Research Paper

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Bangladesh Institute of Professional Studies

বাংলাদেশ ইনস্টিটিউট অব প্রফেশনাল স্টাডিজ

Research Paper

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Contents

A DECISIVE STUDY OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HUMAN AND ANIMAL

Snehangshu Shekhar Chanda[*]
Md. Shah Alam Chowdhury[**]
Abdul Rahman[***]

Abstract

The current paper asserts that animal communication is not symbolic, so it cannot preserve ideas of the past. New words can be invented easily and animals have to evolve in order for their signs to change. Animal can understand the human language by gesture and they can understand some activities of human being. Motherly affection is traced in animal like human being. Both cats and dogs help the people in different ways, which are the gifts of nature. On a purely biological level, the human voice box and tongue are very unique, and are required to make the sounds we recognize as language. Other animals have different biological structures, which impact they way they make sounds.

Keywords: Man, animal, sing, symbol

1. INTRODUCTION

Both Human and animal are the gifts of nature and God which play a vital role on its side in the present world. Though the shape and appearance is different, there is a little bit comparison between the two creatures. Communication with own species has never been easier, with multitudes of people instantly connected via devices at all times. However, is it this impersonal, written word communication that has created our hunger for information and quenched the thirst we once had for knowledge and understanding. One way to better understand the apparently unique creative

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potential of human language is to contrast it with systems of communication found elsewhere in nature. The differences between animal and human communication are profound, but all the differences seem to derive from a single basic fact: Humans possess a natural, inborn facility to be creative with symbols; as far as we know; animals do not (Vajda, 2018). However, the major objectives of the current study were to find out the system of communication of human and animal and to find out their style in practical field.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Both dogs and humans are social group species which means that they are genetically inclined to group together and follow rules. According to Krause and Ruxton (2002) social groups evolve when the net benefit of close association with con-specifics exceed the cost. Social group species develop social tolerance and social attentiveness, two aspects of social living that are necessary for co-operation (Range and Viranyi 2015). What makes domestic dogs so different is that their social group consists of another species-Human and perhaps always has done. Their ability to co-operate through social tolerance and social attentiveness spread beyond their own species, to include the humans they are believed to have evolved alongside (Hare and Tomasello 2005). Range and Vibrancy (2015) describe this as the Domestication Hypothesis and use it to explain why dogs and wolves have developed behavioral differences, in short, dogs quickly became dependent on the humans they lived with and therefore needed to develop social cognition in order to survive. This dependence continues to this day, according to Oppugner and Coppinger (2016), who state that if humans died out, so would dogs.

3. METHODOLOGY

The research was conducted from March-2018 to April-2018 by vigilant observation on five dogs, three cats on its behavior in different situation. Five dogs were generally selected from SAU campus and three cats were selected from home and outside the house and from a shop. No preselected time was used but the observation was in several times. At the time of its barking, fighting among dogs and cats, moving its tails were taken under consideration. The reports of several books and journals were taken under consideration.

4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. COMMUNICATION PROCESS

There is a process by which a message originates from a sender and is decoded and acknowledged by the receiver in the form of the feedback in human communication they provide. In this illustration Cheyney (2011) identifies the important elements of communication.
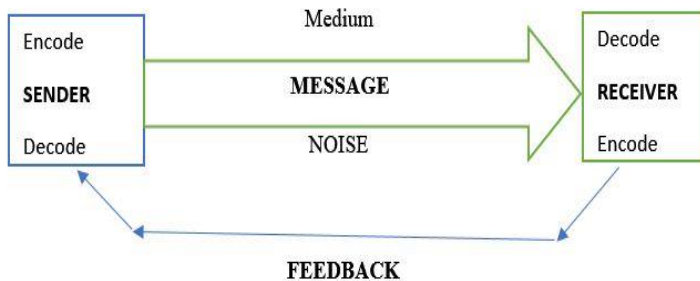
Figure-1: The Communication Process. (Cheney 2011)

The sender and the receiver are two common elements in every communication exchange. The sender initiates the communication and the receiver receives it, who is the individual to whom the massage is sent.. In a school, the sender is a person who has a need or desire to convey an idea or concept to others.. The sender encodes the idea by selecting words, symbols, or gestures with which to compose a message. The message is the outcome of the encoding, which takes the form of verbal, nonverbal, or written language. The message is sent through a medium or channel, which is the carrier of the communication. The medium can be a face-to-face conversation, telephone call, e-mail, or written report. The receiver decodes the received message into meaningful information. Noise is anything that distorts the message. Different perceptions of the message, language barriers, interruptions, emotions, and attitudes are examples of noise. Finally, feedback occurs when the receiver responds to the sender's message and returns the message to the sender. Feedback allows the sender to determine whether the message has been received and understood.

