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## A STUDY ON RURAL AND URBAN LEARNERS IN LEARNING ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND THEIR DIFFICULTIES IN SENTENCE FORMATION IN ENGLISH

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### Abstract

The study is on Rural and Urban learners' style and strategies in a learning an English language. A rural learner faces lot of problems in all the skills of English language. Rural learners have less knowledge about rule in Grammar, its usages, sentence patterns, poor Vocabulary etc. These children poorly memorize the sentences line by line whatever may be in Prose (or) Poetry essays, Grammar etc and write whatever comes to their mind. The reasons are many for the Rural learners. Route memories as well as mother tongue influences are also one of the reasons for the rural learners to commit lot of error in English Language. However, the urban learners have a little bit exposure in English and aware of some words in English. So, while learning the strategies applied by the urban learners is quite different from the rural learners. The urban learners are well enough to grasp the meanings easily because their style of learning and strategies is different when it is compared with rural learners'. Moreover, these urban learners have some idea about the four skills [LSRW] in English Language. This would enable them to learn the English language in an easy way than the rural learners. But at the same time even these urban learners are also poor/weak in English Grammar and commit error. Hence the problems of the rural learners and their difficulties are identified through error analysis as well their differences (**Rural and urban**) both will be discussed in the Full paper.

**Keywords:** Route Memory, Mother Tongue Influences, Less Confidence.

### Introduction

#### Rural and Urban learners

Language is one of the most wonderful creations of man. If there had been no language, it would have been difficult for a man to communicate his views to his fellow human beings, there could not be educational activity, no law making, no preaching, no lecturing and nothing like talking, singing, writing and exchanging views and there could not be a chance for the Existence of a book. So it is essential for the human beings to learn language. It is not an easy to learn a language. It takes years to learn language and it has own rules and regulations.

#### Aim

The main aim of the paper is about the style and strategies used by the Rural and Urban Learners in this 21<sup>st</sup> century and as well as their problems are discussed in a detailed way to give solutions for the rural and urban learners.

#### Objectives

This study talks about both rural and urban learners have problems in learning English language and reason for the grammatical error, not confident in Grammar, less practice in sentence formation and fear and hesitation to speak in English are also mentioned. However certain strategies are also mentioned to overcome the problems and reasons behind these problems are also discussed with detailed explanation.

#### Scope of the study

This Comparative study is mainly based on Rural and Urban learner's differences and their style and strategies. These rural learners face sufficient amount of problems and found difficult to grasp the English language when they were compared with urban learners. In such cases it was very pathetic to see those learners. But when we talk about urban learners, they were over confidence about themselves due to little bit exposure in English language. They speak with full of Grammatical mistakes. Therefore, this study would be helpful to know about the drawback of the rural learners and for their improvement certain points were highlighted to remove their difficulties as well as the style of the urban learners and their survival with little Knowledge in English were also mentioned.

#### Back ground of the rural learners and urban learners

The majority of the rural learners were poor in English because they are from poor educational Background. The parents with poor educational background do not know how to encourage their children because they were not aware about the English language. The rural parents send their children to the Tamil medium school due to the poor family background. The urban learner's parents have



some knowledge about the educational field because they are educated. They know about the value of English and its importance in the present world.

Problems faced by the rural learners

The rural learners face problems in English to speak and write due to the less confidence in Grammar and its rule. The rural learners were not trained well and there was no proper guidance in the school. The mother tongue influence was also one of the reasons for the learners to commit error in English and found difficult to write and speak. The rural learners have 'fear about English language due to less confidence. They compare them with the urban learners and decide themselves that they were not fit enough to their level and ability to learn an English language. Therefore, like this there were so many reasons and problems faced by the rural learners.

Problems faced by the urban learners

The urban learners are well enough to grasp and understand the meaning in English. The urban learners could somehow able to deliver the message in English, but commit error like; breakage in sentences while they speak in English. There is no coherence and order in their sentences due to less knowledge in Grammar and its rule. The Vocabulary knowledge is also not to the expected level. The urban learners have over confidence about themselves that they could tackle the problems of English language by mere speaking in English. Even these urban learners were not thorough in adjectives and adverbs and found difficult to select adjectives and adverbs words to frame the sentences related to the concept. These problems were not only for the rural learners but also for the urban learners. Moreover, while they learn an English language the learners from urban as well as the learners from rural fail to learn its rule with examples and found difficult to analyze its structural pattern in the sentences. Therefore, all the learners both rural and urban need regular practice in English Grammar.

