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ENGLISH LANGUAGE: THE EVOLVING PARADIGMS OF MEANS, IDENTITY AND SURVIVING SKILLS

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ABSTRACT

English language, which has become lingua franca in several multicultural parts of the world, works like a catalyst in building local and national, cosmopolitan and global affinities and affiliations at different levels with different objectives. English language, playing a magnetic role in conversation, trains for completeness of life in un/professional world. It helps to cater intended content to accomplish means and identity; and sometimes all of them simultaneously. Surviving employability skills are bestowed upon its practitioners axiomatically. English language carries wizardry of passion, means, identity and surviving skills outdoor world. It proves to be a boon for means, identity and surviving skills amongst multicultural people and nations.

Key words: English language, Means, Identity, Surviving skills, un/professional, Communication, Multicultural

“One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way.” Frank Smith

English language, the lingua franca, works like a catalyst in building local and national, cosmopolitan and global varieties of affinities and affiliations at separate levels with different objectives. English language, evolving all walks of life, generates a distinctive vitality for its multicultural users. The practitioners of English language, due to multicultural developing globalization, find it as their fittest and vital medium for their interpersonal-communication and various participations and presentations. It not only helps to run life smoothly but it also encourages them to establish identity in a multicultural society. Raja Rao expresses that, “English is not really an alien language to us. It is the language of our intellectual make-up. We are all instinctively bilingual, many of us writing in our own language and in English. We cannot write like the English. We should not. We can

not write only as Indians. We have grown to look at the large world as part of us. Our method of expression therefore has to be a dialect which will someday prove to be as distinctive and colourful as the Irish or the American. Time alone will justify it. The tempo of Indian life must be infused into our English expression, even as the tempo of American or Irish life has gone into the making of theirs.” (P vi)

In modern multicultural global scenario English language, which begets different opportunities, appears as a pivotal tool for its exponents. These exponents, be a businessman, entrepreneur, administrator, engineer, doctor, scientist, teacher, employer and many more can refine their journey of accomplishment.

English language bears its own magnetism and it axiomatically carries several influential factors in pragmatic domains. These pragmatic influential factors are: A) Professional drive, B) Personal prospect and C) Conversational prosperity. These three factors cultivate and increase the paradigm of

means, identity and surviving skills across the multicultural global scenario.

When one talks about 'means', one should be aware of to choose a language which seems to be monetary resource received easily through and through. One who is born needs clothes, home and bread; and for these three things a person appears to be playing countless roles till the nature's call. In this journey no quixotic plan or medium can be devised to find and earn one's livelihood very easily due to rapid growth of cut-throat competitions in the world. One should not forget, instead one should always remember that language is one of the main tools not only to provide cultural exchange but also to reflect one's attitude. Therefore, one, despite being expert in (regional) languages, should know a language that can build a centre-stage for its users in all walks of life from local to national and from national to cosmopolitan level- which can be easily accelerated with the help of a language of international importance. The selection of language is of paramount significance in one's life because it is one's language that reflects, propagates and accelerates not only one's knowledge but also one's multifaceted, accomplished, transferable skills required for desired role, post or job in the world. There are thousands of demonstrations that value the functional importance of English language beyond region, society and caste. It opens the door of means axiomatically and impartially for its practitioners. It also helps one to build one's strong undeniable showmanship as well as to enrich one's outcome during one's stint instantly and reasonably. As Rashmi Sadana points that "Knowing English fluently provides innumerable social and economic advantages, but—and this is key—it always exists alongside Hindi or other Indian languages...since English in Indian society is no longer a language of colonization, it must be viewed in the context of other Indian languages in order to grasp the profound effects of linguistic identity on modern Indian life. It is not enough to say that English is a language of privilege, which it is, among other things."(25)

Knowledge directs practice and practice increases knowledge; hence, one who follows knowledge and practice together, creates one's own

wizardry of achievements- that can evolve language learning, identity building, enhancing and harnessing surviving skills, etc., which have always been of great significance in un/professional and corporate worlds. A person is compared to a 'mobile-shop' which is locked with the key of tongue; and as soon as this 'mobile-shop' is unlocked with the key of tongue, it becomes crystal clear whether this shop belongs to coal or gold. So is the importance of language. Either it is un/professional, Corporate or Humanities but it is English language that stands for self-customization and self-representation in many fields of work. English language, almost evolving all the paradigms of life, creates an identity, develops oral proficiency with exceptional magnetism as a prerequisite to the number of opportunities in various industries in present multicultural world. Therefore, precursors of English language seem to enjoy its prerogative and privilege- which fulfil their means and idolize their identities in a complex, multicultural developing society.