The elements in the communication process determine the quality of communication. A problem in any one of these elements can reduce communication effectiveness (Keyton, 2011).

Animals clearly do not have creative communication which could be called true language. This question is still debated by linguists and natural scientists--but the answer is probably no. Let's look at some of the evidence for and against the presence of latent creative linguistic ability in animals.
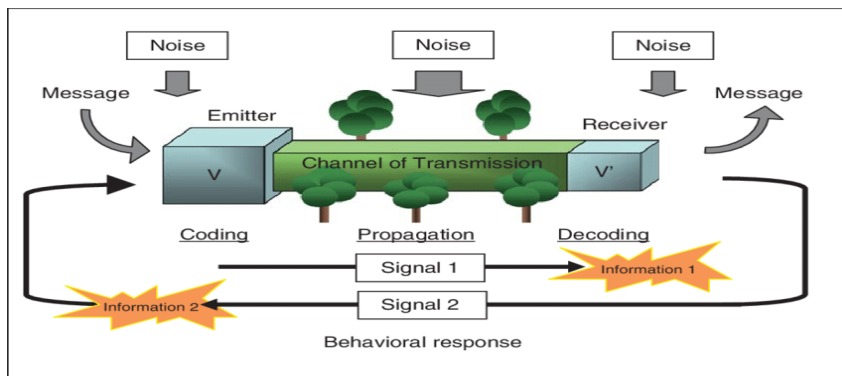
Figure-2, Animal Communication System.
(Source: Shannon and Weaver, 1998)

4.2. PRINCIPLES OF ANIMAL COMMUNICATION

According to Shannon and Weaver (1998), it may be noted that a communication corresponds to an exchange of information (here signal 1 and signal 2) between an emitter and a receiver. In the process of being transmitted, different sources of noise and the properties of the channel of transmission are responsible for the decrease, which occurs between the volume of information sent (V) and the volume of information received (V'). This decrease affects the accuracy of the message finally received.

Some birds have an almost uncanny capacity for mimicry. Mockingbirds imitate the songs of other birds. Parrots and mynah birds can render perfect imitations of the human voice. This shows that the difference between human and animal languages is not due merely to the specific structure of the human speech organs which animals lack.

4.3. HUMAN LANGUAGE AND ANIMAL LANGUAGE

There is no limitation of human language for its expressing capacity because human languages are based on a system of patterns or rules called grammar. Grammar means as pattern with function but no specific meaning: phonology, morphology and syntax, which allows language signs to be used with virtually endless creativity. There is a limitation of animal

language which is defined as finite range of possible massage. Nothing new is seen because there are no abstract levels similar to human grammar. They are non creative and its systems seem not to change from generation to generation .Animal systems are limited to a strictly defined, finite range of possible messages. There is never anything new because there is no abstract level similar to human grammar. Actually, they change extremely slowly, over periods of many thousands of years, but as a result of genetic drift rather than conscious innovation. The way that animals communicate is biological, or inborn. Human acquire language culturally. Distinctive sounds, called phonemes, are arbitrary and have no meaning. But humans can string these sounds in an infinite number of ways to create meaning via words and sentences. Other animals do not communicate by arranging arbitrary sounds, which limits the number of messages they can create. (Vajda, 2018)

When the vocal folds close, they close the tracheal airway. This is why we can't breathe and talk at the same time. The same is true when dogs *bark* and the cats *meow*. The cat is unique in that its vocal fold cords have an additional membrane called the ventricular cords that are used for purring.

There are two cats in and inside the buildings there the authors live. In careful observation the sound of cat's barking is Meow---.Generally it does not meow but its meowing has different meaning. When it barks as Meow—Meow-Meow--it means it searches something. There is a proverb in rural area that excess barking of cat indicates that some unexpected thing may be happened in the family.

