

Analyzing English Linguistics via Dialectical Examination

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Abstract

The research paper "The Dialectics of English Linguistics" examines English language usage in approximately 21 engineering colleges within the Coastal Andhra region. It aims to uncover complexities in using English as a secondary language, identifying unnecessary usage while promoting effective communication. The study explores evolving language nuances, particularly in vocabulary and grammar, often stemming from unclear syntax and semantics. Challenges like heterophones (similar sounding words with different meanings) causing confusion among learners are highlighted. The article addresses confusion arising from various English forms (American, Australian, British, Indian) in terms of pronunciation, spelling, and semantics. It discusses the impact of mass media on word pronunciation and bilingual errors resulting from native language influence, found across all Indian states. Common language errors, such as double positives and incorrect word associations, are explored, emphasizing their significant influence.

Introduction

Poor grammar can have severe consequences, leading to negative outcomes. Incorrect usage or interpretation can discourage English learning and irritate listeners. Instances like "Thrible-E" for Triple-E (EEE) or "THRIBLE-bed" for THREE-BED Room exemplify this issue [1].

The inability to effectively combine words and phrases results in the use of "gap fillers." However, by recognizing and appropriately applying these language intricacies, one can communicate in flawless and natural English, producing a sense of amusement [2].

As defined in the 'Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy,' dialectics (derived from the Greek term "dialektikē," meaning the art of conversation or debate) is the logical framework that binds a continuous argument or exposition together. Essentially, dialectics serves as the process of reasoning to attain truth and knowledge on any subject, often involving conversation and discussion. It operates as a method of argumentation or presentation [3].

Dialectics represents the skill of formal reasoning, particularly the approach of pursuing truth through discourse or debate.

Shifts in meaning primarily manifest within two communication components: vocabulary and grammar. These shifts result from a lack of clear comprehension of syntax and semantics [4].

Mass exposure leads to the incorrect pronunciation of words by the general public and mass media, which in turn misguides a large number of individuals. For instance:

1. 'Hello! Wooyers' instead of 'Hello! Viewers'
2. 'Back to back' photocopying instead of 'front and back'
3. 'Koombing' rather than 'combing,' observed across numerous TV channels
4. 'Baeverse' fellow as a substitute for 'Be worse'

5. 'Black' teaching used instead of 'block' teaching (among B. Ed students)

6. 'Bad rule note book' misused for 'broad rule' and similar instances.

Bilingual errors caused by the undue influence of one's native language, resulting in the incorporation of Telugu into English, is a well-established example of widespread impact across all Indian states. An illustration of this is the term 'plastic-glassu.'

Confusion involving Homonyms:

1. Defer (verb) = delay (Payment is deferred).

1. Defer (verb) = yield to someone to express opinions as a sign of respect (I defer to the experts).

Misunderstandings concerning words, especially heterophones.

For instance, the term "object" can be pronounced in two distinct manners, resulting in evident shifts in meanings. When pronounced as /' /, it refers to a tangible entity, while pronounced as /' /, it signifies a form of protest. Numerous similar words exhibit such variations.

converse	express	resume
conduct	minute	wind
contract	premises	wound
content	present	
customs	quarters	

Overuse of Idioms: The expression "ups and downs" holds a distinct meaning from "up and downs." A notable majority of engineering faculty professionals, around 95%, struggle to differentiate between the two.

Silent Letters in Alphabets: Not to be vocalized, but rather enunciated. For instance,

Debris // signifies scattered fragments,

Debut // indicates the first public performance appearance.

Rapport / raepc: / implies a positive relationship with someone.

1. Littil for Li'l;
2. /**dia**/ for deer,
3. Lajy for lazy;
4. Yerly for early;
5. Sensi-bully for sensibly;
6. Caeli-flower for cauliflower

Sentences as,

“You came aaa?”

“She finishedaaaaa?”

It appears that you're discussing the psychological attachment of stigma related to the fear of differing social statuses. In this context, when individuals of higher status express their opinions, others might hesitate to contradict them even if they recognize their error.