Style and strategies used by the Rural and Urban learners

The rural learners have interest to speak in English like urban learners. They learn without understanding the meaning of the concept and this lead to commit lot of error in English. Route memory is a major reason for them to commit error and put them in to chaos. These learners construct the sentences in the form of mother tongue structure. The urban learners have doubt in each sentence because they were not well confident in grammar.

Error Analysis

The learners were tested with few exercises like one compound complex sentence, prepositions and conjunctions to identify their performance in which how far the learners were able to answer for the questions raised and also to test' in which part the learners found difficult and at the same the level in comprehending the grammar of English language.

In exercise 1 only 2 questions were tested to the topic of one compound complex sentences and answer received for the following questions from the learners.

Question No: 1

The boy refused to ask the teacher any questions. They failed the exam.

Expected answer

The boys refused to ask the teacher who had instructed them to ask any questions, so they failed the exam.

Received answers

- 1) The boys refused to ask the teacher any questions and they failed the exam.
2) The boys refused to ask the teacher any questions because they failed the exam.

Performance of the boys for the 1st question

Table with 5 columns: S. NO, Correct answer, Incorrect answer, Not responding, Total. Row 1: 1, 4, 9, 2, 15

Performance of the girls for the 1st question

Table with 5 columns: S. NO, Correct answer, Incorrect answer, Not responding, Total. Row 1: 1, 3, 9, 3, 15



To this question also, only a very few informants were able to produce the correct answer. Out of 30 informants 7 students were not able to give the correct answer and 5 students did not respond to this question and nearly 18 students gave incorrect answer; only a very few students were able to combine the sentence in to one compound complex.

Question No: 2

We will miss our father greatly. He taught us many lessons. Those lessons have helped us succeed in life.

Expected answer

Our father taught us many lessons which helped us succeed in life, and we will miss him greatly.

Received answer

- 1) My father taught us many lessons to succeed in life and we miss him greatly.
2) We will miss our father that, he taught us many lessons have helped us.

Performance of the boys for the 2nd question

Table with 5 columns: S. NO, Correct answer, Incorrect answer, Not responding, Total. Row 1: 1, 2, 8, 5, 15

Performance of the girls for the 2nd question:

Table with 5 columns: S. NO, Correct answer, Incorrect answer, Not responding, Total. Row 1: 1, 2, 9, 4, 15

To this question also, only a very few informants were able to produce the correct answer. Out of 30 informants 17 students were not able to give the correct answer and 9 students did not respond to this question and only 4students were able to combine the sentence in to one compound complex.

Remedial Measures

The following remedial measures would help the learners to perform well.

- 1. English teacher should teach the grammar topic with interest by explaining with more real-life examples.
2. The teacher should teach according to the background of the learners in the classroom.
3. The English teacher should drill the learners to be thorough in grammar by making the learners to do the exercise independently once the topic was completed.
4. Teaching methodology in teaching grammar is to be modified by teacher according to the learners' expectation.

Exercise: 2 -Conjunctions

The study administered this test to the students to find out whether they were able to combine the sentences by placing correct coordinating conjunction.

Combine the given sentences in to one by using the conjunction in the brackets (for, and, but, or, yet, so)

Question No: 1

The dangers of smoking are well known. Many people continue to smoke anyway.

Expected answer

The dangers of smoking are well known, yet many people continue to smoke anyway.

Received answer

- 1) The dangers of the smoking as well known, so many people continue to smoke anyway.
2) The dangers of smoking are well known, but many people continue to smoke anyway.



Performance of the boys for the 1<sup>st</sup> question

S No	Correct answer	Incorrect answer	Not Responding	Total
1	9	6	Nil	15

Performance of the girls for the 1<sup>st</sup> question

S. No	Correct answer	Incorrect answer	Not Responding	Total
1.	11	4	Nil	15

The informants were able to answer quite well in this section when compared to other exercises. This may be due to their exposure in placing the right conjunctions at the right places. Very few learners committed errors because they were not aware of the logic behind placing correct coordinating conjunctions.

