

**GOOD COMMAND OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AMONG CHILDREN AND SELF-EXPRESSION IN THE PUBLIC**

By

**Aniekan NYARKS, Ph.D.**  
**English Department**  
**Akwa Ibom State University**  
**And**

**Dr. Cletus J. Luke**  
**Department Of English**  
**University Of Birmingham**  
**United Kingdom**

**ABSTRACT**

*This study examines the importance of a good command of the English language among children and its influence on their ability to express themselves effectively in public. It highlights how proficiency in English contributes to the development of communication skills, self-confidence, and social interaction, which are essential for meaningful participation in academic and public settings. The paper also explores the relationship between language competence and cognitive as well as psychological development, emphasizing that children who possess strong English language skills are better able to articulate their thoughts, emotions, and ideas clearly. Furthermore, it discusses the challenges faced by children with limited language proficiency and the need for supportive learning environments. The study concludes that promoting effective English language development at an early stage is crucial for fostering children's overall growth and enabling them to function competently and confidently in public life. One of the recommendations was that children should be given regular opportunities to participate in activities like presentations, drama, and speech competitions to enhance their ability to express themselves in public.*

**KEYWORDS: Good Command, English Language, Children, Self-Expression, Public**

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**INTRODUCTION**

A good command of the English language among children has become increasingly important in contemporary society, particularly as English functions as a global medium of communication in education, technology, and public interaction. In early childhood, language development plays a foundational role in shaping how children communicate ideas, interact socially, and express themselves in broader public contexts. Studies have shown that many children struggle with effective language use, especially when English is not their first language, which can limit their ability to participate confidently in academic and social environments. As a result, developing proficiency in English is not only an academic requirement but also a crucial skill for enabling children to articulate thoughts clearly and engage meaningfully in public discourse.

Furthermore, a good command of English enhances children's ability to express their emotions, opinions, and experiences effectively, thereby strengthening their self-expression in

public settings. Language proficiency has been linked to improved communication skills, self-confidence, and social interaction, all of which are essential for participation in public life. For instance, research indicates that children who develop strong English-speaking abilities are better able to share ideas, interact with peers, and build relationships, contributing to their overall personal and social development. In addition, the ability to use English fluently enables children to narrate events, express feelings, and communicate perspectives clearly, which is a key component of self-expression and identity formation.

Moreover, the relationship between English language competence and self-expression is closely tied to cognitive and psychological development. Mastery of language supports critical thinking, creativity, and confidence, which are essential for effective public expression. Educational studies emphasize that when children receive proper language instruction and feedback, their communication skills improve, enabling them to participate actively in discussions and public interactions. Consequently, fostering a good command of English among children contributes not only to academic success but also to their ability to express themselves confidently and meaningfully in public spaces, making it a vital aspect of holistic child development.

### **Concept of English**

The concept of English can be understood from multiple perspectives, including its linguistic structure, historical development, and global significance. As a language, English belongs to the West Germanic branch of the Indo-European language family and is characterized by a relatively simple grammatical system, extensive vocabulary, and flexibility in usage. According to James & Godswill (2024) English is also a language that has been codified in dictionaries, grammars, and numerous other situations, especially those pertaining to education. It functions as a medium of communication that enables individuals to express ideas, emotions, and information across different contexts. According to Crystal (2012), English is not just a system of words and rules but a dynamic tool shaped by its users and their communicative needs.

Old English, Middle English, and Modern English are the stages of English's historical evolution. After Germanic tribes arrived in Britain in the fifth century, Old English began to take shape. Meanwhile, Middle English arose during the Norman Conquest of 1066, which brought a large amount of French language. Modern English began in the late 15th century and continues to evolve today, influenced by technological advancements, globalization, and cultural exchange (Baugh & Cable, 2013). This historical development demonstrates how English has consistently adjusted to societal and political shifts.

From a functional standpoint, English is widely used as a common language among speakers of many native tongues, making it a worldwide lingua franca. In international commerce, science, technology, aviation, and diplomacy, it is the most widely used language. Historical elements like British colonization and the United States' contemporary dominance in international politics might be blamed for its worldwide dissemination. Because of this, English is essential for bringing people together globally and making opportunities and knowledge more accessible.

