

The Impacts Of English Language Learning On The Career Of EFL Graduates Of Samangan Higher Education Institute

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Abstract: The aim of this paper is to evaluate the impacts of English Language Learning on EFL graduates of English Department of Samangan Higher Education Institute. The data for the study is gathered both from primary and secondary sources including online questionnaire, books, articles, online resources and journals. The research is primary qualitative so a simple statistical analysis is used to calculate the frequency and percentage of the data. From the finding revealed that English language learning plays a great role in EFL graduates' career. English language learning not only improved graduates' language skills and abilities, but also it improved their personal and professional skills. The graduates were strongly agreed for the idea of studying at the English Language and Literature Department and they were strongly agreed to choose it as their field of study. At the same time, they strongly agreed that having an English degree paves the ways to work in higher positions. The impacts of English as an international language have been as a tool for their communication process especially in job seeking.

Keywords: english, impacts, graduate, samangan, language, career

I. INTRODUCTION

The English language is one of the fast growing languages in the world. It has one of the largest vocabularies that are characterized by its immensity, complexity and richness comparing to other languages. Learning English as a foreign language has had great impacts in our society and on the people living in it since 2001. It has been the key language for communication with other people around the world. At the same time, it is the language of modern technology and science. In the modern era, English is the medium of all social interaction and it is considered to be essential for honorable existence. English learning and teaching has a great role in education system of Afghanistan. Having higher education is a requirement for a better future. There are varieties of reasons for going to university and getting a degree such as academic, interest, future career or social life.

The English language and literature department has been established in Education Faculty of Samangan Higher Education Institute in 2012. By 2020, it has graduated more than 200 students from 2015 to 2019. The graduates with

English language qualifications can work in many fields such as social media manager, technical writer, public relation specialist, grant writer, librarian, editor, content manager, human resource specialist, teacher, and fundraiser, record manager, teaching mentor, education consultant, interpreter and translator. At the same time, having an English language degree can increase professional and personal developmental skills such as time management, independent working, team building, debating, negotiating, critical thinking, leading and so on.

The core contents of the curriculum of English language and literature department of Samangan Higher Education Institute included to the following topics: Literature in general (elements of literature, American literature, British literature, world literature, literary periods and each of them deals with new ideas, themes, forms, styles, literary devices, dramatic elements, drama, prose and poetry, and songs), Phonology, Morphology, Syntax, Semantics, Linguistics, Islamic Culture, Information Technology, Dari, Pashtu, and Arabic literature, Psychology, and Language skills (Reading, Writing, Speaking, & Listening). All of these subjects are based on living

conditions, attitudes, values, traditions, and social norms, and social issues, political, cultural and economical issues.

A. STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Nowadays, having higher education is a requirement for a better future. There are varieties of reasons for going to university and getting a degree such as academic, interest, future career or social life. At the same time, a college education paves the ways to have a better future career. The educators need to make choices in selection of a major for being able to achieve their goals. The same is true with the EFL (English as Foreign Language) graduates of Samangan Higher Education.

Based on the literature review, there are many researches that are done to evaluate the impacts of learning English language on the career of one's life. However, there has been a lack of studies on investigating the impacts of English language learning on the career of EFL graduates of Afghanistan. Therefore, this research is conducted to study the impacts of English language leaning on the life of EFL graduates of Samangan Higher Education from the year 2015 to 2019.

B. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The current study aims to evaluate the impacts of Learning English on the career of EFL graduates. Therefore, efforts are made to meet the following objectives:

- ✓ To evaluate the impacts of learning English on the EFL graduates' career.
- ✓ To examine the role of learning English in today's education system.
- ✓ To identify the needs for having English language skills in employment

C. REASERCH QUESTIONS

- ✓ What are the impact of learning English on EFL graduates' career?
- ✓ What are the effective factors of English Language learning in employment?
- ✓ What is the role of Learning English in today's educational system?

D. SCOPE OF STUDY

To answer the research questions, the current research paper will focus on the impacts of English Language learning on the career of EFL graduates at Samangan Higher Education from 2015 to 2019. The data for the study is gathered from primary and secondary sources including online questionnaire, books, articles, online resources and so on. The research is primary qualitative so a simple statistical analysis will be used to calculate the frequency and percentage of the data.

