

IMPROVING PRONUNCIATION THROUGH ENGLISH NEWS AT SECONDARY LEVEL IN DISTRICT KHANEWAL, PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

Improving pronunciation of English language is a major problem in district Khanewal as it becomes necessary for the students to learn the pronunciation. It is basic step to grow in society as English is an international language. English pronunciation can be better by listening the English news channel daily as listening effect the spoken skill greatly. This report can help people to do the listening and improve their skills without struggling so hard . Experiment on twenty students separate in two groups is also done. The group with task to listen the news improves with good speaking skills as compare to non listening group.

Keywords News channel, Listening, English language, pronunciation, Communication

Introduction

English is one of the major subjects that is taught in district Khanewal. Learning pronunciation is the major problems many students are facing. Learning pronunciation can lead to easiness in many things as it is an international language while bad pronunciation leads to many difficulties. It is necessary to learn pronunciation as if one is out of his country he can communicate easily. (Azizan & Mun, 2011b) has also done a survey on school leavers in Malaysia in which they found out that they face great difficulty in expressing their ideas in interview due to lack of pronunciation. (Wei, 2006; Derwing, 2003) says that for a language Pronunciation is must as pronunciation is a thing that will shape the language.

Lack of communication is the great problem as it makes one not able to communicate. The secondary level is the stage where a student learns to communicate properly for the later life. But in district Khanewal the students are not aware how to communicate. It makes them unable to read. If a student is unable to read then he can not communicate with the society as learning pronunciation of international language is essential. Knowing the pronunciation can also help in understanding the foreign people. (Saran, Seferoglu & Cagiltay, 2009). Says that there is no doubt that for the better communication it is necessary to know better pronunciation because better pronunciation is essential for better communication.

There are not many skilful teachers in district Khanewal. The lack of skilful teachers can cause a major problem as students would not be able to learn how to pronounce. If one student listens to his teacher pronounce the word properly then he will also learn the pronunciation as listening has great effect. Skilful teachers are in need to learn better English pronunciation. (Rodgers, 2001) says that apart from newly discovered method for the learning of better Pronunciation a different method is also discovered which is face to face community.

The students who are not aware to pronounce lose their confidence because of this with the passage of time. As the student will pronounce the word wrongly and will have to ask others about the pronunciation of a word gradually he will not believe on himself that he can pronounce a word correctly. The lack of confidence can make him lose interest in English which can effect studies greatly as all the course in district Khanewal is in English language. (Baxter, 1954) says that in today's society the person who knows how to pronounce better are at the top because to live in this cruel society one must learn to pronounce better. If a person is on another country and is in need of communication he cannot even make other understand him if he cannot even pronounce a word properly.

Statement of the Problem

Not knowing how to pronounce can cause lack of communicate causing major problem as it is an international language binding all the knowledge of world and source of communication.

Research Questions

- How can pronunciation improve at secondary level in district Khanewal?
- How can news channels improve pronunciation?

Significance of the Research

This research can prove very beneficial as it will guide students to watch more English newspaper for the improvement of their pronunciation. By working on this research methods students can learn better pronunciation. By having a specific platform to learn English language it can urge students to also work hard and lazy students can also do it easily as it is only listening to a person. Only listening can prove a great difference in one's pronunciation skill. The fulfil the emptiness of skilful teachers students can hear the English words anchors are pronouncing. As the natives know how to pronounce the word better than the people of other countries. And listening has a great effect as it is primary method of learning a language. This research will benefit the students to grow at many areas as this language is an international language spoken in all countries for the communication purpose. This will also help the students boost their confidence as they would know how to speak the word properly. Many other scientists have also worked on this as this method has proven very beneficial for the secondary level students as their minds are not fully developed and they pick the things quickly. (Gilakjani & Mohammad Reza, 2011) says that knowing better pronunciation can be the way of communicating in excellent way as it helps to understand other and speak ourselves. This research is all about creating awareness about the need of learning good pronunciation. So schools or institutes should create space in their schedule especially for the purpose of learning pronunciation. Students could also learn it from watching English news channel at home. The awareness and importance of the pronunciation is being showed here as it's need is present in today's modern world with world wide communication. Especially in English language as it is an international language and source of communication. The person who wants to go to other countries for better opportunities he must be fluent in English language as it is international language and it is quite clear that how necessary an international language can be.