English is frequently considered a basic topic in the realm of education due to its significance in the development of literacy and communication skills. It includes a number of skills that are necessary for both academic performance and efficient communication, including as speaking, writing, listening, and reading. Understanding grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and discourse are all part of teaching English. Gaining proficiency in English allows students to engage more completely in social, professional, and academic contexts.

### **Concept of good Command of English**

Good command in English refers to an individual's ability to use the language accurately, fluently, and appropriately in different contexts. It involves mastery of the four core language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. A person with good command of English can express ideas clearly, understand others effectively, and adapt their language use depending on the situation. According to Harmer (2007), effective language command goes beyond grammar knowledge to include communicative competence, which enables learners to use English meaningfully in real-life situations.

Grammar correctness is a crucial part of proficient English. This covers the appropriate usage of parts of speech, sentence structure, tenses, and punctuation. Communication might become confused or deceptive if one does not have a firm knowledge of grammar. Modern language studies, however, stress that fluency and correctness should be balanced. It is crucial to use grammatical knowledge in real-world situations since learners who just concentrate on rules without practice may find it difficult to speak successfully.

Another crucial component of developing a strong command of the English language is expanding one's vocabulary. According to Nation (2013), vocabulary knowledge is essential to language proficiency because it directly affects both receptive and productive skills. As a result, constant exposure to new words and their usage is required to improve one's command of the language.

Additionally, sociolinguistic competence the capacity to use language effectively depending on context, audience, and purpose is necessary for a strong command of the English language. This entails being aware of tone, cultural quirks, and formal and informal language. For example, scholarly writing uses terminology that is very different from everyday speech. Knowing the language is only one aspect of communicative competence; another is knowing when and how to utilize it in social situations.

### **Concept Self Expression**

Self-expression refers to the ability of individuals to communicate their thoughts, emotions, identities, and experiences through various forms such as language, art, behavior, and creativity. It is a fundamental aspect of human development and plays a vital role in shaping one's identity and sense of self. According to Appel & Gnambs (2020), self-expression is closely tied to self-concept and personal growth, as individuals strive to align their inner feelings with outward behavior. This process enables people to better understand themselves and to present their authentic selves to others.

From a psychological perspective, self-expression is frequently associated with mental and emotional wellness. People are less prone to internal conflict, worry, or anxiety when they

can openly express their emotions. The greatest level in his hierarchy of wants, self-actualization, includes self-expression. At this point, people look for contentment by reaching their greatest potential, frequently through meaningful and creative expression. Consequently, psychological equilibrium and self-satisfaction are greatly enhanced by the capacity for self-expression.

Additionally, social contact and communication depend heavily on self-expression. It makes it possible for people to express their thoughts, values, and beliefs, which promotes mutual understanding and connection. Through verbal and non-verbal means such as speech, writing, fashion, music, and body language, people share their identities and experiences within their social environment. (Bayer, Ellison, Schoenebeck & Falk 2022).

Digital technology and social media platforms have had a significant impact on self-expression in modern culture. People can display their talents, opinions, and lifestyles to a worldwide audience with apps like Instagram and TikTok. Concerns around authenticity, peer pressure, and the effect of public validation on self-esteem are raised by these platforms, even as they also increase chances for expression. Digital media, however, continues to be a potent medium for contemporary self-expression.

### **Components of good Command of English**

Proficiency in English is essential for professional competence, academic accomplishment, and successful communication. Learning a language involves a number of elements, including practical application, cognitive abilities, and linguistic understanding.

#### **➤ Vocabulary Knowledge:**

A robust vocabulary enables individuals to express ideas precisely and understand complex texts. Research emphasizes that lexical competence is strongly correlated with reading comprehension and writing proficiency (Sun & Wang, 2021). Vocabulary depth and breadth facilitate nuanced communication and higher-level thinking.