E. HYPOTHESIS OF STUDY

The hypothesis of this study is based on the motivation of EFL graduates learning English as an international language

as well as having a better career. Furthermore, the English Department students are currently attending theoretical programs at Samangan higher education, the impacts of learning English can be seen in future studies and graduates career. The hypothesis regarding the questions is that the majority of the graduates will show their positive attitudes of learning English on their careers as well as the impacts of English in Samangan Society in general.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

This section provides an overview of the previous studies on English language learning and its impacts in EFL graduates. It also states the sources and research that have been done before. Schmitt (2000) stated that the university graduates of English Native Speakers know more than 20,000 words families and the number of words is over two million and more than 54,000 word families. At the same time, Stahl (2005) stated "English is promiscuous in the way that it adds words and takes words from sources such as other languages, slang, and compounding" (p. 97).

According to Alderman (2008), goals are something that one person wants to achieve and it depends on human action conscious and intentions. He stated that for language learners it is important to set goals. He meant that goal is a cognitive representation of a future event and it can influence in many ways as follows:

- ✓ Having a direct attention and action toward an interested target to accomplish the goal.
- ✓ Having lots of efforts to the difficulty of the task to be accomplished.
- ✓ Having creative plans and using strategies to reach them
- ✓ Having a reason to continue to work hard and get succeed
- ✓ Having the ability to increase the one's performance in life.

According to Nagy (2005), the expansion and elaboration of vocabulary extends over life time and there is no indication of grammatical and linguistic knowledge of the speakers. However, English as an international language always requires borrowing new words from other languages in order to create new terms for new ideas. It can also be hard for the English learners to learn a large number of words with their denotation and connotation meanings. As Spolsky (1969) pointed about the positive and negative attitudes of second language learners in learning a new language like English. He adds that those who learn English with more positive attitudes are getting the advantages rather than with those who have negative attitudes in learning. Crystal (1997) states that the main reason of the spread of English is that it has greater role in many fields. Further she adds, "When new technologies brought new linguistic opportunities, English emerged as a first-rank language in industries which affected all aspects of the society-the press, advertising, broadcasting, motion pictures, sound recording, transport and communications." (pp110-111)

At the English Language and Literature Department of Samangan Higher Education Institute, the methodology of ELT is based on both theory and practice. It suggests about the nature of the language that how language is learned and what is it. At the same time, the curriculum of English Department

has well designed features which include course syllabus, course policy, course objective, goals, activities, role of the teacher, and role of the learner, teaching and learning in materials and so on.

The dimensions of effectiveness of ELT methods and course contents of language are an area which has not been worked intensively in Afghanistan. This study focuses on the impacts of English Language Learning on the career of English Foreign Learners graduates in order to evaluate the role and effectiveness of English in general.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research method of this study is based on a qualitative method because there was prepared a questionnaire for the aim of the research. According to Trost (2001), a qualitative investigation is preferable if we want to find a pattern or if we want to understand something. At the same time, a questionnaire is more suitable to those researches which deal with finding about attitudes, opinions and the effectiveness of something. It is important to have a well designed and formed questionnaire in order to avoid the risk of getting less answers. An online questionnaire was distributed to 78 participants both male and female. It was well designed and the participants felt comfortable to express themselves. Thus, the data has been collected from graduated students of English Department of Samangan Higher Education Institute. The questionnaire was distributed to 78 graduates from the year 2015 to 2019.

A. MATERIALS

For the purpose of this study, the qualitative research method and descriptive approach were used. For this an online questionnaire has been distributed to 78 EFL graduates in order to collect the primary data. The secondary data has been collected from books, articles, journals, teaching materials and other online sources.

B. DATA COLLECTION

To answer the research questions, the current paper focused on the impacts of English Language learning on the career of EFL graduates at Samangan Higher Education from 2015 to 2019. The data for the study is gathered from primary and secondary sources including questionnaire, books, articles, online resources and so on. The research is primary qualitative so a simple statistical analysis will be used to calculate the frequency and percentage of the data.

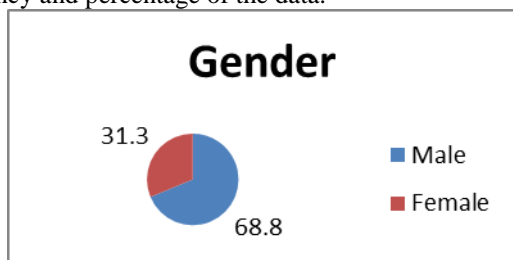


Table 1: comparing the gender of the participants n=78

In this particular research, there were 31.3% female and 68.8% male who attempted to fill out the questionnaire. It should be mentioned that all the questions were mandatory to answer and they couldn't escape any answer without marking one of the options.

C. DATA ANALYSIS

The purpose of this study is to find out the impacts of learning English Language in the career of EFL graduates. The research is primary qualitative so no special statistical analysis has been used. The qualitative analysis for study is simple statistical analysis to calculate the frequency and percentage of the data. The qualitative research method has been used for gathering the information. After data collection, the SPSS software was used to evaluate and analyze the data descriptively in terms of percentages and frequencies.

