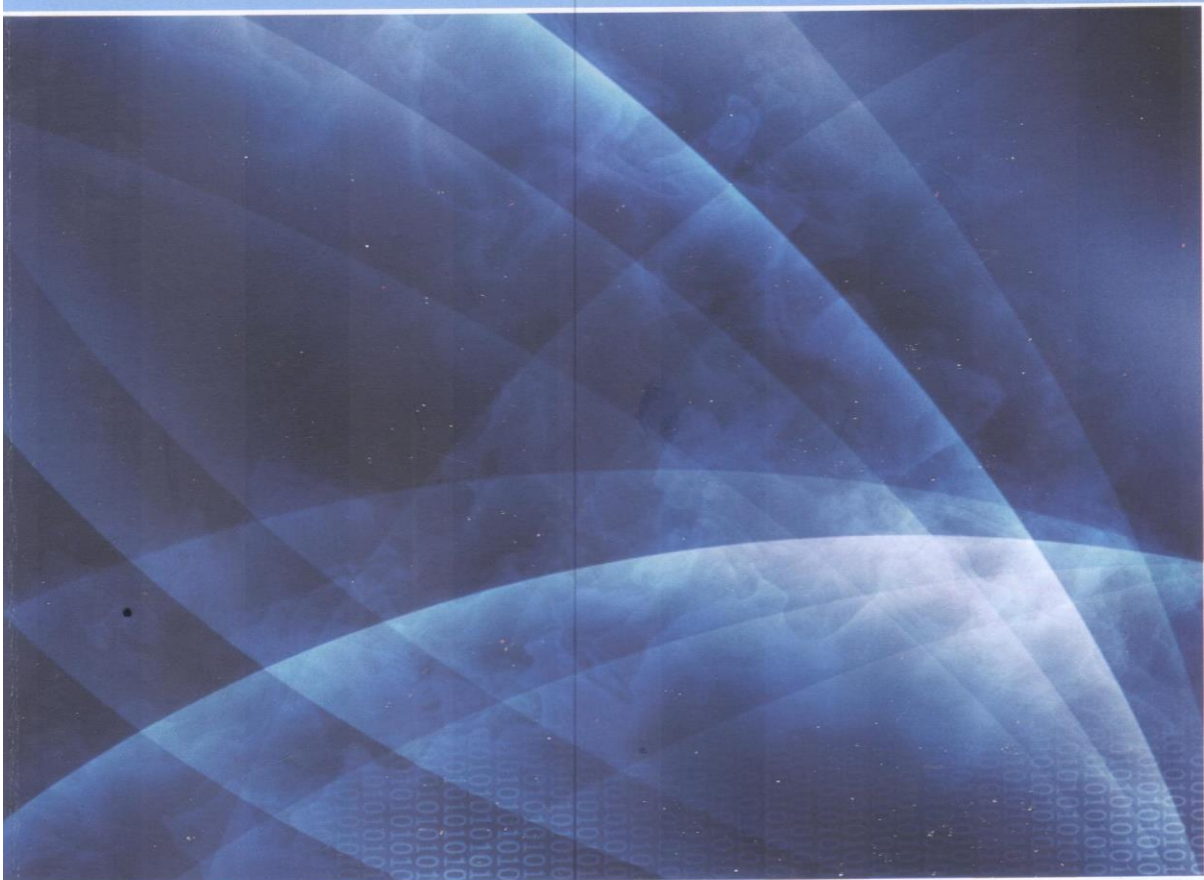


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Schooling in Postcolonial Pakistan and its Struggle for Identity

Nelofer Halai

This paper discusses schooling in post-colonial Pakistan where the imperial agenda is still firmly in place together with the concomitant struggle for national identity. The system of education lacks a basic conceptual framework that has enabled those in power to alter perception of the state through curricular reform to suit their own agendas. The changing nature of the postmodern world has altered schooling in Pakistan, leaving the government sector far behind, and creating different systems of education illustrated by the three kinds of schools commonly found in Pakistan. The elitist English-medium school, the Government and privately supported schools teaching in the vernacular and the madrassahs – each provide a basis for conflicting vision of what it means to be a Pakistani.

Keywords: Education, identity, schooling, madrassahs

Introduction

This paper discusses schooling in the postcolonial era in Pakistan and the struggle for national identity. The countries that gained independence after the Second World War were greatly enthusiastic about their “freedom” and set about reforming all aspects of their lives – education, government, land holdings etc. However they found that the imprint of the colonial masters has been so strong that even after 60 years they struggle to unshackle themselves from their influence and hegemony. This influence has been the strongest in the systems of education that the colonial powers left behind. So much so that despite efforts to put in place indigenous systems it seems difficult to uproot the past which stubbornly not only continues to coexist but in many instances has gathered strength. Many countries have given up and accepted or developed a hybrid system that privileges a few and marginalizes the majority. This paper focuses on Pakistan’s struggle for identity and survival in the postmodern world and how it is connected to educational reforms in a postcolonial world. In the past and even in the present day, schools have been used to develop national identity and cohesion among different ethnic groups. Present day Malaysia is a good example. However Pakistan has not been able to use this potential weapon in its arsenal for developing national cohesion and identity, in fact it has been used to divide and separate.

