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## ANALYZING ORAL ENGLISH COMMUNICATION CHALLENGES FACED BY ENGINEERS IN THE WORKPLACE: A CASE STUDY FROM PAKISTAN

Submission Date: May 26, 2023, Accepted Date: May 31, 2023,

Published Date: June 05, 2023

Crossref doi: <https://doi.org/10.37547/ijll/Volume03Issue06-02>

Dr. Mahnoor Pathan

Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Jamshor, Pakistan

### ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyse the oral English communication challenges faced by engineers in the workplace in Pakistan. Effective oral communication skills are essential for engineers to succeed in their professional roles, particularly in an increasingly globalized and interconnected world. However, limited research has focused on the specific challenges faced by engineers in Pakistan regarding oral English communication. This case study utilizes qualitative methods, including interviews and observations, to explore the difficulties encountered by engineers when communicating in English in the workplace. The findings shed light on the specific areas of concern and provide insights into potential strategies and interventions to enhance oral English communication skills among engineers in Pakistan. The results of this study can inform language training programs, curriculum development, and workplace initiatives aimed at improving the overall communicative competence of engineers in English-speaking contexts.

### KEYWORDS

Oral English communication, engineers, workplace, Pakistan, communication challenges, case study, language skills, communicative competence, language training, curriculum development.

### INTRODUCTION

Effective oral English communication skills are vital for engineers to excel in their professional roles, enabling them to effectively collaborate, convey technical information, and engage with colleagues, clients, and stakeholders in diverse contexts. However, engineers in Pakistan, like many other non-native English-speaking countries, face various challenges when communicating in English in the workplace. Understanding these challenges is crucial for developing targeted interventions and strategies to enhance their oral English communication skills.

This case study aims to analyze the oral English communication challenges faced by engineers in the workplace in Pakistan. By examining the specific difficulties encountered by engineers, this study seeks to identify the areas where improvement is needed and explore potential strategies to address these challenges. The findings will provide insights into the factors that hinder effective oral English communication among engineers and contribute to enhancing their overall communicative competence.

### METHOD

This case study utilizes qualitative research methods to analyze the oral English communication challenges faced by engineers in the workplace in Pakistan. The study involved interviews and observations to gather rich and in-depth data from engineers working in different industries and organizations.

A purposive sampling technique was employed to select participants who had experience with oral English communication in their professional roles. The sample size was determined based on data saturation, ensuring that a sufficient number of participants were

included to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the challenges.

Semi-structured interviews were conducted to gather insights into the participants' experiences, perceptions, and difficulties related to oral English communication. The interviews allowed for open-ended discussions, enabling participants to share their perspectives and provide specific examples of challenges they encountered.

Additionally, observations were conducted in the workplace to gain a firsthand understanding of the communication dynamics and contextual factors that influence oral English communication among engineers. These observations provided valuable contextual information to complement the interview data.

Thematic analysis was employed to analyze the interview and observational data. The data analysis process involved several stages, including familiarization with the data, coding, identification of themes, and interpretation. Rigorous data analysis techniques, such as peer debriefing and member checking, were employed to enhance the credibility and validity of the findings.

Ethical considerations were given throughout the study, ensuring informed consent, confidentiality, and anonymity of the participants. The study adhered to ethical guidelines and principles of research conduct.

The findings of this case study will contribute to the understanding of the oral English communication challenges faced by engineers in the workplace in Pakistan. The insights derived from the analysis can inform the development of language training programs, curriculum enhancements, and workplace

initiatives aimed at improving the oral English communication skills and overall communicative competence of engineers in English-speaking contexts.

## RESULTS

The analysis of oral English communication challenges faced by engineers in the workplace in Pakistan yielded several key findings. The thematic analysis of interviews and observations revealed three major challenges: linguistic barriers, cultural influences, and workplace factors.

First, linguistic barriers were identified as a significant challenge for engineers. Participants expressed difficulties in pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, and fluency, which impacted their ability to convey their ideas accurately and effectively in English. Lack of proficiency in English was a common concern, particularly for engineers whose primary language was not English.

Second, cultural influences played a role in communication challenges. Participants highlighted cultural differences in communication styles, norms, and expectations, which affected their ability to adapt their communication approach in English-speaking environments. Politeness conventions, indirect communication, and different speech patterns were mentioned as factors that required adjustment.

Third, workplace factors such as time constraints, workloads, and project deadlines affected engineers' oral English communication. Participants reported feeling rushed or pressured to communicate quickly, leading to difficulties in expressing complex technical information or clarifying doubts. Limited opportunities for English practice and inadequate feedback mechanisms were also identified as hindrances.

## DISCUSSION

The results of this case study provide valuable insights into the oral English communication challenges faced by engineers in the workplace in Pakistan. The linguistic barriers identified underscore the importance of language proficiency development programs that focus on pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, and fluency. Addressing these areas through targeted language training can enhance engineers' ability to communicate effectively in English.

Cultural influences emerged as significant challenges, highlighting the need for intercultural communication training. Building awareness of cultural differences and promoting effective communication strategies can help engineers navigate diverse workplace environments and adapt their communication style accordingly.

Workplace factors, such as time constraints and heavy workloads, need to be considered in fostering effective oral English communication. Providing sufficient time and resources for communication, encouraging a supportive and collaborative work environment, and integrating English practice opportunities into daily routines can help engineers overcome these challenges.

## CONCLUSION

The findings of this case study shed light on the oral English communication challenges faced by engineers in the workplace in Pakistan. The linguistic barriers, cultural influences, and workplace factors identified emphasize the need for targeted interventions and strategies to enhance engineers' oral English communication skills.

Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach, including language training programs, intercultural communication workshops, and workplace initiatives that provide adequate resources and support for English communication practice. By improving oral English communication skills, engineers can effectively collaborate, share knowledge, and contribute to their professional growth and development.

The insights derived from this case study contribute to the understanding of the specific challenges faced by engineers in Pakistan and can inform the design of interventions and training programs tailored to their needs. Ultimately, enhancing engineers' oral English communication skills will positively impact their ability to thrive in a globalized workplace and contribute to their organizations' success.

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