

Attitude of South Punjab Students Towards English Learning as an Instrument for Earning



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¹ Lecturer in English, University of
Okara, Pakistan.

² MPhil English Linguistics Scholar at
Riphah International University,
Lahore, Pakistan.

Waqar Mahmood Khan¹ and Muhammad Haris Khan²

Abstract

Millions of students in underdeveloped countries are striving to learn English for economic purposes, as research shows a direct relationship between English proficiency and individuals' economic growth. This research model systematically analyzed the attitudes of students in the English degree program from Southern Punjab towards their preference for becoming English teachers. Through a questionnaire as a data collection tool, the inclination of individuals towards English teaching was evaluated. The findings of the research indicate that students enrolled in the BS Honours in English program and those pursuing an MA in English have witnessed significant growth in demand for English teachers over the last 2 to 3 years. This suggests that pursuing English as a career offers financial perks, privileges, and social standing in society beyond what subjects like Physics, Chemistry, and Biology typically provide. The Self-Determination Theory of Motivation can serve as a rationale for this paper. The students also associate it with instrumental motivation, as the majority of respondents have favored instrumental motivation as a factor influencing their choice of a career as an English teacher.

Keywords: *Instrumental Motivation, English teacher, English career prospects, Demand for English teachers, Pakistan's Southern Punjab region*

Introduction

The teaching of English became an academic and professionalized field of study around half a century ago. Numerous researchers have conducted their research on teacher education and training. This effort has been carried out so as to highlight the effectiveness of the English language in addition to the knowledge and skills of foreign language teachers in their conduct of effective lectures inside the classroom. The creation of globalized societies and English becoming a globally accepted tool of communication are the factors that make it something of inclination among individuals.

Harmer (2007) argues that throughout the world, students of different ages are striving to learn English for communication purposes. Their motive behind learning the same differs from learner to learner. Some students undoubtedly learn English by taking it as a part of their syllabus at primary, secondary, higher secondary or degree levels. But for others learning the language might be a system of choice for them. A large number of people learn the language of English as they are a part of a target language community and it's a requirement for them in their community to be capable of operating or communicating successfully in that particular community. English is a

communication medium in most of the nations of the world. The target language community is a place where English is treated as the national language like New Zealand, Great Britain, and Canada. In other countries where English is used widely for the purposes of commerce and culture, mostly include Pakistan, India and Nigeria.

There is a variety of students who learn English. For some, English for a Specific Purpose or ESP is needed. Under the umbrella of ESP, several particularized subjects are taken by learners owing to their specific demands. Students take their courses of ESP in learning legal language, the tourism language, the languages of banking, nursing, etc. Business English is one of the most remarkable aspects of ESP which lets its learners know on how to learn English for communicating in English in the world of business. Many others require EAP or English for Academic Purposes so as to study a course that is entirely in English medium at a college or a university or they are to access different study content having its text in English.

Many individuals learn English as they think it would be helpful for them in some way or the other when they are in a foreign country for the purpose of travelling or global communication.

The students in the general English course may not have a clear understanding of their learning purpose, but they possess an intrinsic desire to read, write, learn, and speak English proficiently, anticipating its future utility.

The reasons students have for their respective learning does have an impact on what it is, the thing they wish and require to learn and consequently will have an effect on what they are taught. For example, students enrolled in program of Business English will pay much of their attention on specific monetary situations and transactions. Meanwhile, the students residing in a target-language community will require using the language of English to gain their instant social and practical needs.

Background of the study

English as a language is taught and learnt in numerous contexts and in a number of class environments. These factors and differences usually have a substantial influence on what strategy we carry out for the process of teaching the language of English. English is taught under the umbrella of use-based ESP i.e., English for Specific Purposes. Having witnessed an enormous inclination towards learning English, the individualistic level of motivation has, at times, been investigated.

Significance of the Study

The current study has been designed to analyze the attitude of people towards adopting the profession of an English teacher in the region of South Punjab. This study has investigated the mindset of people towards learning and opting to become teachers of English. It has also highlighted the advantages of learning and specializing in English Language. This research is expected to be helpful and useful for teaching staff as well as for the learners of the English language at various levels and throughout the country.