It can understand the gesture of human as human uses gesture and different sounds to the animals. In case of raising hand, it fled away with fear and take shelter. Generally a cat is habituated when it stays in a house for a long time. If anybody uses same sound to serve the same purpose everyday for the cat, it is habituated to do particular work following that sound.
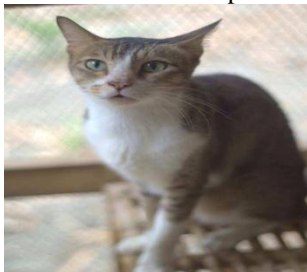

Figure-3-Cat taking rest   Figure-4: Running on the street

In close observation it seemed that cats growl to communicate other animals of human even seeing a bird outside the window or a lack of food in the bowl, a cat probably try to say about it. Sometimes it seems that it makes certain sounds for self soothing purposes and to provide comfort for other cats or human. Among all creatures without the ability to speak cats are very talented for communicating their wants and needs. The sound, meow has a different meaning.

In the wild, kittens meow to get the mother cat's attention, as explained by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). Generally, though, adult cats don't meow much to one another at the time. On the other hand, adult cats make meow to communicate with humans pretty frequently. In fact, cat's meow at people to say hello, ask for attention, or demand food, as further noted by the ASPCA. In the study, it seems that kittens meows much when they are hungry or the man snatches one or two kittens out of all. A good relationship is traced between kittens and mother cat at the time of feeding. Like human being cats are also very careful for kittens incase of feeding. In case of searching food meow sound is plenty and high-pitched and for greeting the sound is bright and chirpy. The cats seem happy when the sound is low and rumbling. At night it seems that cats look clearly at night and it kills the rat at home. It meows when it sees unknown person. By hearing the sound the people become careful. Moving its tail and growling has another meaning which indicates it is very obedient to him in happier mood. An aggressive cat opens its eyes widely or half shuts them and draws back its ears and twitches its tail in fast movements. A frightened cat widens its pupils, draws back its ears by pressing them close to its head, then drops down its tail and stiffen its hair.

The behavior of dog is complex and the signals that dogs send are subtle. There is no universally accepted sound that humans use to represent dog barks. In a single language there may be a number of different words used for a dog's bark, for example, in English we recognize "woof-woof," "arf-arf", "ruff-ruff" and "bow-wow.

In close observation it was seen that Dogs have very good senses and they have an excellent sense of smell that has made dogs good at tracking as well as sniffing out illegal items like drugs or bombs. Some dogs are specifically bred to increase their sense of smell. It has an excellent field of vision allowing them to see almost in a complete circle. The hearing of dog is very sensitive as well as has a large frequency range which enables dogs to hear sounds that are much higher than humans. Their great hearing makes them good guard dogs. If a man claps his hands, dogs run away. There is a wide range of shapes and size of Dogs.. It is difficult to imagine that a large

Great Dane and a tiny poodle are of the same species, but they are genetically identical with the same anatomic features. All dogs have 78 chromosomes, or 39 pairs of chromosomes (humans have 23 pairs), and one member of each pair comes from each parent. The normal temperature (rectal) of an adult dog is 100–102.5 °F.
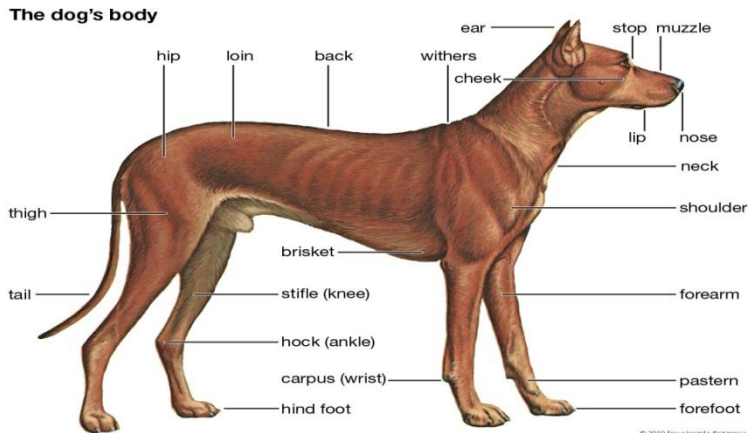
Figure-5-Dogs Body
(Source: www.britannica.com)

When the dog is in happy mood, it sometimes move its tail and it behaves like a friendly manner barking slowly. Many dogs are exceptionally tolerant of mishandling by both kids and adults.

