

## A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ATTITUDE TOWARDS ENGLISH AS A MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION AT SENIOR SECONDARY LEVEL

**Dr. Yashpal Deswal\* & Mr. Amit Singh\*\***

### ABSTRACT

*The study has been done to find out the attitude of senior secondary class students towards English as a medium of instruction. A sample of 150 boys and girls has been taken from Sonapat district of Haryana. With the help of a self prepared attitude scale the data were collected. The findings of the study suggest that science and arts students differ significantly in their attitude towards English as a medium of instruction. Same is the case with Art and Commerce students. The students of Science and Commerce do not differ significantly in their attitude towards English as a medium of instruction.*

### INTRODUCTION

Language is one of the unique possessions of man. In fact, it is language which makes a man good or bad. What distinguishes a man from an animal is the language. With impressive language, a person can win the confidence of his colleagues and of the people with whom he interacts. With the poor use of it, he can lose his dignity and degrade himself in the society. Ben Johnson says, "Language most shows a man, speak that I may see thee."

India is a multi-lingual country. So, a great controversy is arising these days in India as to which language should be the medium of communication in the different walks of life, which language should be the medium of official work and which language should be the medium of instruction at different levels. For solving this problem several conferences are being held. Till now no definite decision has been taken and still it is a big question yet to be answered. The importance of English as a medium of instruction can also be seen from the emphasis given by the Indian University Education Commission: "English, however, must continue to be studied. It is a language which is rich in literature-humanistic, scientific and technical. If, under sentimental urges, we should give up English, we would cut ourselves off from the living stream of our growing knowledge. Unable to have access to this knowledge, our standards of scholarship

would fast deteriorate and our participation in the world movements of thoughts would become negligible. Its effect would be disastrous for our practical life. A living nation must move with the times and must respond quickly to the challenge of surroundings. English is the only means of preventing our isolation from the world, and we will act unwisely if we allow ourselves to be enveloped in the folds of a dark curtain." Nolan (2002) investigated whether three factors, i.e. (a) the attitude of students towards quantitative technique as a service subject, (b) English language ability of students and (c) Mathematical ability of students. The result suggested that the students perception of their prescribed textbook in quantitative techniques, they did not perceive the understanding of the English formulations and explanation as their main concern. L i e s (2004) presented the result of a research project carried at the University of Leuven (Belgium), involving students and lecturer from 7 different academic disciplines, and inquiring into the nature and weight of the factors that may hamper the successful introduction of English as the medium of instruction. Manfat (2004) conducted a study on the role of integrative motivation in the achievement of English languages learner in Hong Kong. Taken together findings from both qualitative and quantitative data of the present study gave a consistent picture that instrumental goals, especially future career development and meeting more varied people with career related

\*Associate Professor, Tika Ram College of Education, Sonapat, Haryana

\*\*Assistant Professor, Tika Ram College of Education, Sonapat, Haryana

purposes are more important than integrative goals such as appreciating British Arts and literature. This confirmed previous findings that Chinese people tend to be more instrumental in their motivation towards learning English as a second language. Bai (2004) made an attempt to study the attitude of higher secondary students towards the study of English. In that study it was found that 79.69% of the entire sample (217) of higher secondary students have favourable attitude towards the study of English and only 19.43% of them have a relatively unfavourable attitude towards it. In order to find out the above raised queries, there is need of conducting research in this area. The present investigation is an attempt in this direction only. Understanding the importance of English as a medium of instruction, the attitude of senior secondary school students towards English was considered for a detailed study.

#### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- i) To compare the attitude towards English as a medium of instruction of Arts and Science students.
- ii) To compare the attitude towards English as a medium of instruction of Arts and Commerce students.
- iii) To compare the attitude towards English as a medium of instruction of Science and Commerce Students.

#### HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

- i) There is no significant difference in attitude towards English as a medium of instruction between Arts and Science students.
- ii) There is no significant difference in attitude towards English as a medium of instruction between Arts and Commerce students.
- iii) There is no significant difference in attitude towards English as a medium of instruction between Science and Commerce Students.

#### DESIGN OF THE STUDY

For the present study, the investigator has taken the following plan and procedure.

#### METHODOLOGY

The normative survey method has been used in the study. The study was designed to get informative data and to compare Government and private secondary school headmasters.

#### POPULATION

The population of the study consisted of senior secondary school students of Sonipat District.

