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SPECIAL ISSUE ON
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Analysing the Usage of Radio in English Language Learning

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Abstract

Language learning is based on the mastery of the four basic skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The first step in learning any language is listening. All the other skills depend on how far the learner has gotten the opportunity to listen to the language, and that too by authentic speakers of that language. As the English language is not the mother tongue (MT) of any group of people in India, children do not get much practice in listening, and as a consequence, their speaking skills are also adversely affected. Although new approaches to English teaching, like behavioural and humanistic approaches, provide better scope for practicing these skills, English teaching in Indian schools has not been oriented according to these approaches. The need of the hour is that our English teachers get well trained in the four basic skills so that they can be model speakers with accurate pronunciation and accents for their students, are well prepared to use modern techniques and modern approaches to make English teaching interesting and flawless for their students, and are well equipped to supplement their classroom English teaching with other media. Radio is a powerful medium at present in our country due to its economic feasibility and wide broadcasting. It offers the possibility of extensive deployment in education because of the available infrastructure and the low cost of producing programmes. The present paper discusses the ways to utilise radio in helping English learners master the English language in an effective manner and helps them utilise the benefits of radio in their English learning.

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