Question No: 2The library is a quite place to study. Many students prefer to study at home.

Expected answer

The library is a quiet place to study, but many students prefer to study at home.

Received Answer

1. The library is a quiet place to study so many students prefer to study at home.
2. The library is a quiet place to study and many students prefer to study at home.

Performance of the boys for the 2nd question

S. NO	Correct answer	Incorrect answer	Not Responding	Total
1.	10	5	Nil	15

Performance of the girls for the 2nd question

S. NO	Correct answer	Incorrect answer	Not Responding	Total
1.	10	5	Nil	15

The above tables reveal that most of the learners from both boys and girls side got correct answers. The students found particularly easy to answer this question because they have been exposed to some of the sentences and words in their regular usage.

Remedial Measures

Continuous practice in the grammar would make the learners to form the sentences easily.

1. Rules should be explained with simple examples.
2. The teacher should identify the background, medium, location of the students to change his/her methodology in teaching.
3. Technology based teaching would make the learners to be interested in the English classroom.
4. Continuous practice in the grammar would make the learners to form the sentences easily.

Question No:1- Prepositions:

This exercise was given to test the students whether they were able to place the correct prepositions and also it occupies an important place because it connects the meaning of a sentence.

Fill in the blanks with correct prepositions given below

Question No: 1

Shankar wondered where Arun was. He had not seen him \_\_\_\_\_their quarrel.

Excepted answer.

Since

Received answer-‘at, against.



Performance of the boys for the 1st question

Performance of the girls for the 1st question:

S. NO	Correct Answer	Incorrect Answer	Not Responding	Total
1	5	7	3	15

From the above tables the researcher identified that the learners found it difficult to select the answer given in the brackets. The erroneous choice was due to the wrong use of preposition, which has misled the meaning of the sentence. The expected functional category, which suits the above context, is **since**. It indicates a point of time in the past from which some action began and continues until the time of speaking. The source of this error was attributed to mother tongue interference.

Question No: 2

We arrived \_\_\_\_\_ the beach two hours before the flight was due to leave.

Expected answer: at

Received answer: to, in

Performance of the boys for the 2nd question

S. NO	Correct Answer	Incorrect Answer	Not Responding	Total
1	7	6	2	15

Performance of the girls for the 2nd question

S. NO	Correct Answer	Incorrect Answer	Not Responding	Total
1	6	8	1	100

The respondents wrote incorrect prepositions while filling in the blanks. Normally the prepositions 'in', to and 'at' is used after arrive (Thomson & Martinet 1986:97). Most of them responded with 'to' which was a wrong choice because 'at' shows the exact positions or particular place, which suits the above context. The error was due to first language interference and ignorance of rules in the use of simple prepositions.

Some of the informants selected the incorrect preposition 'in' instead of the more appropriate prepositions 'at', because 'in' shows a position within a larger area, or something with in a greater space where as the correct preposition 'at' refers to position **at a point, a stage or a journey or a meeting place** (Swan, 1995:78)

Remedial Measures

1. Students must be exposed to all the prepositions and their usages in context.
2. The teacher should not omit any rules and also should explain the rules with simple examples so the learners could understand easily.
3. Regular or continuous practice is needed for the learners to be thorough in particular topic.

Solutions for the rural learners and urban learners

The teacher has to keep encouraging the students to speak in English even if there is no meaning at all in the English language. The rural learners have to make up a habit to learn five words daily and then try to frame sentences from the words they have learned and maintain a separate note book. The short sentences would reduce the error in speaking and writing. The rural learners have to develop the self-concept and self-confident to get hope on themselves to succeed in life.

The urban learners though they have little bit exposure in English still they commit silly mistakes in Grammar while writing formal letter. Therefore, urban learners have to pay keen study in rule to avoid the error in the English language. This would be better enough for the urban learners to reduce the error.



## Conclusion

This study is helpful and able to distinguish the problems between rural and urban learners and their causes of the error as well as the reason to commit error in English language. The urban learners have to pay their attention on Grammar to improve their written skill though good in spoken. But rural learners have to concentrate on both the skills i.e., written and spoken.

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