

THE POWER OF WORDS: THE ESSENTIAL ROLE OF ENGLISH IN ACADEMIC PURSUITS

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Recognizing that English is the universal and most spoken language across the globe, this can open a greater horizon of opportunities and possibilities for the learners. The importance of the English language in improving educational success via enhanced communication is impossible to over emphasize. Students with so many issues with their ability to communicate in the English language might not perform well, not just in English itself, but in their academic performance as a whole (Jacob Kola Aina, 2013). English is the most widely used language in the world. In comparison, China, a developing nation where English is seen as a vital tool for economic development, modernization, and globalization, learning English is widely accepted as a successful strategy for fostering intercultural communication. The relationship between motivation and achievement has been studied in the past, and studies have shown that motivation has a positive effect on students' achievement. Students who are highly motivated also believe that learning a language could expand their future educational and career opportunities in the rapidly changing globalization times. (Yongjun Zhang, 2023)

English is used to teach and learn a wide range of disciplines in addition to being taught as a foreign or second language alongside other academic courses. This indicates that the English language is being used to teach other academic subjects rather than being a subject in and of itself. English as a medium of instruction (EMI) is the technical term for this phenomena. In general, EMI is defined as "the courses conducted entirely in English, excluding those whose primary purpose is language education" by the "Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)". According to

Macaro's latest definition, EMI is the use of English to teach a variety of academic subjects in countries where English is not the primary or native language of the majority of the people. (Lei Feng a, September 2023)

According to the study of Hijazi (2018) proficiency in English greatly improves students' comprehension of academic content, making it simpler for them to understand difficult ideas that are covered in research papers, articles, lecture notes, and textbooks. Since a large portion of the academic material in higher education is in English, fluency in the language is necessary to comprehend complex theories and subject-specific terminology. Students who speak English well are better able to understand and remember information, which improves learning outcomes and academic achievement. Additionally, taking notes effectively is facilitated by fluency in English. During lectures, students who are proficient in the language can swiftly and accurately scribble down significant ideas, ensuring that they retain context and capture crucial information. Students benefit greatly from these well-structured notes, which also aid in comprehension and memory of the subject matter.

Furthermore, better communication abilities, especially in English, are essential for academic success because they allow students to engage more fully and productively in class activities. Strong English language learners are more comfortable participating in group projects, discussions, and debates because they can articulate their ideas clearly and concisely (Rao, 2019). By interacting with peers and teachers, students who actively participate not only improve their ability to express their thoughts but also develop a better comprehension of the material. Students can improve their relationships with professors and peers and have a beneficial impact on their academic experience by comfortably participating in class discussions. Additionally, a lot of academic assignments call for cooperation and teamwork, and being able to communicate clearly in English is crucial for group settings.

In addition, because it guarantees that students comprehend the instructions and questions completely, a solid command of the English language directly leads to improved performance on tests and assessments (Rios, 2018). English is used for many academic tests, assignments, and evaluations, thus knowing the language well enables pupils to understand what is expected of them. Language problems might cause students to misunderstand exam questions or assignment directions, which can lead to subpar answers and lower grades.

Additionally, students who are proficient in English may articulate their ideas in written tests in a clear and rational manner. Students with high language skills are able to precisely communicate their thoughts, offer well-structured arguments, and organize their ideas when required to compose essays or long-form responses. This clarity not only makes it easier for instructors to follow their reasoning but also enhances the overall quality of their responses, leading to higher grades and improved academic performance. Ultimately, the ability to comprehend and communicate in English is key to excelling in academic assessments.

Lastly, as mentioned in the study of Hayder, et.al. (2022) another important advantage of being proficient in English is having access to resources and knowledge from throughout the world, particularly when it comes to academic accomplishment. Since English is used to publish the great majority of international research, journals, and scholarly materials, students who want to increase their academic understanding must be proficient in the language. Reading and comprehending English allows students to access a multitude of information that would otherwise be unavailable, improving their research, expanding their knowledge of a variety of topics, and staying current with advancements in their fields of study. Additionally, English facilitates international networking opportunities as the lingua franca of academia. Strong language skills allow students to connect with scholars, researchers, and peers from different countries, promoting cross-cultural exchanges and collaborations. These international connections

can lead to academic partnerships, opportunities for joint research, and participation in global conferences, thereby enriching the students' academic experience and expanding their professional horizons.

To sum up, proficiency in the English language is necessary not just for future employment prospects and personal growth, but also for academic achievement. Reading comprehension, writing, communication, critical thinking, and access to international academic resources are all increased by fluency in English, and these skills all lead to better academic achievement. Students must be equipped with what they need to thrive in a fast-paced world of knowledge, technology and communication.

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