They sometimes show signs of anxiety and never get to the point of biting. Other dogs tolerate things they don't enjoy for a period of time, or from certain people and not others, but at some point they have just had enough and then, they growl or snap.

The lifespan of a dog can be 12 to 15 years long. A dog sleeps in the day however active at night that's why it is called as a nocturnal animal. Dogs are known as digitigrades animals as they use their toes while running or walking. They have well developed canine teeth to eat flesh. It can make various sounds such as howl, snarl, bark, growl, etc in order to express different moods. People use dogs to draws the sledge in the cold countries. Dogs are categorized according to their service to people such as guard dogs, herding dogs, hunting dogs, police dogs, guide dogs, sniffer dogs, etc.

4.4. Different Activities of Dogs

Figure-6 (Sleeping)

Figure-7 (Playing)

Figure-8 (Taking rest)

Figure-9 (Searching food)

Figure-10 (Playing)

Figure-11 (Searching something)

They perform different roles and activities in different times. They are very careful to dog breeds and they rescue them from the attack of enemy. Dogs search food for them from other side and keep it in a pot so that dog breeds can eat. Dogs can't actually smile, but some, like this Golden Retriever, do appear to grin! Their lips are loose, their mouth slightly open and their tongue will probably poke out as they pant evenly and gently. A dog's tail is the indicator of their mood– a waggy tail usually means a happy dog. If they're wagging their tail so vigorously it seems that their entire back legs are shaking then it means they're very happy indeed! An anxious dog's eyes can be wide and staring or they may sometimes narrow them and avoid eye-

contact. A dog's main goal when they feel fearful is to simply survive the perceived threat, so their body language, facial expressions and appetite will only go back to normal when they feel safe again. They might bark or lunge at the object of their frustration, or try to run away from it. They will be totally focused on the source and probably won't listen or respond to any of your attempts to distract them. Relief is quite noticeable because it usually follows a previously tense and negative emotional state. An angry dog will try to make themselves look as large and threatening as possible, with a stiff, upright body, hard and unblinking eyes and flattened ears. It's common for their fur to stand on end as well. Their eyes are soft and relaxed, moving smoothly and showing no white parts as they scan their surroundings from their comfortable resting spot.

5. CONCLUSION

Human language is symbolic, using a set number of sounds (phonemes) and characters (alphabet), which allows ideas to be recorded and preserved. Animal communication is not symbolic, so it cannot preserve ideas of the past. Human language can arrange words into an infinite number of ideas, sometimes referred to as discrete infinity. A dog's main goal when they feel fearful is to simply survive the perceived threat, so their body language, facial expressions and appetite will only go back to normal when they feel safe again. A happy cat shuts its eyes slowly, erects its ears, sleeps on its back or slowly twitches its up-lifted tail. Cats and Dogs perform most of the activities like human being.

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CHALLENGES OF SPEAKING SKILL FOR THE STUDENTS OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT AT A PRIVATE UNIVERSITY IN BANGLADESH

Md. Mijanur Rahman Bhuiyan[*]
Md. Abu Bakar Siddik[**]
Md. Sarifuddin[***]

Abstract

The purpose of this study is not to generalize the results to all other private universities of Bangladesh but to obtain the authors work only at one private university. This research focuses on student's English speaking problems and the aim of this research is to find out the most dominant problem in speaking performance faced by the English department of students of private university. The writer uses questionnaire and recording as the tools of data collection. From the questionnaire findings is the most dominant problem faced by the students of English department. Through questionnaire survey and interviewing students and teachers it is found that the problems mainly lie within the inappropriate use of methodologies and materials. In case of teaching spoken English teachers face different kind of problems (students lack of motivation and confidence, lack of infrastructural support of the university, lack of training, lack of initiatives for the continuous development of spoken English and so on.

