

Analysis of Issues and Challenges in Developing Secondary School Students' Skills in English Language

Dr. Muhammad Yousuf Sharjeel, Erum Khan, Abdul Nasir Kiazai and

Dr. Zarina Waheed

Abstract

Several Pakistani secondary school students from various popular institutes undergo a variety of problems and difficulties due to their inability to demonstrate a genuine and natural skill to use English language in real life. The situation under which English at the secondary level is taught in Pakistan is not as favorable to teaching and learning of the language as it ought to be. The main reason is lack of trained teachers and effective and precise objectives of English curriculum. The majority of teachers teaching English language at schools depend upon outmoded instructional modus operandi. This paper serves as a measure to identify the current gaps in teaching of English at secondary school. It mainly compares the performance of students in four English skills (reading, writing, speaking, and listening) taught by traditional and skill-based English teaching methods. The findings reveal that there is no concept of skills-based language teaching among secondary school students and the subsequent testing of the expected skills across all secondary schools in Pakistan. This results in the lack of professional requirement for natural use of English amongst secondary school students.

Key Terms: Skill-based language teaching; English as a second language; traditional language teaching styles; Students' skills