Literature Review

Fraser (2000) says that the students who learn English as second language after graduating from school are more likely to face the problems in learning the English language. Because our mind works or store the information rapidly at the younger age so it became necessary to teach the students as they grow by listening they can easily learn the language as listening can be done any time. (Gilakjani & Mohammad Reza, 2011) the person who is not aware how to pronounce properly during school years are less able to learn it better.

Thornbury (2006, P, 185) says that if the pronunciation of a person is not good then it can cause great effect and the listener will not be able to understand which can cause misunderstanding. So it became necessary to learn better pronunciation as English is an international language which is the source of communication in all the world. If a person cannot pronounce properly he cannot make the others understand what he is saying which can lead to miscommunication.

Couper (2006) says in his study that after going to New Zealand he noticed that the students who travel to other countries learn the difference in their pronunciation and by studying the pronunciation they learn to pronounce better. It is clear heard that by listening to English news channels pronunciation can get better and better eventually. After listening to the other students the students of other countries learn that their pronunciation is not the right one they listen to the other students and learn about how they pronounce the words.

Sliveiras (2002) in his experiment he has shown that the explicit pronunciation is the best method of learning the better pronunciation for the beginner English learner students of Brazil

Setter and Jenkins' (2005) says that learning pronunciation can prove very effective for the purpose of communication which is exceptional and productive. It is also clear here that by learning better pronunciation better

communication can be done. Learning pronunciation is productive as it can help the students to understand the others and make them understand them.

Li (2003) states that pronunciation is a difficult skill which is not easy to learn as a result many students face a lot of difficulty to pronounce the words correctly. It also causes lack of confidence as students become unable to communicate with teachers and friends. Videos to show the students to improve their pronunciation are not available so that pronunciation can get better. Having some foreign friends can also help in getting better pronunciation.

Pourhosain (2012) says that the bad speaking skills can affect the learning process of English as it cause lack of confidence that result in not knowing how to communicate properly. Wrong pronunciation can make one self conscious as he can not make the other understand him. Which can lead to great miscommunication.

Bashiruddin (2003) has done an experiment in his research at secondary level in Karachi district Pakistan . There are two schools side by side one is Urdu Medium and other is English medium but the teachers on both schools teach the students in the Urdu language so as a result the speaking skill of students is not so good of both schools. Which is basic need . It is most common problem of Pakistan that teachers that they are not aware how to really pronounce the words correctly for the students or lectures are not given in English language.

Ministry of education says 006. P,9) said that English is essential language as it is international language and is the source of communication in all around the world with great information and communication technology. By learning this language students will progress in many areas also will develop confidence

Osborn (2008) says that the teacher student communication through English speaking is very beneficial for both and will prove beneficial during ceremonies , job interviews and can also result of high rank job due to good speaking.

Wong (1987) pointed out that even if the grammar and vocabulary of a non native speaker is high class but without proper pronunciation he falls behind certain threshold level.

Wong 1993) said that when we compare the connection between pronunciation and listening the importance can be seen clearly.

Research Methodology

Lack of speaking skill is a great problem and solving it is great priority. A very specific method for the improvement of speaking skills has been chosen by doing experimental researches. The group of twenty students is chosen and a pre test is taken to know the current position of the students in speaking skills. The results shows that many of the students are not able to pronounce the words properly or communicate properly with English speakers . After the test is taken the students are divided into two different groups of ten students each . Then one group's name is control group and other is experimental group. The students of control group are taught normally like all other students in district Khanewal while the students of experimental groups are taught differently by making them listen to the English news channels an hour a day . After thirty days the test from both groups is taken and it became clear in the result that the method of listening to English news channels daily is effective as the students of experimental group has shown better results the students of control group . (Saran, Seferoglu & Cagiltay, 2009) said that class activities are sufficient for learning pronunciation as separate time and classes are in need for the students to learn better pronunciation. The students of the district Khanewal usually mix their mother language Pronunciation with the words of English that effect greatly to their speaking skills. It is also a big problem for the students that they face while learning English pronunciation

This research helps in realising these mistakes Mispronunciation. Pronouncing vowels. Pronouncing silent letters, Mispronunciation of consonant

