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Difficulties faced by Hindi-speaking and English-speaking students while learning Russian as a foreign language

Sushma kumari
M.Phil. scholar, SLL&CS, JNU

Abstract:

At present scenario, students of India show their interest in learning foreign language as a diploma course or bachelors programme or summer vacation crash courses. Reason being that lots of multinational companies and corporations consider it as a good option and worth hiring employees with extra qualifications and ability to read and write in any two foreign language, because these companies wants to increase their foreign customers and investors in their companies. Nowadays students after completing MBA courses and engineering degrees rush toward acquiring the skills in learning any one or two foreign language as per the companies and their job preferences. One among the most demanding foreign language to be learnt by Indian students have become Russian language. First major reason is, increase in the medical tourism between Russia and India. Russians comes to India to avail best medical facilities at decent expenses, i.e. why this field has attracted Indian students to learn foreign language and increase their clients from foreign countries i.e. Russia and other neighbour countries where Russian is spoken among people. Many Indian students, who wants to keep their job preference as translators and interpreters, they also prefer to study Russian language as first choice. Even military personals and administrative personals, whose field of work is related to foreign affairs and manage diplomatic relations among countries of India and Russia, they get training to learn basic Russian language and literature. And many Indian students wants to do their higher studies and research work in field of academics and wants to choose teaching (Russian language) as a career option either as a teacher in schools or as professors in universities. In further coming years, the opportunities for learning Russian language and choosing it as a

further career option will change dynamically, as Russia and India are bosom friends and planning to start new projects and investments in field of industry and machinery construction.

In our article we are going to discuss about the difficulties faced, while learning Russian as foreign language, by English speaking and Hindi speaking students. We are going to discuss various parameters, on the basis of which difficulties arises due to interference of our mother tongue i.e. Hindi and official language (English). We are going to study about difficulties on the basis of language learning pedagogy i.e. on the basis of linguistic, and on the basis of linguacultural aspect. Linguacultural aspect also plays vital role while learning the foreign language, because just knowing the meaning of a word and expressions are not sufficient. Sometimes we should keep in mind, how a word or expressions are culturally associated with the people of that country and how they use it in any particular situation and circumstances by the people of that country or community, this should be kept in mind. In our article we will highlight all these points and give various examples from Russian, and English and Hindi language.

Keywords: *medical tourism, interference, official language, language learning pedagogy, linguistics, linguacultural aspects, words and expressions, culturally associated.*

Our study will highlight the various difficulties, faced by English and Hindi speaking students while learning Russian as a foreign language, on various aspects such as linguistic and linguacultural aspect. When we say linguistic aspect, it means: phonetics (on the basis of pronunciation or speech sound), morphology (on the basis of formation of word and its forms), syntax (on the basis of sentences), and semantics (on the basis of its meaning). And linguacultural aspect deals with the culturally associated connotations with different words, words combination and phrases or expressions. The basic reason for the occurrence of these difficulties on various aspects, while learning the foreign language is interference of their own native language and the habit of using one's native language frequently. When we look difficulties based on the phonetical aspect of linguistics the problem arises while pronunciation of various letters of Russian

language. The Russian letters like «ш, щ, с», all these three letters are pronounced by Hindi native speaker as (स) (especially by the native Hindi speaker of Purvanchal region of Bihar), but overall, the concept used is: «с» is compared with (स); «ш» is compared with (श); «щ» is compared with (ष). Although it gives the actual pronunciation, but this concept for learning the sound of specific letter can confuse the learner and can create the hurdle in speaking the letters pronunciation originally. Letter «ж» of Russian language is pronounced as (झ), letter «Б» of Russian language is pronounced as (B) of English language, letter «с» of Russian language is pronounced as (C) of English language and letter «з» is pronounced as (ज) letter of Hindi language and there are others examples also, whose pronunciation is mistaken, this happens due to the influence of its native (i.e. Hindi and English) language. In Russian language stress on a letter plays a vital role, if we don't pronounce the word with correct stress than the meaning of a word can changes. For example, in Russian word: «слово», the bold letter «о» is stressed and pronounced as (ओ) and unstressed letter «о» is pronounced as (अ). Many a time student make mistake while pronouncing the stressed and unstressed letters, which changes the meaning, and sometime it appears meaningless and difficult to understand by the listener. Sometime we also see the interference of native language while writing, for example: Russian word «город» is written as (го**р**од), i.e. Russian letter «д» is written as letter (**d**) of English language, similarly: «бумага»- (бу**м**ага), Russian letter «г» is written as English letter (**g**); «пальто»- (**П**альто), Russian letter «п» is written as letter (**p**) of English language; «журнал»- (**ж**урнал), Russian letter «ж» is written as English letter (**j**) etc... It is said, Russian language is full of endings, for every cases in singular and plural it has different endings. Sometimes it becomes very haphazard to learn all the endings quickly, it requires lots of patience and good understanding. For the English speaking or Hindi speaking person it becomes very difficult to understand and memorise all the endings while learning

