

A STUDY ON PLACING ARTICLES AND ITS DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED BY THE L₂ LEARNERS OF FIRST YEAR ENGINEERING STUDENTS

Abstract

This study is about placing the Articles at right place by identifying the consonants and vowel sound and also by following the rules and its functions for constructive learning platform for the L₂ learners because placing the Articles at right place reveals the thorough knowledge in Grammar.

For this study the data has been collected from the first year Mechatronics Engineering Students to identify their knowledge in placing the articles and the difficulties experienced by the L₂ learners.

The total target of the students for this study is 35.

Keywords: Pronunciation, Comprehending, Conscious, Practice, Knowledge.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Learning a language means by which a thought, an idea, an emotion, an experience, a fact or piece of knowledge is conveyed or communicated. In that sense, language is a medium or a tool and the mastery of a tool comes with practice in the use of language. Language deals with negotiation and arrives at consensus through group discussion and also language maintains the interpersonal relationship with the people for mutual understanding to solve the problems.

II. ARTICLES:

1. Definite Articles and its Rules: There are two types of articles. They are Definite Article.

- Definite article - used before the singular, Plural and also in uncountable noun if it is specified.
- It limits the meaning of a noun to one particular thing.
- It refers the specific thing.

➤ **Use of Definite article:**

Rule:

1. Particular person or thing.

e.g. **The** book you want is out of print.

2. Used to talk about person or thing already referred to.

e.g. I saw a girl in **the** park. The girl was crying.

3. Singular noun-represent the whole class.

e.g. **The** cow is a useful animal.

4. Names of certain books, nationalities, buildings, banks, newspapers, streets, markets, oceans, rivers, trains, gulfs, provinces.

e.g. **The** Hospital, **The** Vedas, **The** Bible, **The** Indian origin, **The** Indian bank, **The** Reserve bank of India, **The** Hindu, **the** Indian Express, **The** Raja street, **The** supermarket, **The** ganga etc.,

5. Before superlative adjectives, ordinal numbers, musical instrument.

e.g., 1. she is the best teacher in the college.

2. she is the first women to win a Nobel price.

3. He can play the flute.

6. Used before as an adverb with comparatives.

e.g., **The** more they get, **the** more they want.

7. Used before plural names of islands, mountain range, countries.

e.g., **The** Netherlands, **The** Laccadives islands.

8. Before names of Profession

e.g., He is in the catering profession.

9. It is used before adjectives in comparative form when the phrase of the two

e.g., Rahim is the richer of the two boys.

10. The is used after all and both with plural nouns.

e.g., 1. **Both** the girls are dancing.

2. **All** the boys are playing cricket in the ground.

11. It is used before the invention.

e.g., The television, The Radio.

12.It is used before date.

e.g., The 15th August, The 26th January.

13.The- is used before dynasties ,empires, centuries.

e.g., The Gupta dynasty, The stone age, The British empires.

14. The- placed before common noun used as opposition to proper noun.

e.g., Akbar, the great emperor

Milton, the great poet

15. Used with the nouns when we refer to them as definite.

e.g., He went to the school.

2. Indefinite article: A and An are Indefinite articles. A & An is placed before consonant sound and vowel sound. A-Consonant sound.(Voiceless) An-Vowel sound.(Voiced)

Examples:

- He ate an apple.
- He walks with an umbrella to college.
- He gave an idea to his friend.
- He received a degree from a University for the completion of Doctorial programme.
- This is a uniform dress.

➤ **Uses of Indefinite article**

1. Indefinite article is used before the common noun.

e.g. Sita is a good girl.

2.Used before a common noun in the singular-suggest one.

e.g., one thousand gram makes a kilogram.

3.It is used before a common noun in the singular-single out an individual –sense of any.

e.g., A horse is a useful animal.

4. It is used before a common noun in the singular to suggest a vague sense of certain person or animal.

e.g., yesterday a man came to my house.

5.Article is not used before proper noun but to express through abstract noun indefinite article is used.

e.g., India needs a Gandhi today.