#### **➤ Grammar and Syntax**

Accurate pronunciation, emphasis, and intonation patterns are essential for effective oral communication. Even with great vocabulary and grammar, mispronunciation might hinder comprehension. Recent research highlights that phonological competence is essential for intelligibility in academic and professional contexts (Kaur & Singh, 2020).

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➤ **Reading and Comprehension Skills**

Knowledge acquisition and communication depend on the ability to comprehend and interpret written texts. Good readers employ strategies such as inferencing, summarizing, and contextual analysis. Comprehension skills are closely linked to vocabulary and grammar mastery (Chen & Li, 2023).

➤ **Writing and Composition Skills**

Vocabulary, grammar, and organization must all be integrated in order to write properly and coherently. Writing well also demonstrates the capacity to modify language for particular audiences and goals. Recent studies stress the importance of cohesive devices and lexical variety in achieving writing proficiency (Ahmed & Hassan, 2021).

➤ **Listening and Speaking Skills**

Interactive communication is made possible by oral fluency and listening comprehension. According to Akpan, Udoibok & Etuk (2025) Skills enhance liberalization of employment opportunities. These abilities call for cultural and contextual awareness in addition to word and sound comprehension. Studies indicate that interactive speaking practice significantly improves overall English proficiency (Nguyen & Ho, 2022).

➤ **Pragmatic Competence**

Using language appropriately in social situations, including discourse markers, idiomatic expressions, and politeness techniques, is known as pragmatics. Competence in pragmatics distinguishes proficient speakers who can communicate effectively across diverse contexts (Sato & Takahashi, 2021).

**Effects of good Command of English on self-expression among Children**

Children that have a strong grasp of English are far better able to express themselves because they can more effectively convey their ideas, feelings, and opinions. Language proficiency provides children with a broader vocabulary and better grammatical structures, which enable them to articulate complex concepts with clarity and confidence (Snow, 2017). This linguistic competence is closely linked to cognitive development, as children who are proficient in English tend to demonstrate stronger narrative skills, critical thinking, and problem-solving abilities, all of which support richer self-expression (Uccelli, 2019).

Additionally, social engagement and participation in a variety of contexts are encouraged by a strong command of English, particularly in multilingual and globalized settings. Children who can express themselves clearly are more likely to engage in classroom discussions, collaborate with peers, and build positive social relationships (Murphy & Unsworth, 2018). This greater involvement improves their feeling of identity and self-worth in addition to strengthening their communication abilities. On the other hand, poor proficiency can result in dissatisfaction, retreat, or a lack of confidence while voicing one's own opinions.

Additionally, literacy development—including reading and writing abilities, which are crucial avenues for self-expression—is supported by English proficiency. Writing, in particular, allows children to organize their thoughts, reflect on experiences, and creatively express their identities through stories and essays (Graham, 2020). Additionally, spoken language proficiency is essential since it is the basis for both successful academic performance and efficient communication.

Recent studies highlight that supportive learning environments, such as interactive classrooms and exposure to rich language input, further enhance children’s expressive abilities in English (Nippold, 2017). As a result, mastering the English language is not merely a linguistic accomplishment but also a crucial component in enabling kids to express themselves with assurance, engage fully in society, and form a solid sense of self.

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, a good command of the English language among children is fundamental to enhancing their ability to express themselves confidently and effectively in public settings. Proficiency in English not only improves communication skills but also supports cognitive development, self-confidence, and social interaction, all of which are essential for meaningful self-expression. When children are equipped with strong language skills, they are better able to articulate their thoughts, share their opinions, and actively participate in academic and social environments. Therefore, promoting effective English language development at an early stage is crucial for fostering children’s overall growth and enabling them to function competently and confidently in public life.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Children should be given regular opportunities to participate in activities like presentations, drama, and speech competitions to enhance their ability to express themselves in public.
2. Schools should adopt engaging teaching strategies such as debates, role-plays, and group discussions to improve children’s speaking confidence and public self-expression.
3. Parents and educators should expose children to English from an early age through storytelling, reading, and interactive communication to build strong foundational language skills.

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