



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| 1. ENGLISH THANGLISH | 02 |
| 2. LEARN TO SAY 'NO'... | 07 |
| 3. I'M POSSIBLE | 10 |
| 4. DARKNESS | 12 |
| 5. TATOOS – HISTORY AND MYSTERY | 15 |
| 6. WATER-THE ELIXIR OF LIFE | 17 |



Mr. M. RAMESHKUMAR
AP/ENGLISH (S&H)

FEATURING ENGLISH THANGLISH



WISE TALK

LEARN TO SAY 'NO'...

ISHWARYA GANESH

II B.Tech - IT-B

aisuanand9847@gmail.com





ENGLISH THANGLISH - Part I (The Story of Operation success –Patient Dead)



“Sathish, the laborious lad from a small village of Tiruvannamalai, was the apple of eye for every teacher and strangely for every student studying at MIT (Madras Institute of Technology), for he had all the attributes of being a goody-goody, studious, naïve, and chocolate boy. He was just a prince charming!” quipped Mr. Sashikanth, the Chief Guest at STEP Forward Higher Edu Meet as he immersed himself into nostalgia of how sad luck (it was only sad not bad luck since he didn't care to learn the ropes of communication skills) struck and mercilessly plundered the future of Sathish, the college topper with 9.4 CGPA a two decade ago! 'He was a saviour, sort of all things to all men, he helped all and sundry in passing the grades but could not save himself in the on campus recruitment drive as his communication skills in English was at its worst! I only wish I could meet him some day and thank him for helping me clear my arrears. We must do something to empower such extraordinary students who could prove to be a nations' asset if only they are oriented in a proper way. All this happened way back during my formative years in 1996” lamented the grateful soul with a deep sigh of regret as he recounted the deleterious exit of his onetime companion at the illustrious MIT. Alas, Sathish is only a specimen of the “silent minority” that constitutes for a vast majority of our rural student populace who aspire to make it big in life.



CRUSADE



Why did Sathish cut a sorry figure and go into oblivion forever despite his glowing academic credentials? How is that almost all of his companions with relatively average aptitude managed to land in some plum, lucrative careers while he miserably failed? Was Sathish inadequate in social etiquette? Certainly not, he had all the prerequisites—knowledge, skills, smart looks but what he actually lacked was **linguistic proficiency in English**. He obviously lacked in expressing his painstakingly accumulated subject knowledge (mind you he was the topper) into a convincing medium of communication—English which only made his dream of an MNC career come crashing down on him.

I shudder to think as I ponder as to how this beautiful mind is plagued and become the victim of Anglophobia -The fear of English language or the fear of talking to people who converse in English. It's to be noted that the term PHOBIA connotes to an irrational, unfounded fear which could very well be nipped in the bud. **With a burning desire and a STRONG WILL the baseless psychological fear that leads to this linguistic handicap could be surmounted with ease.**

Moreover, many students from the vernacular medium keep labouring under a misconception that mastering English language is a hard nut to crack and that it is only meant for the socially elite class thus presumptuously equating the acquisition of the English tongue with the knowledge of the history of English language or grammatical rules such as syntax-construction, semantics-meaning, phonetics and phonology-pronunciation etc. The mastery of English language does encompass all these facets of linguistic compositions, however to be just conversant in English which serves the **communicative purpose** (which is the need of the hour anyway, when it comes to

recruitment) it does not necessarily require anyone to be a linguist or philologist to communicate one's ideas in grammatically simple English.

It's my earnest belief that a rational perspective with a reiteration on the Communicative Dividend of learning the language English would help demystifying the myths surrounding the acquisition of English as a simple tool of communication rather than a show of sophistication.



The following anecdotal illustration would corroborate the **communicative dividend** of English with regard to any business transactions. Some 50 scholarly tourists from England paying their visit to the Taj Mahal as a part of their research about The Mogal Empire ended up landing in one of the roadside Dhabas (a cheap hotel) for their lunch. One of the scholars being taken aback by the sheer display of the assortment of the mouth watering edibles 'jangiri' & beverages- 'lassi' (-a customized cold drink prepared mainly with curd) being served to the customers, went and asked the illiterate chef out of curiosity as to what that white-colored, coagulant, ingredient that the chef took from a little pot before he smashed it in a bowl and made a tasty cold drink – Lassi out of it actually was. The perplexed chef who doesn't even know the smell of English, leave alone the communication etiquette which the English so insist, somehow tried to explain in his Butler or Pidgin English what DHAHI which is the Hindi equivalent of CURD actually is, defining it thus “**sir ji this (CURD) is Milk ...sleeping in the Night and morning.... It is tight ...**” This reply **nailed the business deal and fetched considerable profits** as the bunch of foreigners bought all the edibles and beverages on that day!