The theory that serves as a validation for the factor of instrumental motivation of this very research article is the Self-Determination Theory of Motivation which argues that the learners can be stimulated by two distinct kinds of motivation which are intrinsic and extrinsic. Intrinsic motivation can refer an individual engaging in something for an absolute enjoyment and curiosity it brings, whereas extrinsic motivation can comprise an individual engaging in something for gain of external benefits, outcomes or rewards, like obtaining a degree, getting acknowledgement, admiration or recognition, or progression in one's career.

Self-determination theory suggests that all humans are driven by three basic psychological needs that include independence/freedom or autonomy, competence, and relatedness and these forms the basis of their professional or personal growth and development.

When it comes specifically to writing this very research article, instrumental motivation has a paramount role to play. Individuals of Pakistan's South Punjab while selecting their English teaching career have been motivated by the wish to attain external rewards, such as the acknowledgement of academic recognition, attainment of career opportunities, or fulfilment of job market or institutional requirements. Motivation of such individuals seems greatly driven by the instrumental worth of completing the task.

Therefore, Self-Determination Theory offers a framework to understand how instrumental motivation can influence individuals when writing a research article by highlighting the role of extrinsic motivation in pursuing external rewards and outcomes.

Literature Review

Definition of a teacher

The one who shapes up the future of knowledge seekers and systematically manages to create the leaders and legends of tomorrow is undoubtedly termed as a teacher. The evolution of this very process of teaching and learning may be attributed to the first revelation of The Holy Qur'an revealed to the Beloved Rasool ﷺ:

Read in the name of your Lord Who created, [Surah Al A'laq 96:1]

A group of attributes or set standards are implied to account for the cliquishness of various professions in the parochial job market comprising specificity in terms of employment, tough entry qualifications, extensive instruction, and social rank, independence including feasible practice, and established behaviours. Such tendencies are normally linked with the job trends of any specific time-period. Teaching is a profession which demands multiple formalities.

A teacher is in no way a sole representative of his subject of concern. Rather, he is the one who actually awakens the society from slumber of ignorance. (Mahmood, 2014) (Lindsay, 2015), *Soaps and Assistant Communities Editor, terms teaching to be the best job in the world.*

Motivation-Instrumental and integrative

Motivation is primarily an important concept which executes a very constructive effect by enhancing the erudition in terms of learning of any given second language learning context. Initial work on motivation and individual attitudes by Lambert and Gardner declare motivation to be of two types namely the instrumental and integrative motivation. A learner may possess any one of these types or perhaps both types of motivation combined depending particularly on the contextual situation and the goals of learning of the learner. If we consider the contexts of English to be learnt as a foreign language, we normally presume that those who are involved in the process of learning the second language possess in them more instrumental motivation (the type concerned with financial perks, materialistic aspect and benefits). In addition to it, the achievement of learners might greatly be influenced by their respective type of motivation. (Reza Gholami, NegahAllahyar, Shameem Rafik-Galea, 2012)

Instrumental motivation can refer to one being motivated by an external or instrumental stimuli or goals in learning a language, such as succeeding in an exam, attaining a particular job, or

meeting academic expectations or requirements. Such Individuals having instrumental motivation central focus is on the practical aspects linked with learning a language.

On the contrary, integrative motivation can refer to an individual being motivated by a wish for incorporation, amalgamation or recognition with the community of target language. Individuals possessing an integrative motivation have a real curiosity, interest and partiality in the linguistic, cultural and individualistic factors associated with the language they are in the process of learning. They hence seek to develop interactive relationships by expressively communicating with members of that very community.

These concepts were initially introduced by Gardner and Lambert in their 1972 article titled "Attitudes and motivation in second-language learning" published in the book "Language Processing in Bilingual Children" edited by E. Bialystok.