Mistakes	Example
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Mispronunciation	The word athlete is pronounced wrong as it has two syllabus but it is pronounced with three by no speakers like ath-a-lete
Pronouncing vowels	The word photosynthesis is pronounced foh-tuh-sin-thuh-sis
Pronouncing consonants	Cappuccino is pronounced as ka-puh-chee-now
Pronouncing silent words	In the word knife the k is silent it is not to b pronounced with the sound k
Transcription beyond words : rhythm and words	While speaking it is necessary to speak like natives for example the line 'what are you going to do about it' is to say it like 'wach ya gona do about it'

Theoretical Framework

Ahmad Zamzuri Mohamad Ali1 & Kogilathah Segaran1 in 2003: wrote the report that non native speaker face the same problems. In their research they said that the 3D visual speakers can improve the pronunciation by listening to them. It proves that if English pronunciation can be a language which a person can learn easily just by listening to English news channels.

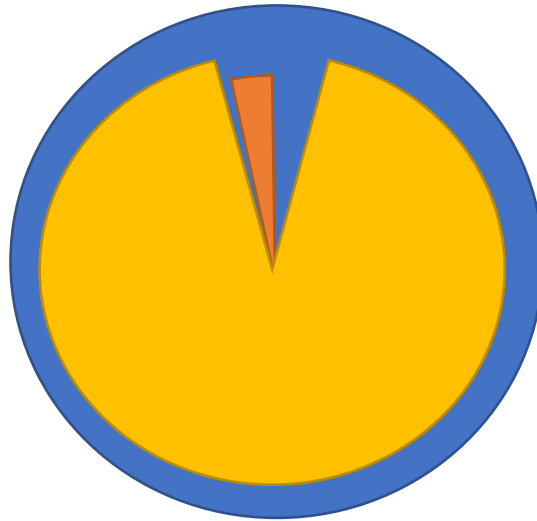
In their research they focus on animation that by seeing the animation in English language the listener can learn better English pronounce. That is the work due to which this report came to written form . In their work they talk about animation as the students of secondary level needs to learn more precise pronunciation so in this report the learning of pronunciation is mostly focus on listening to English news channels. By listening to English news channels a person can learn better pronunciation easily only by listening for only one to two hours. Mayer (2001) said that students usually learn more rapidly with the help of verbal text rather than the written text .

Data Collection

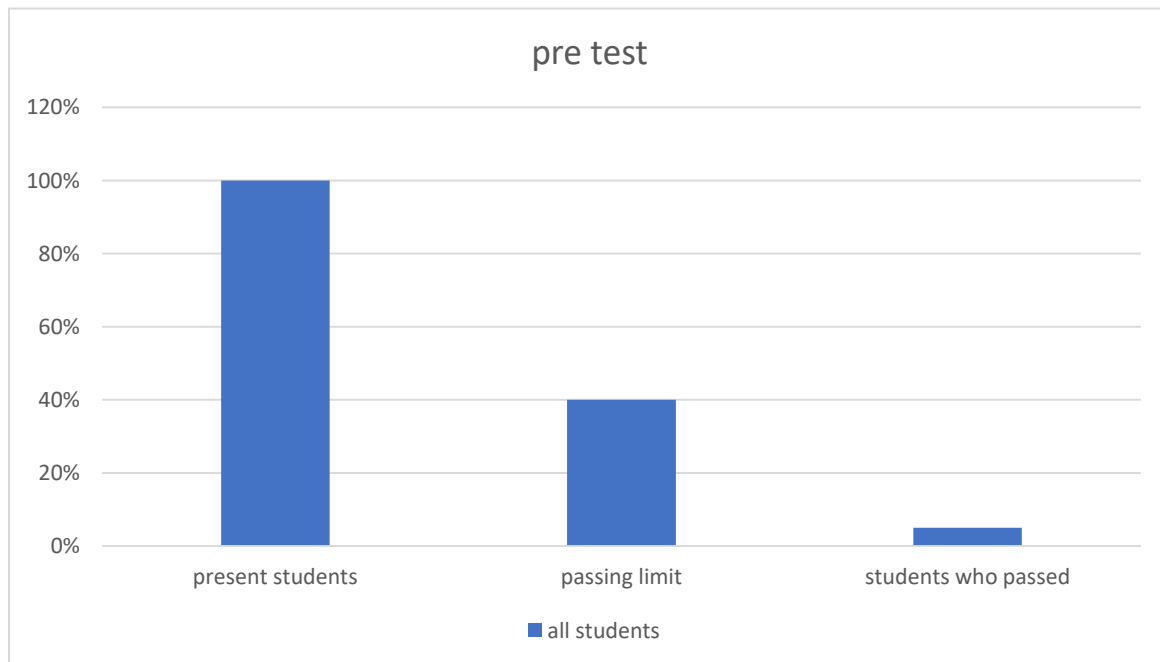
Twenty students at secondary level in district Khanewal are chosen for the report research. Before starting the experiment a pre-test is taken of all the twenty students to know the initial stage of their speaking skills for the analysis of difference between their speaking skills before and after the experiment. In experiment it is shown that the most of the students are not aware how to pronounce properly and are shy to talk in English language. Most of them are not aware how to pronounce the words and only one's ability to pronounce was up to only forty percent. A test is made for secondary level student and they are to take the test . The passing limit for the test is up to fourth percent even though only one student could barely pass the test . This shows the ability of the students to pronounce the words properly even though they know the word. seventeen of them fails the test and all of them found the test quite difficult for them. They all were willing to make their pronunciation better as they knew how important it is. The poor condition of students in pronunciation was obvious . This shows that the teaching methods of teachers is not good in district Khanewal .it became necessary to interface some method of making their speaking skills better to boost their confidence and abilities.