Though this is funny yet indigenous reply of the poor chef might tend to incite considerable laughter among readers whose communication skills in English is above the mark, the home truth is that **English as Language serves as a strong link language –Lingua Franca for all in every sphere of personal or Business Transactions** is as clear as the day! . This bring us to the fact that the importance of English as a strong communicative interface between employer and employee in the globalised world of seamless opportunities is deeply felt in every walk of business or interaction.



It is my earnest belief that as far as the teaching and learning of English is concerned, the maxim '**Necessity is the mother of invention**' holds true not only in any realm of human endeavour but also in the acquisition of any foreign language like **English**. When the learners deeply introspect, (**75-80% of Engineering graduates are not employable due to lack of communication skills in English-NASSCOM**) discern and decide to catch the bull –English by its horns then the needless fear fraught mastering the language gets liquidated. If only the students/Engineering graduates understand the fact that English is the greatest possession that they could possibly have regardless of their familial, financial background, and that this verbal distinction is the visa power to their career and personal elevation before or during their collegiate years, then it wouldn't be an Herculean task for them to conquer the giant-like on /off campus recruitment drives/interviews.

If only one could possess the magical lamp – English, then by merely scratching / using it, would get ones 'wish and aspirations pertinent to their career fulfilled in a blinking of an eye as it were! Thus one could mightily be seated on the magical carpet /comfort of English language and could effortlessly travel around the world like **Aladin**, the mythical hero in the **Arabian Nights** extending your horizon of knowledge and career prospective.



Well, commuting back home, I apparently happened to watch the Sridevi Starrer-Bollywood flick **English-vinglish**. Apart from the extraordinary display of rare acting skills of the southern siren, the film dealt with a contemporaneous theme-the problem of learning English that every Indian expatriate in general and every rural, non-English medium student like Sathis in particular would likely have encountered at least in the beginning of their stint in overseas or collegiate years.

... To be continued



Mr. M. RAMESHKUMAR
AP/ENGLISH (S&H)



LEARN TO SAY 'NO'...

INTRODUCTION

“People are lovable only if they sacrifice their own needs before those of others and at the expense of their emotional well-being.” This exaggerated philosophical quote has now become a thing of the remote past. This ideology no longer holds true in this world of ever-changing thoughts and gossips. As kids, we are often taught certain moral and ethical values that we have to abide by, but some of those values cannot be applied in all the situations. One must not sacrifice one's priority before others. One must respect oneself and his/her needs before considering those of others.

“When you say 'yes' to others, make sure
You are not saying 'no' to yourself.”

ART OF SAYING no

One lives amongst a circle of people which includes family, friends, colleagues, acquaintances and many others. In an attempt to please the beloved ones, one remains unmindful of one's priorities and goals. One tends to give up on one's own accomplishments for the sake of pleasing others. One is rather ready to juggle between too many tasks rather than receiving help from others. But one must remember that one's own needs are more important than anyone else's. Learning to decline unreasonable requests must become a part and parcel one's life. When you do not have time to carry out your tasks, it is not advisable to commit oneself on peer tasks. One must learn to turn down such requests.



“It is only by saying 'no' that you can concentrate on things that are really important.”

The inability to say no can make us exhausted, irritated and annoyed as we spend endless hours worrying over how to get rid of an already-promised commitment. However, the ability to say a no reflects our self-confidence and our stand. It clearly explains to the peer that our emotional well-being is more essential than that of others. People often mistake declining a request for being arrogant, head-strong and selfish. But selfishness and self-care are two very different things. Taking care of oneself and prioritising one's thoughts before those of others can help us lead a life of satisfaction in the long run. It is, therefore, very crucial that we decline silly requests.



However, declining a request does not equate to declining the person at all. One must turn down the favour asked with a tinge of politeness. Refusal of a request with sufficient explanatory words can add to this politeness. People will understand that it is your right to say 'no' if you explain your actions genuinely. This will help you foster your relationship with the person, yet prioritise your own requisites before theirs. Mastering the art of saying 'no' has now become a pre-requisite to a healthy and happy living.

“You can be a good person with a kind heart and still say NO”.

TIPS TO SAY NO

- **Do not explain when not needed.** Explaining the reasons for declining a request unnecessarily can cause unwanted issues among people. This can ultimately result in complete break-up of a relationship.