Attitude of Students towards E-learning: A Study of English Language Learners at Taif University English Language Centre

Muhammad Umar Farooq (Main Author)

Choudhary Zahid Javid (Co-Author)

E-learning has become a widely accepted method of learning and teaching in educational institutions and organizations all over the world. E-learning is playing its effective role in learning a language by providing activities in each language skill in an innovative and motivating manner. It has been observed that language acquisition through e-learning is better than traditional classroom in the era of technology. The present research focuses on finding out the impact of e-learning in terms of motivating the students to learn English as a foreign language at Taif University English Language Centre (TUELC), Saudi Arabia. A questionnaire was designed to find out access, use, and attitude of undergraduate students toward technology in learning English. The data reflected that majority of the students have access to computer and internet but they are not motivated to use technology in their learning. They are of the view that curriculum and classroom activities should be integrated with technology. However, teachers are reluctant to use technological gadgets. Training the teachers and incorporating the technology with the curriculum may lead towards a better learning environment.

Keywords: *English language learning, E-learning, Arab learners, motivation*

Introduction

Technology has been playing a vital role in not only reshaping our thoughts and actions but also redesigning our society and lifestyles. Technology that is a product of education is now redefining education. Both have a two-way relationship which reinforces each other on constant basis. Technology was used in the field of education with the inception of radio for educational purposes in 1940s. The purpose was "to bring the world to the classroom, to make universally available the services of the finest teachers, the inspiration of the greatest leaders ... and unfolding world events which through radio may become as a vibrant and challenging textbook of the air" (Norton, et al., 2001). Since then

A Contrastive Study of Persian and English Sounds

Fatima Soheila Saljughian

This research paper provides an extensive investigation about Persian sounds in comparison with English sounds. It introduces the consonantal phonemes of Persian and pays attention especially to the absent consonant sounds in Persian to project the main problematic parts for the Iranian EFL learners that would be helpful to Iranian EFL learners as well as other language learners. The most remarkable features of the Persian vowel system as compared with English are analysed one by one and the features that present difficulty for the learners are significantly highlighted. Iranian EFL learners face more difficulties regarding vowels than consonants because they find more similar consonants in Persian and English. There are some English vowels that are quite unfamiliar to the learners; however, the areas in which they face difficulties mostly are diphthongs and triphthongs. Persian comprises much simpler rules in the field of phonology. Though there are few consonants that are absent in Persian, the learners face less troubles in this part. In other words, most of the English consonants are quite similar to Persian consonants. The basic factor in this study is to evaluate the reasons behind having a different Iranian accent while speaking English in a way one might recognise their nationality by listening to their English conversation. The primary reason falls on those sounds that are absent in Persian language. Since language is a means of communication, the learners feel free speaking with particular accents as long as they are understood by the native speaker of a target language. Most of the time, learners take this matter for granted and are not obsessive about learning the rules of a language accordingly. On the other hand, this reality must be accepted that no matter how much an EFL learner attempts to speak according to the standards of English there would be less probability to speak quite the same as the native speakers. It is due to the fact that there is no such uniformity in language. Not only does the speech of one community differ from that of another, but speakers of one community are marked by individual peculiarities.

Key words: *Consonants, Vowels, Sounds, Persian, English*

Introduction

Smith (1996) Points out languages as systems in which everything is connected to everything else. Language is a universal and recognisable part of human behaviour consisting an unlimited number of individually

The Political Dimensions of Alexander Solzhenitsyn's 'Cancer Ward'

Hazrat Umar

This article explores the political dimensions of the Russian novelist Alexander Solzhenitsyn's 'Cancer Ward'. In this novel (2003), he has portrayed the realities of life in the Stalin U.S.S.R. The objective of this research paper is to illuminate the dark facets of life, caused by the political system of the country as described by Solzhenitsyn through his characters' talk or through his descriptive remarks in the novel, about life in the former U.S.S.R. This paper explores the message of the novel, which is people's suffering at the hands of the evil, wherein suffering is embodied by the protagonist and antagonist is the evil incarnate. After analyzing the text, it has been found that the former Soviet bureaucracy was hypocrite and had double standard and that they preferred their personal benefits to social and country's interest. The bureaucrats exploited the government resources and did not allow freedom of expression. It has been also found that the administrators of the system expected blind obedience from the masses and that the disobedience resulted in the great purge. The general message is that Marxist philosophy is a sustained figment of imagination and is just not practicable. Solzhenitsyn is an important writer and this paper will bring to the fore his message to the readership.

Keywords: *Political dimensions, Marxism, Soviet Bureaucracy, Solzhenitsyn*

Introduction

The appeal of Literature is universal because of its inherent beauty. Literary works are a part of society. The writers write from their own personal experiences, factual or anticipated. There are many great works which are due to the author's reaction to their social surroundings. Some writers have suffered a great deal because of their true depiction of the repression, despotism injustice etc. They try to reflect the world and society they live in (Literature, 1996, p. 311).

Politics is an important part of society and novel by the dint of its genre is the most befitting medium for its discussion. Unlike epic, which is about a legendary figure and romance, which is about the adventures of kings and knights, novel is the most democratic form of literature (Literature, 1996, p. 312). Whereas drama and poetry are elitist in nature, novel is for the masses and about the masses and usually employs the language of the common people (Kroeber, 1998, p. 505). It has various

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