The advent of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) revolutionized the learning ambience, communication process and many other fields in academics, industries and un/professional world. English language, due to its optimum, meritorious, facilitative role, it seems to be ubiquitous at every step of life; and life seems to be segmented worlds where language is viewed as a prime art for living; the possessor of the language happens to be an artist; and if one can work on, so called backward and maladroit collection of all types of brains, can acquire the centre-stage rather than occupying periphery in industry and workforce. Here, it is very true to realize the words of Randolph Quirk who said, "English is to be regarded as the most international of languages..." (21). Whoever passes through the nucleus- called English Language is furnished and nurtured due to its prerogative over other languages in practical life; and due to same reason it seems to transcend a person, his exposure, his self/presentation; and above all it renders him means for living smartly in the world.

India is a country of cultures and traditions and we can use English language to be in touch. But now it is not irrelevant to realize a drastic change in it; by the passage of time the linguistic map of the

country got a rapid reformation and has become flexible to use the language of international importance for different local and national objectives and destinations. It is very important and valid point which is meticulously realised and exemplified by Arvind Adiga's mouthpiece narrator, Balram, "Sir. Neither you nor I speak English, but there are some things that can be said only in English" in *The White Tiger*. This demonstrates the developing and evolving phase of a language because of its practical relevance, utility and convenience.

Language has its own culture and attributes. It exerts latent power over us like the moon over the tides. It is the life of culture and soul of civilization. Without life language has no life. It is a vibrant tool of love and meticulous weapon of hatred. Now a day each and all, certainly and profoundly, are affected by the language used in their practical lives. The language which renders multiple services across the globe without any hindrance will always occupy the pivotal importance for its functional plurality. In all the sectors, be it education, business, administration, corporate, governance, politics, sports, etc., English language plays an elemental role to fetch for its practitioners a resurgent identity, conducive inclination and developing surviving and employability skills.

Skills are not born; surviving skills are not borrowed; employability skills do not occur itself; they are part and parcel of practice and thoughtful efforts; they may be servant of practitioners; they flourish in the practitioners as leaves flourish on the trees. Training directs employability skills and practitioners develop cluster of surviving skills. Selection of language and language proficiency in communication revitalize surviving and employability skills as well as identity; and along with these the dynamism of individual weaves individual's durability and adroitness in performance and workforce. Today in remote and rural areas people who speak English are elevated to the status of God; and this belief propagates the realistic demand of English language, which expands the public credo towards the employability and prosperous survival because of its vast usage and pragmatic significance.

India is a multilingual and multicultural country; and in every multicultural country or society, for its sake of strength, there should be something common and similar that can bind and connect its inhabitants without any major variation and discrimination. Therefore, advocating the same in his famous novel, *Howards End*, the words of E. M. Forster remain highly reminiscent to this viewpoint, "They had nothing in common but the English language." English language can be understood as a global culture which serves 'means'; dignifies 'identity'; and nurtures 'surviving skills'.

English language has its extraordinary 'praxis' and 'prerogative' due to its widest and pragmatic utility. Due to its vast and tractable significance, it permeates all walks of life across the globe. It perpetuates its exponents to follow and revitalize professionalism unperturbedly and pertinaciously; and above all English language proves to be a boon for means, identity and surviving skills amongst multicultural people and nations.

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A Brief bio of Author

Dr. Mithlesh Kumar Chaudhari, (Ph.D. & N.E.T.), is working as an Assistant Professor in the Department of English, G.L.A. University, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, INDIA. He has several years of research and teaching experience. He is currently teaching the courses on communication skills and soft skills in the university, and has published several articles on Indian English drama and Third Gender. His area of interest comprises Indian English Literature and creative writing. He composed first volume of poems entitled *The Brainchild and Other Poems* that contains fifty four poems. Many of these poems have already been published in Peer Reviewed International journals.