- **Be polite while turning down.** Words flaunting politeness and submissiveness can serve the purpose of fostering a valuable relationship while declining an unreasonable request.
- **Provide an alternative.** Suggesting other ways to accomplish the task that you had been asked to do can probably calm the person down and save you from the dread of hatred.
- **Do not over-apologise.** You are just turning down their request. You have every right to do so. You need not ask their consent for declining. It is your way of doing things. There is nothing to feel sorry about.
- **Clarity of choice.** Things that go against your moral and ethical values must not be entertained at any cost. Declining such a request, even if forcefully, is right. One must be able to distinguish between the right and wrong.

CONCLUSION

Acquiring the art of saying 'NO' is, hence, crucial to have a better clarity in decision-making; for the smallest of your decisions can cause the biggest of damages in your life. The decisions that we make are, unfortunately, affected by our routine decision-making process. One must be careful in making the right decision and declining the wrong ones. Saying a single 'no' has all the potential to save you from the greatest of heartbreaks. You have the power to transform your life. Don't let others do it by not saying a 'no'.

“Saying NO tells you that you know your limits.”

ISHWARYA GANESH

II B.Tech - IT-B

aisuanand9847@gmail.com





I'M POSSIBLE

*"I fear not the man who has practiced 10,000 kicks once,
But I fear the man who has practiced one kick 10,000 times "*

- Bruce Lee

"I can't do it anymore!" I told myself a lot of times. It is not uncommon to hear me say that. I told the same to my teacher when she insisted that I write both nicely and promptly when I was a little guy. I couldn't believe that. How could I do both on time? But a few pupil did well as she stated. That roused up the green-eyed monster in me. "Huh? They are just good at it", I told myself. On the face of it, it demanded some time for me to comprehend the fact that a few things are **barely possible by mere practice**.

Don't get me in a wrong here. I'm not derailing or being cynical. What I'm saying is, we should know our borderline or line of resistance. We should admit the Truth. To meet our goals eye ball to eye ball, we need to push our limits and comfort zone. There is a famous saying in Japan,

*"If others can do it, you can do it too
If others can't do it, you must do it! "*

We can keep raving about anecdotes and adventures about successful persons without ever stopping. But that won't do for only a few might take that seriously while for many it might not mean a thing but a mere pastime listening to them painfully.





Likewise, criticizing others is easy. The so-called successful people don't even take 'easy' as a comfortable option in their pursuit. The word impossible cease to exist in their dictionary they keep toiling hard and pluck the fruit of success. When they do the lousy others attribute that to 'luck'. What an easy claim? Are they all lucky? Of course, they are. They made their own luck. If you ask me; it's Hard work and Persistence.

“Hard work can beat talent if talent doesn't work hard”

Yes, it's true. Everyone has talents. But we can't stand alone with talent. We can see lot of examples in our common life that the people with colossal talent end up as mammoth failure. “So what am I supposed to do? Work hard? Ok, but how?” I asked my dad. He said, “Figure it out yourself!” We have to. We have enough time for that. It's never too late. Everything has to be started somewhere.

" Don't think about the start of the race, think about the ending. "

- Usain Bolt

You need to have a dream; A vision. Sketch it out. Sink your teeth into it. Even a battered beggar can dream of a Gucci life. Prepare to face the nightmares to reach your passion. Hard work and persistence always pay off. Never become satisfied with what you found. Just strive further. Who knows? Maybe someday even the word 'Impossible' would become antiquity.


SHYAM SUNDAR.M

III BE CIVIL

17bce042@mcet.in




DARKNESS



Fear, the one thing which decides the behavior and characteristics of everyone around us, is also the thing that is fed to us by our parents, more than love and food. This fear takes its initial form as the fear of the unknown, which makes us do things, things that would, at the ordinary level of mind, rather seem impossible. There are reports in which a mother was able to lift the rudder of a car, at the sight of seeing her child at the rear of it. This fear caused a paramount adrenaline surge within her enabling her to do that aforementioned impossible feat.

At the same time, we should also realize that we are living in the greatest of times - the age of information. This is the frontier of the world, now in which we live in. In the past, there have been many wars viz. civil war, weapon war, bio war and now... cyber war. In this war, the enemy is not visible to the eye of the unaware human being. This war will have its impact on a more global scale than a regional one. Here, if someone who knows how to use data well, is subjected to a lot of data, then the same data becomes a weapon for that person, he can increase the monetary value of a drunkard if he wants to do and decrease the said value of an important figure if wanted to, all of this happens based on the person's whim.






Not that our government is not trying to counter such malpractices, in this case , the white hats were employed by the government, who are ethical hackers, they are meant to spot the errors in the government owned facilities, but the black hats find a way to crack the system again. This is usually considered to be a small scale attack. If the target of the said hacker is to be on an entire populace, then the impact will be more global. Economy will falter, civil unrest will arise and people will start demanding justice, which is the most troublesome of all.