IV. FINDING AND RESULT

This section deals with the evaluation of the questionnaires regarding the main impacts of learning English language on the career of EFL graduates. The level of participants' answers are divided under the following headings as agree, strongly agree, disagree, strongly disagree, and not sure.

Level of graduates' perceptions

Level of perception	No of Participants	Percentage
Agree	30	39%
Strongly agree	41	52%
Disagree	7	9%
Strongly disagree	0	0%
Not sure	0	0%
Total	No of participants: 78 No of questions: 28	

Table 2: General evaluation of the questionnaire

The above table shows the general evaluation of the participant's answers from the questionnaires which included (28) multiple choice questions. There were variables that show their level of agreement and disagreement regarding the statements as follows:

- ✓ (A) Agree
- ✓ (SA) strongly agree
- ✓ (D) disagree
- ✓ (SDA) strongly disagree

It reveals that 39% of the participants agreed that English has great role to their career while 52% of them strongly agreed that learning English changed their career. Only 9% of them disagreed with the same idea.

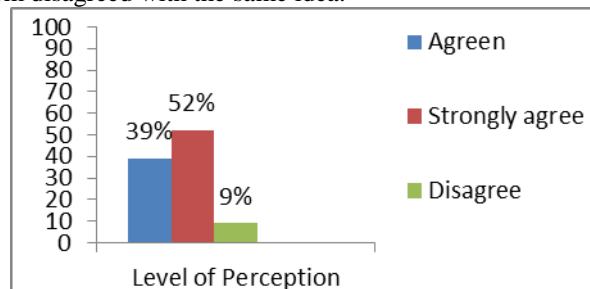


Table 3: Comparison of Graduates' perception

The above table shows the main evaluation of the questionnaire regarding the impacts of learning English language on the career of graduated students of English Language and Literature Department of Samangan Higher education from 2015 to 2019. The data analysis shows that 87.5% of the graduates (both male and female) agreed that there is substantial improvement in their English language skills after graduation from the University. In general, the majority of the participants have job either in private or public organizations. About 85% of them have jobs and the rest are busy in other business. Some of them teach English at the university, private and public schools, courses and training colleges. Very few of them are pursuing their master's degree abroad. Among the participants there was 5% with Master's degree and 95% with bachelor's degree. 87.5% of them agreed that they learned English within 1-5 years and 12.5 % of them for 10-15 years. 55% of the graduates acknowledged that they are satisfied with choosing English as their field of study and 41.5% of them strongly agreed for the same reason while 3.5 % of them disagreed. About 91% of them can use English spontaneously in daily situation and the rest of them are either not sure or not agreed with the idea.

Most of the participants strongly agreed that learning English-language is important for one's career. 92% of the graduates were happy studying at the English Department and the rest are not sure. The majority of them consider English essential for job interview and employment. On the other hand, they believe that English is very important for their job promotion and working in higher positions. They also agreed that English is not only important for their self-confidence and self development, but also it has great impacts in their whole life. More than 97.3 of them agreed that English language leaning development their personal and professional skills and increased their knowledge about cultures and perspectives.

Through studying English the graduates were able to see the great change in their language skills and abilities and 87 % of them believe that they can teach English better. 99% of them agreed that they can read, write and communicate in English well. Learning English also made them to be competitive. The participants strongly recommend learning English for having a better career in life since they think it is the essential requirements for job seeking. Thus, having an English qualification provide better employment opportunities and pave the ways to a better future.

V. CONCLUSION

The purpose of the current study was to evaluate the impacts of learning English language on the career of EFL graduates of Samangan Higher Education. The analysis of the data from the questionnaire revealed that English Language has a great impact on the career of the graduates. The finding of the study shows that the majority of the English Language graduates have either part time or full time jobs comparing to other departments' graduates of the same institution. From the finding it has been cleared that English plays a great role in one's career. English language learning not only improved their language skills and abilities, but also it improved their personal and professional developmental skills. At the same

time, having an English degree paves the way to work in higher positions. The graduates were strongly agreed for the idea of studying at the English Language and Literature Department and they were happy to choose it as their field of study.

Thus, English is very important in many aspects of one's life especially on career and employment. When the EFL learners achieve their educational goals, they are able to work in higher position in private or public organization. The participants strongly recommend learning English for having a better career in life since they think it is the essential requirements for job seeking. Thus, having an English qualification provide better employment opportunities and pave the ways to a better future. Learning English for having a better career in life since they think it is the essential requirements for job seeking. Thus, having an English qualification provide better employment opportunities and pave the ways to a better future.

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