invents the Telecopies- the first successful machine.
- 1969   : ARPANET- the first Internet started.
- 1977   : Computers were first sold commercially.
- 1981   : IBM PC first introduced.
- 1989   : WWW is born – making communication possible at the high speed.

Definition and Features of Communication

Communication means to inform, express and spread the message. It can be taken as interchange and sharing of information so as to create and develop good understanding.

In fact communication is an interpersonal process in which information is an interpersonal process in which information is shared and understood by two or more people.

1. **Literal or derivation meaning**: The words communication is derived from the Latin word "communis" which means 'to share', 'give and take', 'togetherness' or 'common'.
2. **Definition by Devit**:"communication is an act by one or two person, of sending and receiving the messages distorted by noise within a context with some effect and with some opportunity for feedback."
3. **Definition by Merrihus**: "Communication is the process of sharing experiences fully until it becomes a common possession."
4. **Definition by George Terry**: "Communication is an exchange of facts, ideas, opinions or emotions by two or more person."
5. **Definition by Chester I. Bernard**: Communication is "the mean by which people are linked together in an organization to achieve a common purpose."
6. **Definition by Brooker**:"Communication is anything that conveys meaning that carries message from one person to another."

The analysis of the above mentioned definitions reveals the following features or characteristics of communication.

1. **Communication is a process**: A process is the flow of interrelated events. It is the same with communication as communication occurs when it starts with the sender followed by events which are associated with each part in some respect.
2. **Communication is a thoughtful process**: Communication start when the sender has some thought in his mind. The thought get the shape of an idea or information when it is expressed by the sender and then the reception of the message and the feedback by the reception of the message and the feedback by the receiver also takes the shape of a thoughtful process.
3. **Communication is a purposeful process**: There is some purpose or motive of sender or receiver behind the communication process. In other words we can say that the message, idea or thought is the exchange with some intentions in mind.

Benefits of English Language

English is unquestionably the universal language for the Internet. Before the advent of the World Wide Web, English was not always the first choice for communication globally. The position of English changed drastically ever since the number of Internet users began to increase. This is mostly due to the economic and political influence of the English speaking countries.

Influence of Internet on the English Language

Internet has not only given the English language a special status globally, but it has also influenced the communication skills of people in the traditional English-speaking countries. People whose spoken language is English are not necessarily expert in writing the language. With the increased use of computers and Internet, English-writing skills of people have improved, thanks to the numerous selling checkers and grammar checkers available.

With the world getting more connected via Internet, people in non-English speaking countries have started writing their research papers and block in English, so that they are heard globally. This has further increased the number of English language users. The role of social media on being heard is especially to be noted.

With frequent exposure to the language, now a day, a student living in developing country is not shy of writing a research proposal to a renowned academician or scientist from a reputed institute abroad. This is the influence which the Internet has on the global community.

E-Mail Communication

The primary means of communication in this fast-moving world is e-mail. An effective and appropriate e-mail etiquette is important in the work and business environment. Followings are some points that will help you become efficient in writing e-mail.

Greeting to be used Formally

It is very important that the reader who reads our e-mail finds its tone as friendly and non-aggressive. Hence, it is best that the e-mail should start with a friendly and respectful greeting at the very beginning.

Conclusion

English has always dominated the web as it is being used as the most-preferred medium of communication. About 55.5% of all web content is in English in the present time. However, around 20% of the world's population speaks English, and just 5% of the world speaks English as a native language. It should be noted that English is the third most-spoken native language in the world, after Chinese and Spanish languages. The English language has 25.3% of Internet users worldwide. One person for English being so dominant online is that it is regarding as a 'Universal language', often chosen by people of different nationalities as a simple ways to communicate. The other reason for English being so commonly used is that it had head start when the Internet came into limelight. In a drastic manner it has changed the manner people communicate both in writing and spoken English. The world has become progressively interconnected through SMS, online chat, messengers, e-mail, blogs, etc. considering the requirement of the readers, this chapter encompasses discussions on e-mail etiquettes, provide guidelines for better e-mail communications etc. Readers will be able to discover using various abbreviations in their communications in addition to composing blogs. Overall, this article provides a great deal on the challenges of using English language online.

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