

RESEARCH PAPER

A Critical Study of the New English Language Coursebook (English Reader) for Std IX in the State of Maharashtra

Research Scholar

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Research Guide

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Introduction :

The new curriculum of English at the Secondary level has been introduced from the current academic session 2012-13. It has been developed as per the decision of the Government of Maharashtra. While reframing the syllabus, efforts were made to study and compare the syllabi of English with CBSE, ICE and some of the State Boards in India. The coursebook is based on the recommendations of National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005 and State Curriculum Framework 2010. The recommendations and the expectations as envisaged in the above documents are considered to the fullest extent.

The investigation started with a felt need to look into the making of the coursebook and to know the views of the teachers who teach English as a compulsory language at secondary stage. The nature of English language curriculum which is changed has reflected in the coursebook English Reader. With the change in the material, its impact is bound to be noticed on the methodology and evaluation.

Objectives

The researcher had set the following objectives for the study:

- To take review of the newly introduced coursebook English Reader for Std IX at Secondary Stage in Maharashtra State.
- To critically examine the newly introduced coursebook of English in relation with the aims and objectives of teaching English at Secondary Stage.

- To critically examine the newly introduced coursebook of English in relation with its various external and internal aspects.

The Method and Tools of Research
George J Mouly says that no category of educational research is more widely used than the type known variously as the survey method. In the present research the researcher has used the normative survey method.

The researcher selected Questionnaire as a tool for data collection. This is one of the effective and convenient tools of data collection. It suited the purpose of the researcher as he wanted reactions and suggestions from the teacher community. The researcher vigorously collected the facts and opinions of the teachers who are first hand source of information as they realize the problem in a better way than others. The research was carried out at a workshop organized by Government College of Education Akola. Total 50 teachers from Akola and Washim district were called to attend the workshop in Teaching of English. Thus the sample included two districts. The respondents were given a questionnaire.

Findings

- The revised curriculum of English gives more importance to English language at Secondary Stage of Education in Maharashtra.
- The new syllabus gives more importance of acquisition of language skills.
- The newly introduced syllabus of English at secondary stage gives more im

- portance to activity- based teaching and learning process in the classroom.
- The new approach is practical and life-linked.
- The activities suggested in the coursebook are interesting and useful.
- The design and appearance of the coursebook create interest in the learners.
- The coursebook expects good preparation from the teachers.
- The coursebook is more interactive than the previous one.

Features of the Coursebook

- The English Reader is in A4 size. Big fonts and illustrations are widely used.
- It is multi-coloured.
- The number of lessons is reduced. There are more activities instead.
- An integrated approach of acquiring a language has been adopted.
- Use of Internet as a reference skill is promoted through the coursebook.
- Topics related with environment are included throughout the coursebook.

Suggestions

- Some lessons need to be reduced because teaching has become time consuming due to a number of activities.
- Teaching of grammar should be given more importance.

- The teachers should be given training to bring about the aims and objectives of the syllabus.
- Evaluation pattern should be changed to lay more emphasis on communication skills.

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