

Shyam Lal College
Department of English
Spoken English Course (2016-17)
Report

The Department of English, under the guidance of the Principal Prof. Rabi Narayan Kar, came up with an idea of a Spoken English Course for the students of the College from 16th January, 2017 for academic session 2016-17. The course was meant for those students who faced difficulties and were unable to acquire English language skills properly. Thereupon, through collective efforts of the Department and valuable inputs from the Principal, a module was drafted. Initially, the basic structure of the Module was prepared keeping in view the NPTEL Spoken English course module. However, the Department felt that since the course is meant for the beginners, it would be better to arrange the content module according to the requirements of the SLC students.

In its final package, the course was designed as a Six-Week Spoken English Course (four days per week) and though primary focus was on spoken English, it also included reading and writing sections other than speaking and listening.

The response from the students was overwhelming, total 50 students were shortlisted for the course. In its introductory session the Seminar Hall was jam-packed and students enthusiastically wanted to be the part of it. Prof. Kar, the principal, addressed the students intimating them about the importance of English in social and corporate realms. He also appreciated the effort of English Department and congratulated Dr. Kusha Tiwari, TIC, English Department, who was the guiding force behind the entire module. Witnessing such a huge response from the students, Prof. Kar had to announce that at its growing stage the Course would not be able to accommodate so many students and requested the Department of English to run the course both in odd and even semesters. The Course weeks were divided among five teachers which were as follows:

- 1) Mr. Anuj Kushwaha (Week 1)
- 2) Dr. Mukuta Borah (Week 2)
- 3) Mr. Abbasuddin Tapadar (Week 3)
- 4) Mr. Rajarshi Kalita (Week 4)
- 5) Ms. Alphinah (Week 5)
- 6) Mr. Anuj Kushwaha (Week 6)

The sessions were interactive, informative and interesting. The usage of videos, hand-outs, stories, comics, suggestive books and interesting worksheets helped the students to grasp the tips to learn and understand English language. There were brain-storming sessions, debates, group activities and impromptu presentations which enhanced the confidence level of the students.

In Week One, Mr. Anuj Kushwaha started the session on a lighter note with the help of YouTube videos. The objective was to help the students to utilise the opportunities close at hand to learn English. Social media platforms viz. Facebook, YouTube, Instagram etc. provide learners with a space to learn, interact, participate and grow. In this regard, a YouTube tutorial video on food recipe was shown to the students. The language in the video was Hindi with English subtitles. The students were able to learn culinary/cuisine specific vocabulary and articulate their own sentences both in Hindi and English using the vocabulary (*Belan*: rolling pin, *Channi/Chalani*: sieve and so on) from the video. The students found the method interesting.

In Week Two, Dr. Mukuta Borah taught grammar to the students beginning with tenses and helped them in framing simple sentences in English. The students were also engaged in conversations based on simple present tense. A doubt clearing session was also organised at the end of the week.

In Week Three, Mr. Abbas Tapadar worked on the pronunciation of the students and delivered elementary yet essential tips of transcription which could enhance the speaking style of the students.

In Week Four, Mr. Rajarshi Kalita interacted with the students and gave valuable inputs on communication skills- verbal and non-verbal. The students cherished his discussions on 'expressing silence' and how to say 'no'. The students made remarkable improvement at that juncture.

In Week Five, Ms. Alpinah focussed on the writing skills of the students. They were given tips to write/draft formal/official letters, reports, e-mails, CV/resume etc which would help them at professional level.

In Week Six, based on the experiences gained by the students in five weeks Mr. Anuj organised some more activity based interactive sessions. The students were given graphic stories (Indian) with hidden captions and were urged to interpret the conversations on their own. A group based activity was also arranged wherein the students were given a situation and they were asked to initiate conversation as they deemed fit. The Course ran its entire course of weeks and also took informal inputs from the students for making the course better next time. Total duration of this course was 48 hrs.

Learning Outcomes:

The students should be able to:

- 1) Articulate basic English words with ease and communicate with confidence
- 2) Pronounce the words correctly and able to identify the usage of words according to occasion (register).
- 3) Read, write and speak Basic English at professional/formal places.
- 4) Apply verbal and non-verbal techniques to experience enhanced expression quality during speaking.
- 5) Feel encouraged to move to advanced level of speaking, writing and reading skills