It has been 70 years since the Indian peninsula has been freed from the clutches of the British hegemony and breathe the air of Independence and still such socio –political discrepancies abound. Hiroshima and Nagasaki which were the capitals of Japan at that time, were struck by major blow in the World War II. But they have climbed the ladder through sheer will power and as such these things tend to rise the question in ones mind. Why we are still stuck in this same position? Why are we not as developed as they are? There were many things like digital India, India 2020, and all that, however we must ask for ourselves, are we ready for them? If we already face problems of this magnitude in the **“non-digital India”**, what guarantee is there that the so called black hats would not try to wreak havoc if we give the key to our homes unbeknownst/unknown to us? These things can either be considered seriously or simply as **“FOOD FOR THOUGHT”**.



The value of Indian money, during the rule of British, was 10 times less than what it is today. But most of us do not know why the monetary value of India is at such a rapidly declining rate. These are things that are to be termed as **darkness**, we remain blind-folded by our superiors, who use the same tactics or gimmicks to exploit us, but the productions that are made in India should have placed us in the top leagues. But it is not too hard to notice that in our society there are no major reformations, **the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.**

All said and done, things will be blamed upon the ones who are consumed by dark thoughts. It is also because of the ones who live in the light. They do not possess the courage required to stand against such darkness. Many misunderstand the concept of darkness. **“The truest darkness is not the absence of light, but it is the conviction that the light will never return”.** But the light always returns, to show us things that are familiar, friends and family. If one takes into account about the well-being of those that one loves, only then can there be a change in the society.



NITHIN BALAAJI R

II CSE- B

nithin1030@gmail.com



TATOOS – HISTORY AND MYSTERY


“My body is my journal, and my tattoos are my story.” - Johnny Depp

Tattoos originated in the European countries especially among the tribal communities. In ancient days, it was a popular practice or custom to express or to communicate some messages in the form of symbols, images, texts, quotes, so on and so forth. Now-a- days people are crazy of engraving traditional and cultural tattoos on their bodies. Even common people are fascinated towards the tattoos and tattooing of imaginary characters, famous personalities, flowers, birds, insects, mammals on their bodies.



Why these kinds of tattoos are very special? And what made them engrave tattoos on their bodies?

During one of my leisure hours in our cafeteria, I was pleasantly taken aback by a good-looking and well-dressed and charming guy who got his left hand forearm tattooed with a 'Phoenix'-a mythological bird said to resurrect itself from ashes as a sign of rebirth. I was too enthusiastic to know the reason behind the tattoo, henceforth I approached the guy and enquired about the tattoo and its symbolization. He was fascinated by my enquiry and replied enthusiastically that 'Phoenix' meant to be a symbol of strength and revival.



The engraved tattoo symbolised the upliftment of his career. Similarly, I have seen a 'Queen's crown' image tattooed on left hand snuffbox (in-between the wrist and thumb finger). I enquired about the tattoo and he gently quipped that he wished to be a positive-minded person and that the queen's crown tattoo symbolised optimism in his life. From the experiences and encounters, I understood that tattoo symbolises positivity, generates vigour and zest for life amongst the youth of this day. When we look back to the late 20th and early 21st centuries, tattoos stood as a symbol for ethnic community, cultural identity and their societal status.

Here is the answer for the first question, people believed that tattoos are a form of artistic self-expression in a group. As time passed by it has become a trend. In recent days youngsters wish to opt for visible body tattooing eventually as a form of self-expression and attention-gravitation.

The reason to engrave tattoos in weird places range from simple desire to seek attention to psychedelic exhibitionism. The drawing or the symbols are the profound form of expression of their ideology in an artistic form. However, spending exorbitant amount of money and invaluable time in the pretext of self-expression is only ludicrous and brand them mere dandies.

It is also evident from recent researches on mind-body therapy carried out on scores of individuals from different communities and cultures that the difference between tattooed and non-tattooed individuals is interestingly shocking. The tattooed people are found to be extrovert, brave, relaxed and confident while non-tattooed individuals are found to be introvert and socially bad mixtures. So it is certain that the practice of tattooing (body-colouring) which was once meant to be an expression of ethnicity and cultural identity is only safeguarded and carried forward by the youngsters who still keep falling in love with weird forms of tattooing perse.

Dr. L . SARANRAJ

AP/English (S&H)

saranraj@drmcet.ac.in





WATER-THE ELIXIR OF LIFE

“Water, water everywhere ...Not a drop to drink....”