The theoretical framework discussed, including the behavioral or conative, cognitive components, and the ABC model of attitudes (Saul McLeod, 2009), provides a foundational understanding of how attitudes influence behavior and cognition. The functions of attitudes as proposed by Daniel Katz (1960), including knowledge, ego-defensive, adaptive, and ego-expressive functions, further elucidate the complex interplay between an individual's attitudes and their actions within a social context. However, to more comprehensively understand the attitudes of South Punjab students towards English learning as an instrumental tool for earning, this study explores additional research theories. For instance, integrating the Theory of Planned Behavior (Ajzen, 1991) offer insights into how intention, influenced by attitude, perceived behavioral control, and subjective norms, predicts the students' likelihood to engage in English learning. Additionally, examining Social Identity Theory (Tajfel and Turner, 1979) reveal how students' identification with English speakers or global communities influences their attitudes and motivation to learn English.

In this study, the variables include the students' attitudes towards learning English as an instrumental tool for earning, which include their beliefs, emotional responses, and behaviors related to English language acquisition.

Methodology

Research is an organized and impartial sort of resolving a problem by either proving answers to questions or backing propositions/hypotheses through producing verifiable data. Analysis includes both quantitative and qualitative methods that means by the inclusion and deduction of numerical statistics of handling and summing up data. (Bacon-Shone, 2015).

Research includes constructive effort carried out on scientific grounds so as to augment the treasure of knowledge that comprises the knowledge of a human, his society and culture, in addition to the application of this treasure of knowledge to formulate innovative ideas and applications. Research is taken as a tool to create factual information, re-endorse the outcomes of research carried out previously, suggest adequate solutions to prevailing or new issues, developing new theories and supporting propositions.

This part takes various considerations into account such as interrogating, when, how, things have been researched, as to what has been the procedure of data collection, what the population has been and so on.

Qualitative research is somehow research that refers to the study of disciplines that are difficult to be quantified like literature and art. The qualitative research is considered to be a remaining/residual category of non-quantitative research. Qualitative research is exploratory, inductive, open-ended and more subjective. Whereas, quantitative research is mostly objective, inferential and deductive in nature. The distinction between quantitative and qualitative research is normally not drawn on right grounds. Elements of quantitative research are hard to be evaded in the subject-matter of the most qualitative research work.

This research exhibits the notion as to why people particularly in Southern Punjab tend to opt to go for English teaching as their future-career. The reason for conducting this research has been to frame a dimension on the grounds of why people prefer joining the profession of teaching with the subject of English as their preference and also why they prioritize this very subject over other disciplines offered by educational institutions and career prospects available with our job market in the long run. Hence, objectives have been designed keeping in view these questions so as to fulfil the research purpose.

Here in this research, questions and objectives have been clearly put forward before the readers and for those even who tend to carry out relevant research in the near future.

Quantitative Research

Questionnaire has been taken as major data collection tool. For systematic measurement of data, the best suited method is the quantitative method of research. It is a method of research that is numerical and statistical in nature. Hence quantitative research method has been implied as an adequate method for data collection in this paper.

Research Questions and Hypotheses

Purpose of current research is dual. The first is to explore the attitude of the people who adopt the profession of English teacher in South Punjab and second is to find out the mental inclination among individuals on why they prefer studying English as a subject for their future career.

Research questions help us in the understanding of a topic which is being studied. These questions help us out in achieving a thorough analysis of the research. This research has investigated the factors or elements, the individuals keep in mind while opting for a degree program in English language. Secondly this research-work has aimed at getting to know why people mainly in Southern Punjab region of Pakistan are now more inclined towards becoming an English teacher. What pushes them in doing so and what financial factors are there to play their part in this regard?

Hypothesis of the Study

People of South Punjab are now much motivated and inclined to become an English teacher; their attitudes have been altered to a great extent. Their inclination towards this profession is mainly on account of greater awareness and better career opportunities offered by our job-market for English teaching.

Handling of Quantitative Data

The researcher as part of this study has implied quantitative methodology in the process of the collection and analysis of the data. A questionnaire has been implied as data collection tool.