#### SAMPLE

The sample of the present study consists of 5 schools of Sonipat District of Haryana. Out of these schools, a sample of 150 boys and girls was picked up on a random basis

#### TOOL

In order to assess the attitude of the students the attitude scale was developed.

#### STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES

Mean, standard deviation and t-test were used to study the attitude of senior secondary schools students of Sonipat District.

#### ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table -1

Mean scores and t-Ratio of Senior Secondary Arts and Science Students towards English as a Medium of Instruction.

Stream	Mean	S.D.	t-Ratio	Significance
				at 0.05 level
Science	142.10	5.52		
Arts	136.44	3.76	6.002	Significant

It can be observed from the table 1 that the mean of the senior secondary Science and Arts stream students towards English as a medium of instruction is found to be 142.10 and 136.44. The S.D. of Science and Arts students is 5.52 and 3.76 respectively. The t-ratio between these two groups is found to be 6.002 which is significant at 0.05 level of significance.

**Table -2**  
**Mean scores and t-Ratio of Senior Secondary Arts and Commerce Students towards English as a Medium of Instruction.**

Stream	Mean	S.D.	t-Ratio	Significance at 0.05 level
Arts	136.44	3.76		
Commerce	140	5.62	3.72	Significant

It can be observed from the table 2 that the attitude of Senior Secondary students belonging to Arts and Commerce streams is found to have Mean scores 136.44 and 140 respectively and the S.D. of Arts and Commerce streams is 3.76 and 5.62 respectively. The t-ratio between these two groups is found to be 3.72 which is significant at 0.05 level of significance.

**Table -3**  
**Mean scores and t-Ratio of Senior Secondary Commerce and Science Students towards English as a Medium of Instruction.**

Stream	Mean	S.D.	t-Ratio	Significance at 0.05 level
Commerce	140	5.62		Not
Science	142.10	5.52	1.89	Significant

It is observed from the above table 3 that the attitude of Senior Secondary students belonging to Commerce and Science streams is found to have Mean scores 140 and 142.10 respectively. The S.D. of these groups is 5.62 and 5.22 respectively. The t-ratio between these two groups is found to be 1.89 which is not significant at 0.05 level of significance.

## FINDINGS

1. It indicated that Science and Arts students have different attitude towards English as a medium of instruction. Hypothesis No. 1 that there will be no significant difference in attitude towards English as a medium of instruction between arts and Science students is rejected.
2. The results indicated that there is significant difference between the attitude of senior secondary Arts and Commerce students towards English as a medium of instruction. Hence Hypothesis No. 2 that 'there will be no significant difference in attitude towards English as a medium of instruction between Arts and Commerce students' is also rejected.
3. It indicated that there is no significant difference between the mean attitude scores of Commerce and Science senior secondary students towards English as a medium of instruction. Hence the Hypothesis No. 3 that 'there will be no significant difference in attitude towards English as a medium of instruction between Science and Commerce students' is accepted.

## REFERENCES

- Aggarwal, Y.P. (1989) "Statistical Method in Education," Sterling Publishers, New Delhi.
- Carrol, J.B. (1963), "The Study of Language," Harvard university press, Cambridge, p. 10
- Garrett, H.E (1981), "Statistics in Psychology and education," vakils house.
- Husen Torsten and Postlethwite (eds). (1985), "English as a foreign or secondary language, the international Encyclopedia of education," vol. 3 p. 1675.
- Johnmpson, M.S.H. and wyatt, H.C. "Teaching of English in India," Humphray Mifford, oxford university press.
- Karmi, N.D. (1976) "Measurement of Attitudes towards English language," Standford University, Calif, August, 1976.

- Kaul, Lokesh, (1984). "Methodology of educational research," vikash publishing house, New Delhi.
- Lado, Robert. (1983), "Language teaching," Tata mcgraw Hill Publishing company limited, New Delhi, 1983.
- Macknow, Iorren F Ferris, (1990) "A study of opinion about English usage held by secondary language arts teachers." University.
- Ramurthi Committee.: Report: "towards an English tuned and Human Society," Part-I, New Delhi.
- Srivastava, A.K. and Khatoon, R. (1980) "Effective of difference between mother tongue and Another language as and creativity of English standard children," Mysor University, P. 610 in 3rd servey of research in education 1978-93.
- Trammer, D.H. (1975) "Teacher conference of foreign language." Arozona Foreign language association, November 1.
- Yashpal and Sunil (2004): "Teaching of English", Jagdamba Publishing Company, New Delhi. India.