

Unit-1

Speaking I: Dialects & Accents

Q. 1. What is dialect?

Answer –Regional variations of any language is known as dialect. Living languages go on changing constantly. As a result, a particular language varies in accents and pronunciation. Dialects refer to the features of pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar that change across regions. Such kinds of variations in a language are called dialects.

For example - Bhojpuri and Mythili are dialectical variations of Hindi language.

Q. 2. What are the two kinds of influences noticed in English language learning? Explain with example.

Answer- The two main influences are –mother tongue interference and quality of exposure.

Mother tongue or first language does have a direct influence on the learning process of English language. First language influences the pronunciation pattern of English language. As a result, it has been found that many Bengalis and Oriyas find it difficult to make distinction in the pronunciation of /s/ and /ʃ/ in such words as in 'sip' and 'ship'. Bengalis tend to pronounce both as 'ship' or even 'sheep'. They face a similar difficulty with /b/ and /v/. Therefore 'very' often sounds like 'beri'.

In some North Indian languages, consonant clusters – two or more consonants coming together- do not appear at the beginning of words as they do, for instance, in English (cream, sweet). Others will put an /I/ or /u/ before the cluster. So, 'school' becomes /isku:l/ or /usku:l/. In this way, mother tongue influences the learning of English language. Sometimes lack of quality teachers and proper phenomena of learning too influences English language learning process.

Passage- B (10/20 mark)

Q. Briefly discuss the influence of power class on the standardization process of English Language.

Answer- In our day to day life the language used by the rich and powerful class is prioritized. Even the society accepts the mode of language used by the rich class as 'standard' or 'correct language'. The process of standardization makes other varieties of language non-standard. The use of standard language is noticed in all sectors of power such as education, medicine, technology, administration, low and high status jobs. The process of standardization of languages can be understood through the explanation of the standardization process of English language. English originated in British 1500 years ago. South London was at the seat

of power then. As a result, the dialect of the educated South Londoner became the standard and later came to be known as Received Pronunciation. With their reach in education, broadcasting and the seat of Government, it spread to large parts of the world. But after the World War II, America came to power. As a result, American English gained currency over British English. Thus the language's centre of gravity has changed. With the passage of time many other countries have marked their supremacy on international platform. The outcome of this is visible through various other forms of English such as American English, Scottish English, Australian English etc. Three out of four English speakers are now non-native. One of the most obvious signs of this changed scenario is greater acceptance of a neutral accent by native speakers of English. Today 'global' English or a neutral accent are the norm. Trainees are also trained to reduce the rate of their speech from around 180 words a minute (the Indian rate) to the standard US rate of 120 words a minute. All these facts indicate that the power class has direct influence on the standardization process of language.

Unit-2

Socializing

Passage- A

1. What is socializing? Why is it important?

Answer- Social etiquettes or manners which we need to obey to maintain healthy social relation in the society is socializing. Our behaviour in the society is guided by some rules. These rules are considered as the markers of politeness or tehzeeb. Further these rules tell us what is the accepted way to behave towards other people. They cover many different aspects of social life and differ from society to society. These codes of etiquette prove conducive in maintaining healthy social relation in the society. Any kinds of negligence in obeying these codes of conduct may give the impression that the concerned person is rude and does not have any knowledge of social etiquettes. All these aspects indicate that socializing is an important part of our day to day life.

2. How to introduce someone in formal situations?

Answer- In formal situation while giving introduction the below mentioned basic rules need to be followed –

- i. Shake hand firmly.
- ii. Look the other person in the eye and keep a smiley face.
- iii. Men are allowed to shake hands with men. But the matter of shaking hands with women is optional for women.
- iv. The hand shake is accompanied with a formal asking 'how are you?'
- v. Introduction must be given in proper order. Seniors need to be introduced to the juniors first and proper congenial words should be used.

3. How to give self introduction maintaining proper code of conduct?

Answer - The below mentioned etiquettes need to be followed –

- i. Introduction must be given with full name.
- ii. Honorifics should be avoided while giving full introduction to others.
- iii. While giving introduction other important details need to be included such as place of work, job, designation etc. and if possible exchange cards.

4. How to take leave in formal situation?

Answer – Leave taking is as important as introductions and consists of two stages: signalling the end of the conversation or meeting and the actual leave taking itself. We signal the end by making statements like ‘it is time to leave’ or ‘it is getting late’ etc. Sometimes the end of the conversation may be signalled through gesture also.

Passage-B

1. How does small talk play an important role in socializing?

Answer – Small talk plays an important role in socializing. Informal conversation proves conducive in maintaining goodwill to others. It helps us to get to know others better. Light casual conversation is the marker of a social being. Whenever we get engaged in small talk, a bond is established with the listener. Thus social relation gets a new dimension in the society. But while in small talk we need to be careful about timing. We should not answer in ‘yes’ or ‘no’ always. Instead, whenever we feel the necessity of giving personal opinion, we should offer the same.