	Pre test
Total students	20
Present students	20
Absent students	0
Passing limit	40%
Students who pass	1
Students who fail	19

Students who taught test is easy	0%



- Blue total students 20
- Orange The students who pass 1
- Yellow the students who fail 19



According to this graph the percentage of present students is 100% and the percentage of students who pass is 5% and the passing limit is 40% for the students. So it is clear that the students are not aware how to pronounce properly beforehand. The percentage of the students who pass the test is very low even the passing limit was set on 40%. The students are not aware how to pronounce the words properly which is clear in the test.

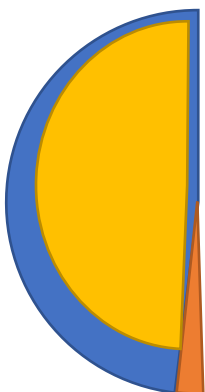
Data Analysis

After pre test another test is taken. In the pre test the students did not show any progress now then the twenty students are divided into two groups of ten students. One group's name is experimental group. Experimental group is learning pronunciation by listening to news channels daily for two hours. They are learning pronunciation through the listening. While the other group's name is control group. The students of control group are learning pronunciation by normal means as they were doing before in regular classes. This experiment is done for two months straight. After teaching the students of two groups differently by different method the final test is taken to learn about the progress of their pronunciation skills. After the test is taken the difference between students of experimental group and control group becomes clear. The students of experimental group who learn to pronounce by listening to news channels did very well as compared to their pre test they had taken. On the other hand the students of control group who did not learn by listening to news channels but by normal means could not do well. Their state is same as before. During the test three students could not take the test due to some issues, one from experimental group and two from control group. Two of them were absent because they could not reach in time of test while the other one got sick. The passing percentage of the control group is 10% because their method of learning was not appropriate as it was for experimental group. On the other hand the passing percentage of the experimental group is 90% which is because one student got absent due to illness otherwise the percentage could have gone up to 100%.

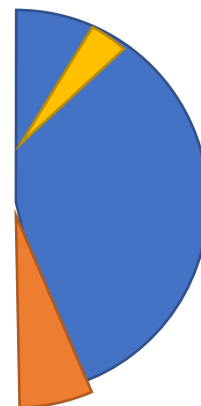
	Final test Experimental group	Final test Control group
Total students	10	10
Present students	9	8
Absent students	1	2
Passing limit	40%	40%
Students who pass	9	1
Students who fail	1	9
Passing percentage	90%	10%
Students who thought test is easy	100%	0%

experimental group.

Control group.



