APPENDIX 4

Questionnaire used for pilot study

Dear Student

I teach English to I BE at Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering, Sriperumbudur, Chennai 602 105. I am doing Ph.D at Anna University, Chennai. I intend to design a common syllabus for I year students of Engineering in Tamilnadu. As the syllabus should cater to the needs of learners, I would like to know your views on the subject through this questionnaire. I also wish to know the problems you encounter in listening, speaking, reading and writing in English. You can be frank in your comments and suggestions which will be of great help in framing a suitable syllabus for I BE learners of English.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

T. Ravindran

A questionnaire to B.E students

Name: (optional)
Year:
College:
University:
Mother tongue:
Native place:
(tick your choices)
Place of schooling: city , town , village
Medium of instruction in school: mother tongue , English
Category: OC / BC / MBC / SC / ST

1. Do you think English is necessary for your future career : Yes No

2. You need English to

a) read books
b) get a good job
c) go abroad
d) pass the exams
e) use for social purposes

3. After completing your Engineering Degree

Course you wish to

a) go abroad for study/job
b) take up a job in India
c) start your own industry

Listening and Speaking

4. Give the frequency of your use of English for the following communicational purposes.

Always Often Sometimes Never

a. Consulting technical books, text books, notes, etc.

b. Writing notes, assignments, project reports, etc.
c. Discussion with teachers
d. Study-discussion with classmates
e. Reading for pleasure
f. Social conversations outside college: ____ ____ ______
g. Radio, TV, films: ____ ____ ____ ____

5. In the college campus you use mostly:
   a) English ______
   b) Mother tongue ______
   c) both of them ______

6. You have difficulty in listening and speaking to others in English: yes____no____
7. Your difficulty is due to lack of:
   a) confidence in yourself: ______
   b) knowledge of right words and sentences: ______
   c) speech practice: ______

8. To explain major subject concepts, your lecturers use Tamil:
   a) often: ______
   b) sometimes: ______
   c) never: ______

9. Your lecturers use Tamil because:
   a) You cannot understand lectures otherwise: ______
   b) You think Tamil is an ideal medium to learn in: ______

10. You feel that you are not taught English well in your school: yes____no____
11. You want grammar:
   a) to be taught all over again: ______
   b) to be revised: ______
   c) not to be taught: ______

12. You need to do a mental translation from mother tongue before speaking to others in English: yes____no____
13. You think lack of proficiency in English is a disadvantage, in terms of technical education and profession: yes____no____
14. You agree that employers prefer candidates fluent in English for jobs: yes____no____
15. According to you, which skill is more important for your need:
   Listening ______
   Speaking ______
   Reading ______
   Writing ______

16. According to you, which skill is easy to learn:
   Listening ______
   Speaking ______
   Reading ______
   Writing ______

17. Which skill is more difficult to learn:
   Listening ______
   Speaking ______
   Reading ______
   Writing ______

18. In which skill you are weak:
   Listening ______
   Speaking ______
   Reading ______
   Writing ______
   All ______
   None ______

Solutions to the difficulty in communicating in English:

19. You can develop your speaking and listening skills if you:
   a) speak to your teachers and students in the college: ______
   b) listen to radio/TV news and other programmes: ______
Reading and Writing

Course content
20. i) To understand your 'major' subjects you read authors: Indian ________ Foreign ________ Both ________

ii) You find books by foreign authors difficult to understand: yes ________ no ________

iii) You have difficulty with:
   a) their sentence structure ________
   b) subject information in books ________
   c) the way they organise and develop subject information ________

iv) You think your English teacher can help if you provide Sample passages for (iii) a) and c): yes ________ no ________

21. When you want to express ideas in writing:
   a) you write ungrammatical sentences ________
   b) your development of ideas is poor ________
   c) you are unable to show proper relationship between sentences ________
   d) you are not happy with your arrangement of ideas in a passage ________
   e) your logical thinking is unsatisfactory ________

22. You want to learn to:
   i) make notes from books borrowed from library ________
   ii) express your ideas clearly, briefly and precisely ________
   iii) express in writing your abilities to
       a) analyse a piece of writing ________
       b) argue for and against a statement ________
       c) criticise or appreciate the writer and his writing ________
       d) develop and arrange ideas in logical sequence within a paragraph ________

23. i) Do you wish to learn to write official and personal letters in English: yes ________ no ________

   ii) Do you use Internet to send e-mails to your friends and relatives: yes ________ no ________

iii) In the newspapers, most job advertisements provide printed formats to give information about yourself. So do you think practice in job application necessary: yes ________ no ________

iv) When you join an office to work, your department is likely to have samples of letters and reports you may have to write in English: yes ________ no ________

   So do you think classroom practice in writing them necessary: yes ________ no ________

24. English course offered in your college is: useful ________ not Useful ________

25. You find your English course interesting: yes ________ no ________

26. Do you take I BE English course seriously enough to improve your language: yes ________ no ________

27. Write the name of the textbook you use: ______________________

28. You feel that the textbook is useful in developing your language skills: yes ________ no ________

29. Your English textbook is:
   a) boring ________
   b) interesting ________
   c) enjoyable ________

30. Your teacher fully depends on the textbook: yes ________ no ________

31. Your teacher uses handouts / worksheets in the classroom: yes ________ no ________

32. You feel that your teacher can prepare materials suitable to your standard: yes ________ no ________
33. Your syllabus / textbook deals with (tick)
   a) Essays on Science and Technology  
   b) Grammar  
   c) Comprehension  
   d) Report writing  
   e) Letter writing  
   f) Essay writing  
   g) note making and note taking  
   h) transcoding  

34. List any other items you have in your syllabus  

35. Do you really need to have a textbook to learn these items: yes no  

36. Do you want your English teacher to train you to cope with the following? (tick items you want to be taught)
   a) to write TOEFL  
   b) to attend interviews  
   c) participate in group discussion  
   d) present papers in seminars and conferences  

37. The kind of lessons / topics you want to have in your textbook / syllabus:
   a. life histories of scientists, discoverers, because by reading them you may be inspired to become great in future  
   b. selected short stories, novels, poems, scientific essays  
   c. selected pieces of scientific and technical information on topics like energy, food production, computers, industry, pollution and environment etc.  
   d. selected poems, essays, novels and dramas from English literature  
   e. a collection of articles and letters to the editor from newspapers and magazines on politics, religion, culture etc.  
   f. lessons on English pronunciation (accent, rhythm and intonation  

38. As a student of Engineering would you prefer:
   a. courses which are literature oriented (with poems, novels, Shakespeare dramas)  
   b. functional language courses that emphasise practical skills like reading, writing, speaking, listening, reporting etc.  

39. Do you think that English courses should be designed such that they are more suitable to your specific needs for scientific and technical pursuits yes no  

40. Apart from regular textbook, would you like to have self-access learning materials like non-detailed, supplementary texts through which you can improve English language skills: yes no  

41. Write the topics you find most useful in developing your English (you may choose from contents of your English textbook)  

42. Any other topic you wish to be included in your syllabus.
43. Name the topics you find not useful and you want them to be removed from the syllabus:


44. You think that
a. one syllabus prescribed by your university is fine ___
   b. one common syllabus for all universities in Tamilnadu as in +2 is necessary ___
   c. it is desirable to have several syllabuses for you to choose from ___

45. You wish English to continue beyond your first year ___ yes ___ no ___
   (to train you to attend interviews, group discussion, TOEFL etc in 5th or 6th semester)

46. If yes, at which year do you think English to be offered:
   second year: III semester ___ IV semester ___
   third year: V semester ___ VI semester ___
   fourth year: VII semester ___ VIII semester ___