ABSTRACT

The present research study is to identify the factors responsible for the falling of standards in general English with special reference to the courses offered in Oriental Colleges and also to identify the need for Second Language status in Oriental Colleges in Andhra Pradesh. Until early sixties, the general English syllabus prescribed for study at the degree level in the state Oriental Colleges was more or less the same as prescribed for study for the other regular degree colleges like B.A., B.Com. and B.Sc. In the late eighties, the Government of Andhra Pradesh introduced a common core syllabus in general English for all the degree colleges in the state including the Oriental Colleges. In the colleges of Oriental studies, preference is given to Oriental languages and English is not given its due inspite of its importance in the world scenario.

The post second world war situation witnessed a unprecedented growth in the technological, industrial and commercial activity all over the world. This resulted in the expansion of business and the need for International language was strongly felt and the English language readily fulfilled this need. Unlike in the pre-war time when a foreign language was learnt as part of one’s formal or general education, now English is learnt entirely for different reasons. The general English course is primarily an education program, which provides learners with general capacity to enable them to cope up with undefined general purposes in future. But when one takes into
consideration, the special or specific needs of the learners of English at the under graduate level in Oriental Colleges, one can see the irrelevance of the general course as the needs of these learners are entirely different from the needs of the learners of other courses. In view of the differences in terms of needs it is necessary to frame a syllabus of general English for under graduate learners and consider English as Second Language in the Oriental Colleges in our state.

The aim of teaching English in India with special reference to Oriental Colleges is to enable the students to acquire a practical command over English that is, to be able to understand English when spoken or read and to be able to speak, read, write and compete with others in the world.