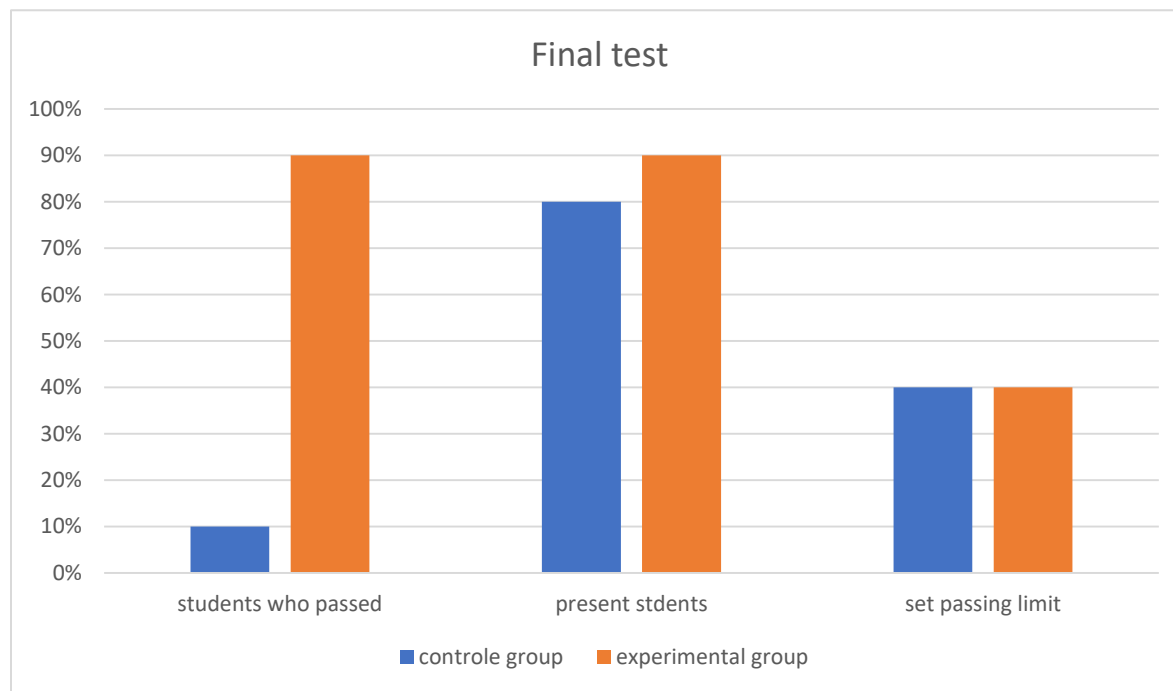
- Blue present students.
- Orange absent students.
- Yellow students who pass.



- Blue present students
- Orange absent students
- Yellow students who pass

From the experiment group only nine students took the test and only one got absent and from all the students of experimental group the students pass as it is clear in the graph. While from control group only eight students took

the test and two got absent. From which only one pass. So it is quite clear that the students who learn through the experimental style improves quickly the students who learn through normal mean.



According to this graph the percentage of the students of control group is 10% while of the experimental group is 90% . The present students of control group's percentage is 80% while of the experimental group is 90% . The set passing limit is 40% for both the students of experimental group and control group. If we compare the students of control group with the students of experimental group then it becomes quite clear that listening to news channels can prove quite effective as it use best pronunciation and elegant words . As compare to pre test the students of experimental group progress greatly while the students of control group did not which is quite the prove of the success of the experiment

Findings

After the comparison of both pre test and final test it becomes clear that the method of listening to news channels is very effective in order to improve pronunciation skills in better way. It help the students to boost up their confidence as and it helps in many other ways like communication as it is international language . This method is essential for district Khanewal as it will prove valuable to the students to improve greatly because mostly students know the spelling and meaning of words but they are not aware how to pronounce properly. It will also take not much time .only one to two hours a day for listening to English news channels . Students will learn quickly without taking special classes for learning pronunciation skills. It will also save a lot of money for special classes . In every institute arrangements for the students should be made so that they can get enough time for the listening to improve their pronunciation skills . This method is not only cheap but quite effective as it can be seen clearly in the experiment results shown above. Only in two months students improve rapidly enough to pass the test without hesitation.

Conclusion

Lack of pronunciation skills is the major problem in district Khanewal. It is very necessary to learn better pronunciation as it is international language and necessary because all the modern knowledge is in English language . To learn more and to communicate better with the native speakers of English language awesome skills in

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