Keywords: speaking, difficulty, cause, effort

1. INTRODUCTION

A language is one of the most important facts in human life. We as a human being like to express our feelings, sorrow through language. We all like to use our mother tongue whenever we spoke with other. Mother tongue is a language that a person has been exposed to from his/her birth. For example: we are Bangladeshi and our mother tongue is Bengali. In every situation we

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like to use Bengali. But in formal situation we use standard language. For Bengali standard language is also known as second /foreign language because Bengali language is not a standard language yet, but the experts work on it. English is one of the most dominated languages. And it was well known for standard language. English language is an example for the importance of a language because it is the international language and has become the most important language to people in many parts of the world. It is most widely used in communicating around the world; also it is spoken as the first language in many countries. English is playing a major role in many sections like education, medicine, engineering and business. There are many reasons that makes English is the most important language in the world. English is called a global language because it is used as an official language almost all around the world. People of different nations, states, countries, having different mother tongues communicate using English. English is popularly known as the lingua Franca all over the world.

If we see the history of triumph of English we all are clear about how it was became dominated language in the world .According to British linguist David Graddol , how English – originally the language of a small island people –triumphed, despite being infiltrated by other languages . Colonial history, education, economics sector, information exchange, travel, popular culture is also one of reasons how language varies. In Bangladesh we depend on an international language in any formal situation, Job sector education sector, also international trade.

2. OBJECTIVES

The current study constitutes a part of a larger research project with two objectives. One was to gain teachers' perspectives on the problems students have while speaking in English, the reasons behind their perspectives and the factors that work for effective learning. The second objective was to obtain students' perspectives on their problems while speaking in English and their understanding of the ways that help them to develop this skill.

3. LITERATURE REVIEW

Speaking is probably the language skill that most language learners wish to perfect as soon as possible. It used to be the only language skill that was difficult to practice online. This is no longer the case. English learners can practice speaking online using voice or video chat. They can also record and upload their voice for other people to listen to. English is a foreign language for us, it's not so easy to teach English for a week or a month. In our country most of the students can't speak properly. This type of problem

is faced by most of the students. The private universities emphasize developing speaking as much more than primary and secondary level. In primary and secondary period, our institutional author learning English language means learning grammar, reading and writing.

In Bangladesh, students are not exposed to skill development courses in pre-university years. So if they faced with communication approaches to language teaching in university, they find themselves into a new world. The private university emphasizes on developing speaking English much more than primary and secondary level because in primary and secondary level, they do not offer good quality speaking class. Many studies highlight the principle problems of learning communicative English in countries like Bangladesh, China, and Japan. Bangladesh still followed the traditional 'authority' model. The traditional model is a teaching method conforms by teacher or institutional authority. They focus on exam oriented teaching. Baidya (2014) thinks tudents are refuse to communicate each other in public place. Some feel shy and some are thinking it's a showoff. Green (1989) pointed out that non –English speaking adults are already timid about using the English language. The teacher must help to build the self – confidence of the students by being encouraging. Learning environments can have a facilitating effect on oral production (Payne & Whitney, 2002).

4.   METHODOLOGY

This study focused on finding the English speaking problems faced by the students in a private university of Bangladesh and the way to solve the English speaking problems. As the students and teachers opinion was required, the data collection process from the teachers and the students started on 31 October, 2018 and ended on 18 November, 2018. In this research, data were collected through the research questionnaire for the students as also for the teachers. It's an open ended Questionnaire. The researchers used questionnaires and interview as the research tools. The interview followed a semi-structured format. As material the researchers used Audio recorder, CD, pen, pen-drive, pencil, Eraser, paper etc. Five teachers were interviewed to collect relevant data. On the other hand, the number of the students participated in the survey is 30. The teachers were given writing interview. The research questionnaire focused on causes, reasons and what should be the proper step by a teacher and also English department.
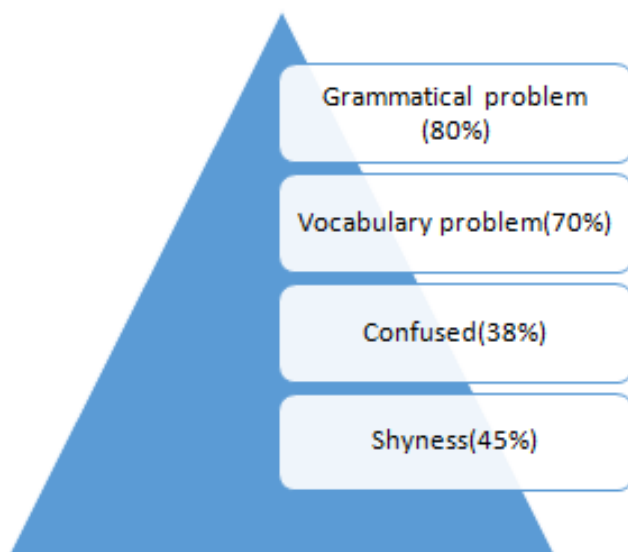
5.   FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

