

# Language Learning, ESL with Literature is No more Drudgery

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## Abstract

Effective learning needs the use of language since it is the means through which learners construct their ideas and interact with the ideas of others. Literature has been a unique source for learning a language for many years, according to experts. This paper focuses on how to make a learner acquire knowledge and life skills with language as a tool. In this paper, we see how the Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen in his three-act play, lucidly presented the bitter truths of society through characters like Nora Helmer, Torvald Helmer, their children and Krogstad. He tried to portray the role of women taking new turns, and the audience was awe-inspired by the first ending, which jerked the entire Victorian-era audience. Now a learner can improve his vocabulary through Literature. Example: The idiomatic expression is the “Achilles’ heel” whose inner meaning is “weakness” if a learner has no touch with Literature, they will not be able to understand the hidden meaning. So, the present paper throws light on Literature and language to show that teaching has shifted from a Herculean task to a facile one. Therefore, any learner, irrespective of his branch of academics, must have a touch with Literature to enhance his “communication skills”; indeed, his exposure towards the Global language grows automatically.

**Keywords:** Language, Literature, Life skills, Vocabulary, Idioms and Communication skills.

## Introduction:

The English language has constantly been influencing people worldwide. In some countries where English is not the native language, it is taught as ESL (English as a second language) for non-native speakers of English. Most individuals throughout the globe would benefit from taking the time to study English as a second language so that they can integrate into international society more quickly. As students of one class speak a different native language, teaching English to them is a great challenge. Proper instruction in reading comprehension may boost reading, improving instruction quality and learning in English [1]. A student, irrespective of the branch he is studying in or the area of his interest, must have touch with Literature to know the basic idioms and vocabulary. “Literature is a Reflection of society” [2]. By reading Literature, we come to know that people have different mindsets. The author in [3] discussed the merits and drawbacks of utilising Literature in ESL courses. Suppose literary works are to be utilised effectively in the classroom. In that case, the author believes, they must be picked with care and addressed in a way that encourages an aesthetic engagement between the reader and the text. A case study of one possible way to engage with a literary work was presented in his study.

### **Language: A tool to provide knowledge:**

It is a fact universally accepted that a language becomes dead when last but one speaker of that language dies, so imparting knowledge to the learner depends on the language in which he or she feels comfortable; when you speak English, you have access to a worldwide community of individuals who share your language. Bilingualism is quite widespread in modern society due to the spread of globalised language wave. To suit the needs of communication, speakers in bilingual societies across the globe routinely transition between their two languages [4].

### **Literature gives way to improve Language and life skills:**

Literature is seen as a suitable approach when it comes to learning a new language. Literature is a great resource for language instructors for a variety of reasons. The authors in [5] provided a clear introduction and a discussion that offers a how-to guide that is both research-based and immediately applicable, along with a review of current research trends. Moreover, the authors in [6] have justified with their study that the inclusion of Literature in English has been proven to be very effective. Experts in the subject have put forth reading aloud in English as a Second Language lesson has several benefits [7]. Focusing on the targeted language i.e, English, to improve students at vocabulary and idiomatic expressions, these things “Add a feather to one’s Cap”. We have to make use of different patterns of study, like an interactive model, which helps students enhance the required skills. Teaching Life skills to students requires much effort. Life skills learning go hand in hand with the development of a student's life.

### **Class Survey:**

A survey was conducted in the Communicative English Lab of G. Pullaiah College of Engineering and Technology, Kurnool. A sample of twenty-five students from the branches of Computer science and Engineering Artificial Intelligence were observed for the entire tenure of one semester. As part of the study, a text from Literature was given to them, and the time allotted was one month. Later the difference was traced out when these students competed with the students of other branches who had no exposure to Literature. They could really make a difference; from then onwards, I made maximum use of literary text to teach the targeted language English(ESL).

Ex: “A Doll’s House” play by Henrik Ibsen, A Student having exposure to Literature and to Greek mythology, which is present in The Iliad, The Trojan War, the student will become very much aware of the idiomatic expression the “Achilles’ heel” which is a direct reference from the Trojan war, here one would be aware of characters like Achilles, Agamemnon, Thetis mother of Achilles and Zeus.