Student questionnaire has been formulated in order to discover the motivation level among the students (enrolled in degree program of English), towards their choice of becoming an English teacher.

The participants of this research are the students of four-year BS Hons. and 2-year Master's degree in English at various institutions, who were asked to fill in the questionnaires with their opinion on their motivation for becoming an English teacher and why they have got themselves enrolled at BS Hons. or Master levels and have selected English language or literature as the subject of their professional career. Participants were given four options under the Standard Likert scale to choose. The scale included Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree and Strongly Disagree. The data collected through the questionnaires have been statistically analyzed through SPSS-16 (version).

Population

Data collection includes the research plans to collect data for the conduct of research from students, motivated to become teachers of English. Data has been collected from within South Punjab (Bahawalpur, Mandi Yazman, Kehror Pakka and Bahawalnagar).

Students of BS 4-year or MA 2-year in English studying at various educational institutions of South Punjab are taken as the population of the study.

Random Sampling

Samples have been taken from participants from institutions in various areas of South Punjab namely Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, Mandi Yazman and Kehror Pakka. Random samples depending on the strength of students at respective institutions had been selected. The researcher, as part of data collection procedure approached the heads of different institutions for having granted permission to fulfil the purpose of research.

Research Instrument

Questionnaire has been implied as major tool for data collection to conduct the current study. A questionnaire was implied for the students enrolled in degree program of English literature or linguistics at various educational institutions.

Administration of the Data

After data collection through the adoption of research tool, its credibility has been examined. For the event of data collection, the researcher visited planned research situations to collect data. The management of the respective institutions expressed its generosity in granting permission for the collection of desired data.

Data Analysis

The data gathered through the tool of data collection had been analyzed statistically, organized, and construed. For the analysis of the data collected, SPSS-16 VERSION was used. Values were placed in the system of SPSS and then frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation were obtained and put forth as data interpretation.

Result and Discussion

To find out the attitude of individuals towards adopting the profession of English teacher in South Punjab, the researcher conducted a survey in different regions of South Punjab including Bahawalpur, Mandi Yazman Bahawalnagar and Kehror Pakka of province Punjab, Pakistan.

This survey has been conducted from 145 respondents who were all students of different institutions, offering program of BS Honours (four-year degree) in English and two years MA in English. The research tool for the purpose of data collection has been in the form of a questionnaire in which different questions were asked.

Questionnaire as Research tool:
Following have been the research findings:

Responses to research questionnaire

S. No.	Question	Percentage of responses			
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	I would like to become an English teacher to fulfil my much-awaited dream	1.4	8.3	41.0	41.4
	English is something I love from my childhood.	2.8	18.6	49.7	29.0
	Becoming an English teacher, I would like to inspire my students to do the same.	2.8	17.9	42.8	36.6
	To me, English teaching has a secure and stable job-career	1.4	9.7	47.6	41.4
	I am able to differentiate between Integrative and Instrumental motivation	1.4	17.2	46.9	34.5
	Instrumental motivation has always compelled me to opt for this degree	3.4	17.9	43.4	35.2
	The subject of English gives me better leadership skills	2.8	14.5	46.2	36.6
	English is much better in terms of earning than other subjects like Physics, Chemistry, Biology, etc.	0	21.4	52.4	26.2
	My English teachers at school and college level have been a source of inspiration for my preference of going into the same profession.	1.4	7.6	55.9	35.2
	By becoming an English teacher, I plan to keep myself up-to-date with the ever-growing developments taking place in English	1.4	10.3	44.8	43.4
	By becoming an English teacher, I think I can improve both receptive and productive skills	1.4	11.0	40.7	46.9
	In my opinion, English can provide me with good opportunities to go for, the best of which is teaching.	0	13.1	43.4	43.4
	I think by teaching English, I would be capable of making my students able to meet the requirements of the present day.	1.4	10.3	51.0	37.2
	My country can progress by leaps and bounds if our education system is entirely English-medium	3.4	22.1	44.1	30.3
	Our education sector can progress if it is equipped with individuals who are well-versed with the growth and development of English	1.4	23.4	43.4	31.7