From the interview of the faculties and survey on the students, the frequent problems that the students are facing now a day have been identified that are interconnected.
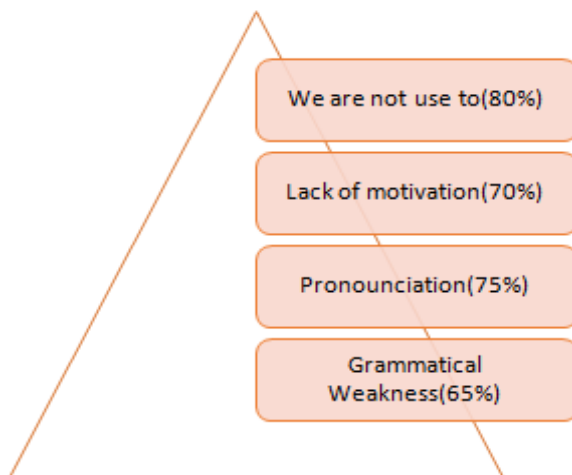
5.1. RESULT OF THE STUDENTS' QUESTIONNAIRE

Firstly, the major problem that the students face while speaking is 'out of vocabulary'. According to the survey 70% of the students said that they face obstacle to speak in English because they do not know much vocabulary (the question answer for 1 & 2). To illustrate the importance of learning/knowing vocabulary Mahfujul Hoque is a student of a private university and a student of English department opined that, whenever any student forgets or do not know any English word she/he try to switch code and pick his/her native language to fill the gap. This idea often leads him/her to continue the sentence with the native language. So, the student immediately loses the track of speaking in English. The result of the students' questionnaire is depicted below:

Question-1: What types of difficulties do you feel or face in speaking English?

Grammatical problem (80%)

Vocabulary problem(70%)

Confused(38%)

Shyness(45%)

Question-2: What are the possible causes of English speaking difficulties, what do you think?

We are not use to(80%)

Lack of motivation(70%)

Pronounciation(75%)

Grammatical Weakness(65%)

Question-3: What kind of effort do you make to overcome the difficulties?'

More Pratice (60%)

Using any situation(50%)

Reading English newspaper and documents (60%)

watching movie with english subtitles (70%)
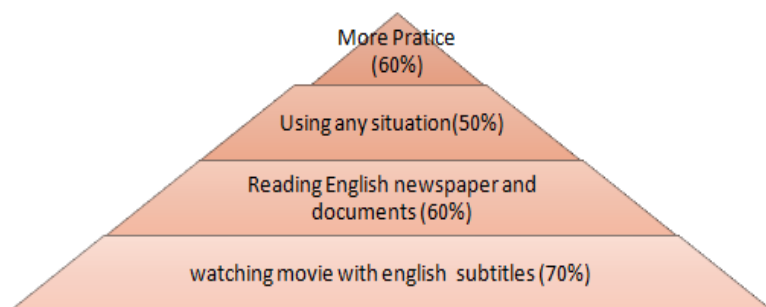
Question-4: Is there any background of this problem?

Yes (95%)   Not available any speaking classes (90%)   Primary and secondary level (90%)
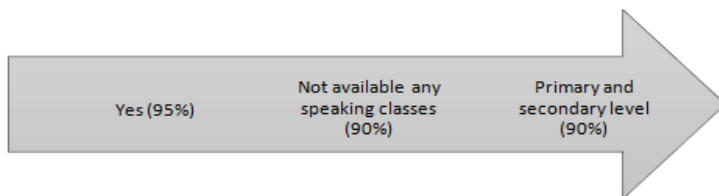
Question-5: What do you think about the role of teacher to overcome this situation?

