

## PREFACE

The aim of this work is to study the students' motivation and attitudes in the acquisition of English as Second Language at the Higher Secondary level in West Bengal.

It has been an admitted fact that knowledge of English is essential to cope with the present era of globalization. However, a large section of students in West Bengal still has a phobia about English and cannot do well in it. In West Bengal, it is up to Higher Secondary level that learners of English are provided with the fundamental knowledge of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. It is essential on the part of an English teacher to have good a concept of learners' attitude and motivation in the acquisition of ESL to help them learn English easily and interestingly.

As a teacher of a Higher Secondary school, I found that not only most of the students are poor in English but also they find no pleasure in the learning of English. Pressure for learning this subject on the part of teachers and parents often makes them disgusted and frustrated.

Their lack of interest, creativity, subsequent frustration, and phobia about this subject appeared to be my own failure as a teacher. This idea haunted me and I felt an urge to measure the students' motivation and attitudes in the acquisition of English as Second language at the H.S. level in West Bengal. I hope that future researchers, educationists, and policy makers will take some interest in my work on the problems of learning ESL.

The first of the eight chapters of this work discusses the role of attitude and motivation in the acquisition of English as Second Language. It focuses

on the mode, method, environment of second language acquisition. The difference of environment between learning English as second language and foreign language is discussed in the chapter. The aims and objectives of this research are also indicated in this chapter.

Chapter II presents the review of literature. This review has helped the present researcher to obtain ideas to identify the research problem and research design, to set research objectives and research methodologies, and to select attributes and statistical tools to interpret the results.

Chapter III describes the history of English education in India and West Bengal in post independence era. Formation of different commissions and committees since independence, their report, draft of curriculums, planning, subsequent implementation of those policies, and finally their impact on English education are briefly discussed in this chapter.

Chapter IV discusses the theoretical concepts of attitude and motivation, their classifications and the role of these two dependent variables in the acquisition of English as Second Language.

Chapter V describes the characteristics, geographical location, demography, culture, economical status, educational scenario of the districts where the field study was carried out. It also includes a brief description of the educational aspects of the schools under survey. In order to have a clear concept, the location of the districts in West Bengal has been pointed with the help of maps. Besides, the location of the schools surveyed is also shown. Images of the schools are likely to help the readers to form a primary concept of the schools surveyed.

Chapter VI demonstrates the methodology of the research in detail. The

chapter clarifies the concept, methods and techniques, which are utilized to design the study, to collect the information, to analyze the data and to interpret the findings for revelation of truth and arriving at a conclusion.

Chapter VII discusses the findings of the data collected from respondents of different districts of West Bengal. It includes the analysis; inter relation of variables, and role of independent variables in affecting learners' attitude and motivation. The chapter finally has a description of the ultimate results followed by a discussion of the results achieved.

Chapter VIII, by way of conclusion, summarizes the work done and the results obtained.

Besides collecting data associated with the acquisition of English as Second Language through specific Personal Interview Schedule, direct informal interaction, and focus group discussion were made with the H.S. students of some schools in West Bengal selected randomly. They expressed their thoughts, opinions, problems concerning acquisition of English as Second Language at the H.S. level and suggested probable solutions, which are stated below in brief. The face-to-face interaction with the students has been kept recorded in a DVD format, which may be exhibited if, and when required.

The present study did not go without limitations, which should be highlighted to avoid any overgeneralizations and misinterpretations of the results. The following limitations were faced by the present researcher during the research period:

- The lack of time and resources
- Diversified respondents due to the large study area

- Action research on linguistic study
- Difficulties in concept interpretation to the respondents
- Non cooperation during data generation process

Date: 6.8.2012

*Pradip Kumar Sinha*  
(Pradip Kumar Sinha)