In case I get an opportunity to become an English teacher, I would try my best to educate my society with the skills of English language and make it a developed one.	2.8	9.0	52.4	35.9
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Frequency: 145 respondents

Findings and Conclusion

The findings of the research carried out on the topic ‘Analyzing the inclination among individuals of South Punjab towards adopting the profession of English teacher in South Punjab, indicate that the students enrolled in the program of BS Honours in English and those of MA English have witnessed significant growth over the period of last 2 to 3 years which means that English for a job career has a lot to offer in terms of financial perks and privileges. Respondents have agreed to the fact that a degree in English gives one opportunity of earning even more and much better as compared to the often-regarded subjects of earning like Physics, Chemistry and Biology. The majority of the respondents have favored the factor of instrumental motivation for their preference of choosing their career as an English teacher.

Online educational platforms, in addition to private coaching centers, academies, schools, colleges and universities of South Punjab sound to have a big thirst for the professionals of English. On account of its effectiveness, proficient teachers of English are in great demand in our educational domains.

The majority of the respondents agreed to the notion that English teaching has a secure and stable job career.

A major share of agreeableness is of those who hold the fact that English proficiency is something that gives one better leadership skills. The majority of respondents have agreed to the fact that our country can progress if its individuals are well-versed in the skills of English. Responses have greatly been in favor of the objectives discussed in the paper.

The results of the research carried out vindicate the fact that individuals of South Punjab are nowadays greatly inclined towards choosing English as their subject of professional career. Extrinsic values or instrumental factors have a due share in this regard. Individuals choose English as their professional choice as its demand continues to augment globally with every new day approaching.

All objectives have been achieved in the current research. Availing financial privileges is something of a big concern to the individuals of South Punjab and the subject of English offers them so in a perfect manner. With every new day, we witness a growth and rise in the number of students enrolled in English degree program at different public and private institutions of the South Punjab region and the figure continues to increase at a fast pace. Very similar to it, the demand for the teachers of English continues to rise. This is one of the most important factors why individuals choose English as their professional choice.

Concluding remarks

The researcher can conclude that individuals in Pakistan’s South Punjab are strongly inclined to choose English as their field of study for a career. This decision is influenced by the financial benefits,

prospects for stability and advancement, and the need for English teachers across a range of educational institutions. The ability to speak English fluently is also seen as a key skill for improving leadership potential and advancing the nation. The findings validate the objectives of the paper and emphasize the necessity for English language instruction to play a prominent role in the region's educational system in order to meet the rising demand for qualified English instructors.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made in light of the findings:

1. **Curriculum Enhancement:** Educational authorities in South Punjab should integrate comprehensive English language programs into the curriculum at all levels of schooling, from primary through higher education. These programs should focus on both practical language skills and cultural competencies to ensure students are well-prepared for global interactions.
2. **Focused Research on Motivation:** Future studies should explore the specific motivational factors that influence individuals to pursue careers in English education. Investigating both intrinsic motivations, such as personal growth and passion for language, and extrinsic motivations, such as job market demands and societal status, will provide deeper insights for developing targeted recruitment and training programs.
3. **Financial Support and Incentives:** The government and educational stakeholders should consider establishing scholarships, grants, and subsidies aimed at supporting English language teachers' professional development and incentivizing individuals to enter the teaching profession, particularly in under-resourced areas.
4. **Expansion of Digital Education Platforms:** To address the shortage of qualified English teachers and reach a wider student audience, educational institutions should invest in and expand online learning platforms. This includes developing high-quality e-learning content, offering virtual teacher training workshops, and creating online communities for English learners and educators.
5. **International Collaborations:** Institutions in South Punjab should seek partnerships with foreign universities and educational organizations to offer exchange programs, joint degrees, and certification courses in English language teaching. Such collaborations can provide students and teachers with valuable international exposure and access to advanced pedagogical methods.

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