* Motivated students(85%)

* Focuses on speaking ability more than writing skills (65%)

* Teacher can take our oral and speaking task (45%)
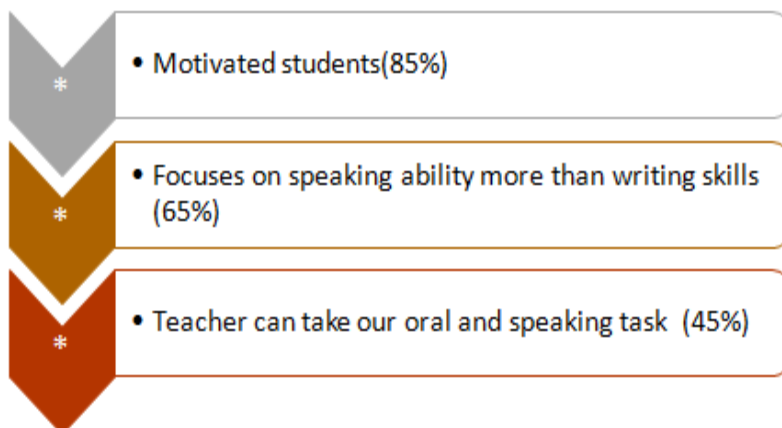
Secondly, 57% of the students comment in the survey that, the faculties of the university do not speak much in English during class which is another cause of the problem. Finally, the social viewpoint and the lack of English speaker are identified as another problem for the students to speak in English. 45% of the students have mentioned that they feel shy to speak in English in front of a person who does not practice English. The reason of this shyness is often related to the language movement history. Sultana Sharmin gives an example to describe this,

> "…in Bangladesh people do care about what others are saying about them. If anyone speaks in English or Hindi other than Bangla, some people may ridicule him/her saying that s/he is Western influenced or Indian. Do you think after having this experience one will show the courage to speak in English in a society where there is possibility to be humiliated every time you try to speak?" (Personal Interview, November 13, 2018).

Because of the social viewpoint the people do not practices English influence the English speaker to speak in Native language thus de-motivate the students to speak in English.

5.2. INTERVIEW

The number of teacher participated in our research interview is five. Everyone points out the major problems in shyness, vocabulary problem, confusion, fear of mistake, thinking about their reputation, grammatical weakness, and lack of practice. Students are busy with gossiping in class that's why are not teaching anything form class. They are not serious about their assignments, presentations or in viva exam. If they focus on their regular things they can much develop their speaking qualities. Students must study more and focuses class conversation that helps them to overcome these situations. A teacher has lot of things to do but students must be accepted those ideas. One teacher suggested reading books and newspaper. We are living in 21st century; we are modern by our thinking, techniques and also garget. A person can easily interact with anyone so and that time they must use English. Maximum students say that some teachers usually focus on only front benches or good one which seems to be ignorable. Sometimes it depends on students also how they interact with a teacher. A department should take some steps to solving these types of problems. Department can organized language club, speaking club, organized co-curriculum activities.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The first cause that makes the students difficult in speaking English is that the environment does not support the students to speak English frequently. The second solution is for the students themselves. They can have an English conversation club that consists of their own classmates. They can share and talk about anything in English during that time. In this club, they can learn together. Students can correct each other without feeling embarrassed. Lecturers should create a comfortable environment by strengthening the confidence of English language learners. Lecturers should not try to correct the local errors of students when they struggle to get their meanings across. Instructors can also speak to the students privately to eliminate any embarrassment. Lecturer should not insist on the errors of the student while they are speaking. Lecturer should create a suitable and friendly environment while they are speaking. The lecturers should encourage all students to speak with them in English.

7. CONCLUSION

The initiatives taken by private university have so far been successful in helping students to develop their speaking skills. With fluency in English, they stand a better chance of securing a good job. But only 30% of all students in the country can afford to study in private universities. What about the rest who are studying in public universities? Although it is a very small-scale study, this research has helped to raise very important issues related to the development of English speaking skills of adult language learners in Bangladesh. This study shows that the key strategy adopted by in a private university to develop speaking skills is making it compulsory for the students to speak. The Ministry of Education of Bangladesh should recruit trained teachers and take the initiative of testing speaking skills in both the Senior Secondary Certificate and the Higher Secondary Certificate examinations so that the learners are forced to practice speaking in English in their schools. Potentially, it could raise the overall English speaking competency level of students and make it more of a level playing field.

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Chief Editor