In a specific scenario, a Senior Research Guide in Computer Science at a prestigious university questioned the value of conducting research in English and made a verbal mistake by saying "PA-TRON" instead of "PATTERN." The response given seems to imply that research is necessary for individuals belonging to a certain category, which could be interpreted as stigmatizing or condescending. The mention of "The unkindest cut of all" from William Shakespeare's work suggests that the situation resembles a hurtful betrayal. There are instances of confused figures of speech. For example, someone might say "I can't lie at the office," potentially meaning they can't recline or rest comfortably. Furthermore, incorrect usage or interpretation is illustrated by the phrase: "A number of teachers ranging from Lecturers to professors at Engineering colleges use 'Thrible – E' for 'Triple E' (EEE)," which should correctly be "Triple E."

The psychological attachment of stigma revolves around the fear of status differences, leading people to avoid challenging higher-status individuals, even if they recognize their mistakes. In a case involving a Senior Research Guide in Computer Science at a renowned university, they questioned the value of researching in English and misspoke by saying "PA-TRON" instead of "PATTERN." The response given implies that research is vital for a specific group, potentially carrying a stigmatizing tone. The reference to "The most unkindest cut of all" by Shakespeare suggests a parallel to hurtful betrayal. Examples of confused figures of speech include saying "I can't lie at the office" to mean reclining. Incorrect usage is demonstrated by educators at Engineering colleges saying "Thrible – E" instead of "Triple E" (EEE).

1. A said to B: I bought a "THRIBLE- BED" Room house".
How many rooms are there in that house?
2. If so, how many rooms are there in a 'THREE- BED' Room apartment?

Inability to collocate words and phrases creates confusion: 'Under-standing people are suffering'

Gap Fillers - due to non-availability of suitable vocabulary

1. Yesterday I took.... aaa
2. I'm talking about.. I'mn (I mean) this thing

Inadequate grammar can result in dire consequences. Incorrect usage or comprehension can discourage the learning of English and irritate those listening. Misunderstandings stemming from possible misinterpretations can lead to conflicts.

For instance, an English Assistant Professor once said, "I'm unavailable, I'm having periods," intending to convey busyness with class-related duties.

Consider the question, "How many of you in the hall are gay?" where 'gay' could signify a homosexual individual or convey happiness.

Furthermore, a manager instructed their office secretary to "Open your drawer and search for the missing money," resulting in an immediate slap from the secretary. The question arises: Who bears the responsibility in this situation?

[A drawer might refer to a. furniture; b. a person who draws images; or c. a person who prepares a bill of exchange. Cash drawer; undergarment, knickers.]

Interpretations that are unclear / perspectives that are lacking:

Consider the following statement: "Thank you for assisting me," X remarked to Y. What does this imply?

What exactly does it mean? Choose an answer from the options provided below:

1. X received assistance
2. X has not yet received assistance.
3. It's possible Either an or b is correct.
4. Either an or b might be correct.

Unfamiliarity with phrasal verbs: The usage of phrasal verbs is increasing as the world becomes more globalised. They cause difficulty for many speakers since they also function as idioms.

A Case Study: A Double Blessing One of the foreign speakers

My hostel buddy happened to be an English teacher. After graduating from a local medium school, he declared one day, "You fellows 'We the understanding people are suffering' (people standing on the ground floor) and 'You the upper sitting people are enjoying (on the terrace), escaping the assigned duty."

However, when others teased him about his terrible English, he took it as a challenge and enrolled in English at the university level; today, he has a Ph. D in English and works as a professor in Kerala. Sometimes such a circumstance becomes a blessing in disguise.

Conclusion

Non-native English learners face three major challenges: Aside from vocabulary, grammar, and language abilities, teachers must be aware of the most recent evolving dialectics and trends before beginning to teach English.

Language may be enhanced further by imitating the right language and practising regularly. Many academics and comedians can accurately imitate the speeches of actors, politicians, and even native speakers. There is no reason why we cannot speak a foreign language fluently and naturally.

References

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