6.More than one noun or adjective hint at person, thing, or an animal (understood for the second)

e.g., I saw a black and white dog.

7.Noun or adjective hints at different person. (Indefinite article is used before each other)

e.g., I saw a black and a white dog.

8.It is used before ratio, kilometer, speed, rates.

e.g., 1. water and sugar were mixed in a ratio of equal level.

2. Palathurai is a kilometer away from our college.

3.He was driving 60 miles an hour.

4.Mangoes are being sold 50 a kilogram

9.Used before surname.

e.g., I met **a** Kumar at the airport.

10.Used before numerical expression.

e.g., **A** group of students were arguing with the Principal.

11. Used before exclamatory sentences.

e.g., What a beautiful day!

III.SAMPLE COLLECTION DATA

This exercise was tested to identify whether the informants were able to place the right article by comprehending the vowel and consonant sound and also its rules for placing the articles.

Insert the articles “a”, “an”, “the” in the appropriate blanks.

In this exercise I would like to discuss only 2 questions which were taken as samples for discussing the performance of the students.

1. Question no:1

Forests also play----- vital role in regulating----- low of water through----- ecosystem which in turn help determine----- local and regional climate.

Expected answer: a, the, the, the

Received answer: an, a, an, a

2. Question no: 2

----- secret of a successful sandcastle aid----- revival of----- ancient eco-friendly building technique according research led by Darham University

Expected answer: the, the, an

Received answer: a, an

Performance of the students for the 1st Question

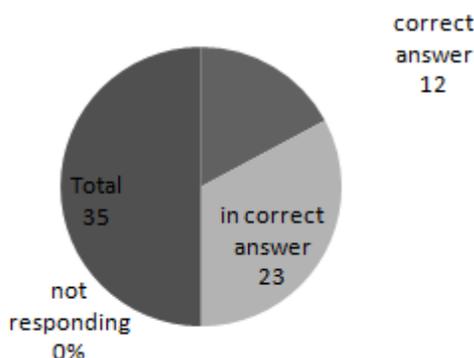
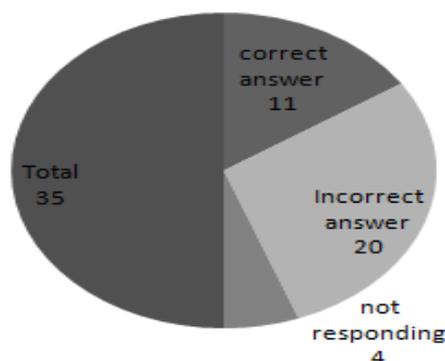


Table 1: Performance of the Students for the first question

S.NO	CORRECT ANSWER	INCORRECT ANSWER	NOT RESPONDING	TOTAL
1	12	23	-	35

Table 2: Performance of the Students for the second question:

Perormance of the students for the 2nd Question.



S.NO	CORRECT ANSWER	INCORRECT ANSWER	NOT RESPONDING	TOTAL
1	11	20	4	35

The above table reveals that most of the students were not able to produce right answers. This shows their less practice in the English classroom and also not thorough in the topics from school days.

IV. DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED BY THE L₂ LEARNERS IN PLACING DEFINITE AND INDEFINITE ARTICLES

The study revealed that students found difficult to produce the right answer because for example in the first question the students placed “an” instead of “a”. This shows that the learners were not able to identify the consonant and vowel sound. we know very well that vowel sound represents the indefinite article “an” and consonant sound represents the indefinite article “a”. The definite article “the” is placed in the specific or particular purpose. Therefore, the difficulties of the learners should be taken in care by the English teacher.

V. REMEDIAL MEASURES

- Teacher should explain the rules of the grammar in an implicit manner.
- Explain with simple examples.
- Regular and thorough practice in the English classroom after the completion of the topics.

VI. CONCLUSION

This study has identified the difficulties faced by the informants in placing the articles. Hereby the study reveals that the L₂ found inconvenient in placing the right articles and also less conscious while producing the answers in grammar topics.

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