morphological forms of a word. It is also seen that various words having same root, but if endings and prefixes are added or changed then, the lexical meaning of the word also changes, for example: «лес, перелесок, лесной, лесник», all these word of Russian language have same roots «лес», but addition of ending and prefix has changed the meaning of words « лес-forest, перелесок-corpse(a small group of trees), лесной- adj. of forest, лесник-forester, woodman». Interference of native language is seen, while learning foreign language, for example: Russian word «магазин»-meaning (shop) is understood as (magazine); «конкретизация» is understood as (concretization), but its meaning is (specialization)etc... In Russian language there are various words for the adjective (hot) and (cold). For adjective (hot) Russians have adjectives like: «тепловатый, кипящий, душливый, жаркий и тёплый», similarly for adjective (cold), in Russian language there are adjectives like: «леденящий, зябкий, холодный и прохладный», these adjectives and their uses in various contexts make them difficult to differentiate between their meanings. Difficulty faced by students of English and Hindi speaking on the basis of semantics while learning Russian language are: there are such examples, when one and only word is depicted differently in two languages and has different meaning. For example: Russian word «лист» means (sheet), e.g. лист бумаги- sheet of paper, but English word (list) means (roster, catalogue), e.g. list of students, list of guests. Similarly, Russian word «бабушка» means grandmother or granny, but English word (Babushka) means (a handkerchief tied under chin). Difficulties faced by students on the basis of syntax: first reason is, English sentences have rule that, subject (S) is placed at first, then verb (V) and then object (O) i.e. (Subject+Verb+Object), but in Russian language there is no such rule, (Subject, Verb and Object) can be placed anywhere in the sentence, but it should be grammatically correct and convey specific meaning. Second reason is, various sentences of English or Hindi language, are affirmative in nature, but when we do the translation of these sentences or find most suitable equivalent in Russian language, then the equivalent is negative sentence or vice versa, for example: « (Keep off the grass.) - «Не ходить по траве. »; (I am not kidding.) - «Я вам серьезно говорю. »;

(Keep the child out of the sun) – «Не держите ребенка на солнце». »¹ Basically, syntactical difficulty arises before students, while translating sentences from one language to another.

The very important aspect, which should be learnt by students studying Russian as a foreign language, is they should know about the culture and traditions of Russia. Linguacultural study of words and expressions plays vital role while communicating with Russian native speaker, if cultural aspect is not kept in mind, then misunderstanding, miscommunication or even communication conflict can happen. For example; Russians use word «бабушка» for granny or grandmother, who has grandchildren. if a Russian lady less than 55 yrs. of age and without grandchildren, is called by expression «бабушка! », then they take it in a very derogatory sense and get offended. Also misunderstanding can happen due to existence of English word (babushka- which means scarf worn by lady). In Russian language, expression «ни пуха не пера! » is said to a person going for exam or interview and in response, the person says (К чёрту!)-it means (go to hell!). According to Russians this is the expression for wishing someone (Good luck!), culturally they have great significance of this expression. But in English language, we use expression (Good Luck! Or All the best!) to the person for the best wishes, before interview or an examination and in response the person says (Thank you!). In this way English and Hindi speaking students are sometimes mistaken, and in response to the expression « ни пуха не пера! » answers by saying (Thank you! Or धन्यवाद!). Similarly in India word (गाय) is said in positive connotation to symbolize (गाय की तरह सीधी लड़की) - (a simple and down to earth girl), but in Russia the word «корова- гая » is used in negative sense: i.e. Russian expression «Вот идёт этакая корова!» is used, (to symbolize fat

¹ Бархударов Л. С. Б 24 Язык и перевод (Вопросы общей и частной теории перевода). М., «Международ. отношения»,1975, 240 с.

and chubby girl or women); Russian expression «сидит/идёт как корова седло!» is used, (if the clothes doesn't suit a person).

Hence learning a foreign language is not an easy task, we are interfered several times at many stages due to our own native language i.e. its way of usage and meanings attached to it. But if we keep broader view for learning a new language and accept the cultural differences and semantical differences, then it becomes easy for English and Hindi speaking students to learn and understand Russian as a foreign language in better manner.

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