In the case of the play A Doll’s House, which left a significant impact on the women of the Victorian Era who started accepting the change which Nora Helmer tried to bring during the end of the play, she portrays clearly a man may think his lady is not sensible, and Naive [8].

So when a student of the 21st century reads such Literature, he will be able to trace out the discrepancies in domestic life. However, the play's ending gives a jerk when Nora decides to abandon his family as they don’t recognise her unwavering support towards them. She stops her steps thinking about her husband and children, which every woman has been doing for many years. While all the other women accepted what “Nora” did but later, as it created a lot of disturbances in society, the writer gave the second ending to the play showing Nora instead of leaving the house forever.

**Comparing Nora Hermer with the lady of 21<sup>st</sup> century :**

As we know, Nora first thought about leaving her domestic life and being independent, but later the pressure on her mind doesn't make her stand on her decision. Hence it can be Nora or any other lady of the 21<sup>st</sup> century who can sacrifice, and that's the only common theme found. As we know that Marxist feminism does talk in this regard, they say the labour done by women should be a payable one. The concept of feminism starts with "Vindication of Rights of women" by Mary Wollstonecraft and ends with Julia Kristeva.

After Mary, the next feminist writer is Virginia Woolf, who says an independent woman needs two things one is Money the other is the room of one's own to write fiction.

**How women started writing:**

Earlier women used male pseudonyms to write, just because they wanted their works to get published and free the judgements of other people.

**Overcome Drudgery among learners:**

To make any learner acquire any skill, it is essential to first convey to them the importance of that skill in their lives. Before that, "How would it help them" to grow in their Academics as well as in their personal life?

The following aspects can help the learner enhance his life skills. Generally, when a student is motivated or is given counselling, they may not be able to get the point which we want to make emphasis. So when we give any literature text to study, he will analyse it by himself. Hence we bring a facilitator who can help them acquire life skills.

**Literature Review:**

- The present work helps acquire social values among learners as it not only throws light upon language but teaches a lot about the characters of different texts.
- The play A Doll's House is the background for the above findings

Literature was, however, an important source for teaching in English language classes in the time of the Grammar Translation Method. The involvement of new methods like structure and Poststructuralism brought new perspectives in the area of learning.

The Involvement of communicative language Teaching by which the focus was more on conversations and dialogues, so the approach towards Literature declined.

**Provides Authenticity:**

Literature gives input its criterion for teaching current Literature in ESL/EFL, which is in conversations of Novels or dramas. So these increase the imaginary power of individual learners.

**Gives Motivation:**

A literary text is an element which motivates the learner to go ahead precisely when the exposure is given to what they really enjoy.

### **Cultural Awareness:**

In this fast-growing world, universal concerns are considered rather than individuals. Hence Globalisation urges for not only the development in the field of economy and politics but also in language-concerned fields such as ELT. Literature focuses on themes like love, death, and nature, but similarities and differences help the learner acquire full-fledged knowledge. Through the involvement of language and Literature, Cultural Awareness of the whole world is gained.

### **Intensive/Extensive Reading:** The Intensive/Extensive Reading of the Classics

Here it is very lucid that Novels are good for extensive reading and poetry for intensive reading. Intensive reading will help the learners extract the deep meaning present in each text. Extensive reading will improve the reader's reading speed in a limited period.

### **Essential Life skills to help a learner**

- Focus and Self-Control are important
- Perception - Plays a key role
- Communication matters a lot
- Making connections is a necessary task.
- Critical thinking.
- Taking up challenges.
- Self-Directing and Engaged Learning is also required.

### **Conclusion**

Hence learning the Language with the knowledge of Literature is no more Drudgery. When a student is exposed to Literature, he becomes an expert at learning any core or technical stuff. Giving students scope to grow is the essential quality of an ideal teacher. Once a learner acquires life skills, he will be more comfortable in any environment, and It will be easy for him to climb up the employment ladder as quickly as he can and reach his destination.

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