

## SHORT STORIES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF EFFECTIVE ENGLISH COMMUNICATION SKILLS IN ENGINEERING GRADUATES FOR PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

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### ABSTRACT

*English Language Skills are requisite for engineering graduates to proliferate in their Personal and Professional life. It's been widely held that English in India is a Foreign Language, but the main idea is to communicate fluently in English for the progress of the pupil. However, most teachers focus on the linguistic element, but the current flow of English as Foreign Language demands the inclusion of literature because of its rich potential of learning and understanding the Language. Most of the Language teachers are confined to specific syllabus prescribed by the University which leaves no further scope for Learning English Language skills. In such conditions among literary genres, short stories can come to the aid of teachers and students to enrich the four skills, Listening, Writing, Speaking and Reading.*

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**Keywords:** *English Foreign Language, Short Stories, Engineering, Communication.*

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### Introduction

The introduction of English in India to the indigenous peoples of British Colonies which led to the survival of English in many independent state. English is considered a second language in India including other countries like China, Japan etc. and learning English Languages has been an arduous task for Indian Students. Mastering English Language is indispensable for the professional career of Indian students especially engineering graduates. Initially Grammar Translation Method, audio lingual method, translating literary text into native languages was the main learning activities. These teaching innovative methods and approaches were proposed to overcome the inadequacies of the previous introduced methods. Use of Literature in teaching English Languages has proved beneficial for English Foreign Language (EFL) students.

The use of literary works in ESL/EFL has gradually developed after 1980 and has attracted more teachers and students, and more studies are conducted. Hismanoglu (2005, p. 54) set down the use of literature in language classes in recent years as the following: "The use of literature as a way for teaching each basic language skills (i.e. reading, writing, listening and speaking) and language areas (i.e. vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation) is favored within the field of foreign language learning and teaching nowadays. However, in translation courses, teachers of language motivate their students for translation of literary text into their mother tongue.

Culture, authenticity and Personal growth are three interrelated elements which creates interest in teaching language through literary works. Literary text will be cardinal in accretion of language learning as they provide authentic text in processing new language learning and among all the genres. Short stories are universally accepted as a teaching material for its distinctive features which create interest in learning of Language.

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### Short Stories and its Relevance

Short stories are a great source for English Learners because they focus on all the four aspects of Language skills i.e. LSRW at the same time. They are the finest genre of literature which are filled with amplitude knowledge required for Language learners. Short stories are brief than Novel and usually deals with less characters. The short story is connected with single effect and has significant episodes and scenes and hence teaching language skills with short stories became more effective and easier.

Short-stories will help the Indian Engineering students in developing not only their English language skills but also their character as well. According Collie and Slater (1991, p. 196) there are four advantages of using short stories for language teachers. "Initially, short stories are handy as their length is sufficiently long to cover totally in a couple of class sessions. Second, short stories are not entangled for understudies to work with individually. Third, short stories have an assortment of decision for various interests and tastes. At long last, short stories can be utilized with all levels (fledgling to propel), all ages (youthful students to grown-ups) and all classes (morning, evening, or night classes)."

**Arigol (2001, referred to in Hismanoglu, 2005)** accepts that short stories can have the accompanying academic points of interest:

- Making the understudies' perusing task simpler in light of the fact that they are straightforward and short;
- Giving students a superior perspective on different societies;
- Requiring more consideration and investigation;
- Displaying an anecdotal and fascinating world;
- Helping understudies to be increasingly inventive and raising the basic reasoning abilities;
- Raising social mindfulness;
- Lessening understudy's uneasiness and helping them feel more unwind.
- Giving multicultural settings on account of its general language.

### Why Short Stories?

There are objections raised against use of Short Stories in Teaching English Language despite its benefits for students due to the overcrowded classroom settings, overloaded syllabus and limited time period. But given a look to the other genres, it's observed that deviated and figurative language of poetry takes ages for students to grasp the language, the length of novel makes it difficult for the short time provided for the semesters and drama/plays leads to chaos in overcrowded classrooms. Thinking about these complaints, clearly among artistic structures, short-story which is characterized by Poe (in Abrams, 1970: 158) "as an account that can be perused at one sitting of from one-half hour to two hours, and that is restricted to 'a specific exceptional or single impact,' to which everything about subordinate" is by all accounts the most reasonable one to use in showing English Language to building graduates.

The reason short stories are best for teaching English language is its shortness, when the text is short you get more time to focus on individual words and more time is devoted to learning and more importance to each word and its meaning. Short stories give you maximum understanding in minimum time span and less effort, a whole story can be read in one setting. A novel seems a never ending phenomena and boring when the story line is known and therefore a short story can be more consistent and easier to finish in a single lecture with time for more stories and more exploration. Short stories are the perfect solutions for sharing learning teaching duo in book clubs and learning circles because of its single setting reading pattern.

### Selection of Text

A perfect text plays a crucial role in students learning in English Language. The use of short story in English should encourage the students with their previous knowledge, with this the learning process will be students oriented, but the teacher plays a pivotal role. The teacher's selection of stories should be implemented with various activities aiming the acquisition of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. The Stories should be short which can be completed in the course hours provided to the teachers, the length of the story will give a confidence to the students that they are able to read, understand and finish something in English. Besides the length of the text, Hill (1994: 15) highlighted three basic criteria of selecting the text, the requirement and abilities of students, the linguistic and stylistic level of the selected text and the amount of background information required for a true appreciation of the material. Selected story should be interesting and have salient features like, humor, irony, suspense, realism, adventure, rich vocabulary etc. for the better gripping of students learning.

**Development of Language Skills**

- **Reading**

Short stories are helpful in the preliminaries to improve understudies' jargon and perusing.

- **Vocabulary**

While reading a short story students will stumble upon a lot of new words and hunt for its meaning. Vocabulary plays an important role in learning a new language to get the desired fluency and command over language. Learning new vocabulary through activities will make students absorb it easily.

- **Grammar**

Grooming English Communication skills will be achieved only through knowing basic grammar. Reading short stories will make students identify different parts of speech, tenses, subject-verb agreement, sentence structure, etc.

- **Writing**

Short stories can be a great source for developing students writing skills. When students are exposed to different short stories written by different writers they come across different writing styles which will occur a model when students start writing similar to the theme and style of the original work. Educators can make an assortment of composing exercises to assist understudies with developing their composing abilities. They can request that understudies compose exchanges or progressively complex composing exercises if understudies have arrived at a significant level of language capability.

- **Speaking and Listening**

Short story can likewise be a ground-breaking and propelling hotspot for showing both talking and tuning in. Oral perusing, performance, extemporization, pretending, reenactment, and talk are some powerful learning exercises which focus on a short story EFL classes can use for improving these two abilities. Requesting that understudies read story so anyone might hear can build up their talking just as listening abilities. In addition, it additionally prompts improving elocution.

**Conclusion**

In this cut throat competition to get a job, English communication skills is pivotal to both technical and non-technical graduates. Literature can fulfill a gap between the science and technology elements that are taught in the four year engineering Programme. It will certainly change the table for effective communication skills in Engineering of Short Story based language learning is introduced in the four year Programme. Student's interpretative, analytical, cognitive and creative ability will be enhanced setting a paved way for both professional as well as personal development.

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