These are the pathetic lamentation of the ship wrecked Ancient mariner stranded in the arctic sea with parched lips, hungry stomach on the verge of disillusion and death praying for the saving grace of a drop of rain from heaven ...such daunting days as the above depicted are not very far turning in to terror-striking reality as the zero water towns are alarmingly on the rise these days. No wonder if the world could witness the zero water day and the natural extinction of its inhabitants soon.

Of the many geo- political issues the world in general and India in particular faces, is the Depletion of water. In fact, this is the most pressing problem that caused a tremendous ripple effect among the general public. This specific issue namely water scarcity/crisis that calls for an immediate attention and reform is so very aggravating that it might even dethrone or topple any Government if not redressed at the earliest. Water is the very essential need for human species and every living organisms on this planet earth. As such the conservation and the utilitarian management of this rare commodity needs to be educated among the masses. We must be mindful of the fact that only 2.5% of the water resources available on this planet is 'potable'. Hence this rare gift of this nature must not be wasted due to human negligence and reckless usage. Let's critically look at the issue and analyse the viable ways and means to manage water crisis

and preserve the natural reservoirs preserve the water resources such as rivers, ponds, dams for posterity. One of the predominant causes for water crisis is attributed to deforestation while the other is to the popular misconception of water scarcity due to the rampant growth of *prosopis juliflora* in the uncultivated form lands.

In order for the better management of water resources, we may adopt many pragmatic methods to overcome water scarcity. One of them is opting for recycling of household waste water. In the area of household waste water management, recycling of the same can very well be done in the household itself. Likewise the installation of mini water treatment plant with pebbles is also a clever idea for better water management. To illustrate its functionality the household waste water from kitchen, bathrooms could be directed to sump tank which acts as a natural filter with the already set flooring with pebbles and chlorine. It acts as a natural filter. The household waste water thus collected and filtered with pebbles and chlorine is now channelized through different porous plates of different size to filter the contaminants. Thus the purified water can be used for gardening, cooling system etc.






Instead of using fresh waters in air coolers, we may make use of recycled household waste water. This mechanism not only optimises the use of the household waste water but also adds some aesthetic value to the ergonomics of our homes. This technique has its own merits of reducing air pollution, global warming and leakage of toxic gases as well. The main profit behind this installation is minimizing the expenditure on air conditioning system and aids in making useful investments and installation.

Another efficient way of waste water management is the construction of sewage water treatment plant in as many areas as possible. The sewage water has to be directed to these plants where it gets purified by using sand filters. The reason for using sand in these plants is that raw sand acts as the natural distiller cum purifier. It has capacity to remove homogeneous contaminants in water. Naturally river beds are filled with sand. Hence the preservation of river sand ensures the quality and quantity of ground water in the region.





The main advantage of this method is, it is cost-efficient and eco-friendly. This water may be used for irrigation, car service centres, and commercial centres and even utilised for drinking after removing micro-organisms by boiling. Instead of heavily investing in multi-storey shopping malls and apartments, we could make some wise investments in this domain for the sake of the generation next. The government should encourage these kind of projects by providing subsidies and other concessions.

Another simple way of water conservation and management is afforestation. Instead of deforestation, the alternative of uprooting the tree or shifting the ground along with its roots to another place where it can be replanted using modern tools is vastly gaining momentum. Trees thus replanted could be maintained as eco-parks for preservation of some endangered species of plants from extinction. Of late, the well-being of the ecosystem seems to have been threatened by governmental schemes such as hydrocarbon projects, appropriation of farmlands for construction of road ways and establishment of nuclear power plants etc. such drastic attempts would only add salt to the already bleeding injury in an attempt on conserve natural resources. Alternative ways and means such as constructions of reservoirs, dams, dredging of ponds and rivers, prevention of the encroachment of river beds for the conversion of plots above all sparing use of water at homes and workplaces have to be collectively implemented to so as to conserve the dwindling natural commodity like water.

Such little futuristic alternative solutions would certainly help preserve and sustain the ecosystem metabolism. As citizens, it's our individual responsibility to encourage water conservation campaigns to ensure that the posterity does not die a natural death without this life-line water which is the elixir of life.

“Stich in time saves nine”.

ABIRAMI.M

III EEE B

abiramimuthuvel28@gmail.com





CHIEF EDITOR



Mr. K. Arul Kumaresan

CIBIE - Coordinator

akr@mcet.in

EDITORS



Dr. S. Renukadevi

AP/Engilsh

renukadevi@drmcet.ac.in



Mr. M. Rameshkumar

AP/Engilsh

kewinramez@drmcet.ac.in

DESIGNER



Mr. M. Muruganantham

Career Planning & Guidance

muruganantham@drmcet.ac.in