2. How is socializing different from chatting with friends?

Answer- While talking with friends, we can be open with them. Friends are our acquaintances and any kind of diversion in talking is pardonable. But while talking with stranger or someone less known, it becomes imperative to remain cautious while selecting topic of conversation or others. Any kinds of diversion in socializing may give the impression of being rude and uncivilized. Therefore, while socializing we have to be careful about the topics we choose to talk about. We should avoid subjects that can give offence. We should not ask probing personal questions about age, salary or marital status, for instance.

UNIT- 3

WORD STRESS

Passage-A

1. Define syllable with example.

Answer- A syllable is a word or part of a word that has only one vowel sound. It may or may not have consonant sounds before and after the vowel. For example, in the word 'Examination', we find five syllables in the following manner:

Examination – E+xa+mi+na+tion.

Here the syllable division is based on the vowel sound not based on the individual vowels. The same formula is applicable to the below mentioned words too:

i) Strategy- Stra+te+gy, (trisyllabic)

ii) Vacation- Va+ca+tion (trisyllabic)

iii) Footnote- foot+note (Disyllabic)

iv) Heavyweight – Heav+y+weight, (trisyllabic)

v) Appreciation – A+ppre+cia+tion (Tetrasyllabic)

vi) Extraordinary- Ex+tra+or+di+na+ry (Hexasyllabic)

Note: trisyllabic means three syllables, Disyllabic means two syllables, tetrasyllabic means four syllables, hexasyllabic means six syllables.

Passage-B

2. Define the following:

- i) **Word stress** - An English word consisting of more than one syllable is spoken in such a way that one of its syllables stands out from or is more prominent than the other syllable or syllables in the same word. This system of speaking with stress on some selected words or parts of word is known as the word stress.

For example – I want you to do this work.

Here the underlined words have been stressed to give the meaning that the speaker has selected the doer of the action and the particular action to perform.

- ii) **Accented & unaccented syllable** - An English word consisting of more than one syllable is spoken in such a way that one of its syllables stands out from or is more prominent than the other syllable or syllables in the same word. This system of speaking with stress on some selected words or parts of word is known as the word stress.

The syllable which stands out during word stress is known as accented syllable and the syllable/syllables which is /are not stressed in a word are called unstressed or weak syllables.

For example – Take my dog for walk in your garden.

Here the underlined parts are accented syllables and the other words are unaccented syllables.

3. Define Primary and Secondary stress with example.

Answer- In some words of more than three syllables, there may be two syllables which stand out from the rest. In such words, one of the two syllables which are stressed has what we call main or primary stress and is marked with a vertical bar above. The other has secondary stress and this is marked with a vertical bar below. In English, word stress is not fixed to a particular syllable. It is free in the sense that there are words in which the first syllable is stressed, while there are others that have the primary stress on the second, third or fourth syllable.

For example –

Examination – E+xa+mi+'na+tion

In the above mentioned example, 'xa' has received the secondary stress and the 'na' has received the primary stress.

Biological – 'Bio+lo+gi+cal

In this word, 'Bio' has received the primary stress and the 'gi' has received the secondary stress.

The placement of stress depends on the speaker and his/her necessity what he/she wants to convey with importance.

Passage-C

4. Write a note on the differences between stress timed versus syllable timed languages.

Answer - English is a stress timed language. It has a rather complex system of primary stress, secondary stress and absence of stress. Most Indian languages, on the other hand, are not stress-timed but syllable-timed languages. This, in fact, means that every syllable takes the same time and force for speaking. The difference between stress-timed and syllable timed languages becomes clear when we notice how English words are pronounced in Hindi songs or film dialogues.

For example, in the Hindi song of the film "Kick" starring Salman Khan includes a song 'Hang over' where both the parts of the word 'hang over' is stressed by the singer. But if we refer to the actual pronunciation of this word 'hang over' in Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary we will notice that only the word 'hang' will be stressed whereas the 'over' part will remain unstressed. But due to the influence of the Indian language (Hindi) in singing, the singer pronounced each part of the word 'hang over' with equal stress.

Unit-4

Politeness Markers

- 1. “Allowing options is central to the western notions of politeness” – how far is it logical? Show reasons for your answer.**

Answer – Modes of showing etiquette vary from society to society. Allowing options is central to the western notions of politeness whereas it has little or no importance in Indian or Chinese conceptions of politeness. People from western societies who value autonomy will ask for the preference of the Guests while attending them. But a good Indian or Chinese host will choose everything good according to his/her understanding for his/her guests. In western Society help is also offered with prior permission from the person concerned. But in Eastern culture help is offered if someone is found/ felt in need of it. That's why, in Western culture the expressions like ‘would like to have a seat?’, ‘would you like to have coffee or tea?’, ‘may I help you?’ etc. are prevalent.

- 2. How should we ask for favours?**

Answer- When we are in need of favour from others, we tend to make the amount of effort required look less. For instance, ‘Can you hold this for a second, please?’ When submitting an assignment, it would be really considered rude if we were to say ‘Sir, please correct this assignment?’ The more appropriate response would be ‘Sir, here is my assignment. When should I come for it?’ When we want a really big favour, we also make the introduction to the actual request quite long. For instance, ‘Would you mind very much if I was to borrow your cycle for the weekend? These are the basics of etiquettes which we should follow while asking favours from others.