

A Study on The Attitude of Secondary School Teachers of West Bengal Towards CLIL

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Abstract Cognitive development goes hand in hand with linguistic development, and language emerges as a tool through which a learner comes to understand the world. In the first language these processes are paired naturally, though for second language learners like the majority of learners of English in India, traditional methods for teaching second/foreign languages often dissociate language learning from cognitive or academic development. By contrast, an integrated approach brings these domains together in instruction. Integration of language and content, commonly known as CLIL, therefore emerges as significant for effective education. However, though the West Bengal Elementary Teacher Education Curriculum Framework encourages CLIL, there seems to be a significant knowledge gap among practising secondary and higher secondary teachers regarding language and content integrated teaching and learning. The present study seeks to explore the knowledge and attitude of teachers of West Bengal regarding the CLIL methodology.

Keywords: Content, Language, Integration, CLIL, Teacher attitude, Knowledge, Teacher education

1. INTRODUCTION

There is growing interest in a model of teaching in which language is integrated with content instruction in the language classroom. This approach contrasts with methods, in which language skills are taught in isolation from substantive content. For young children, cognitive development goes hand in hand with linguistic development, and language emerges as a tool through which a learner comes to understand the world. In the first language these processes are paired naturally, though for second language learners like the majority of learners of English in India, traditional methods for teaching second/foreign languages often dissociate language learning from cognitive or academic development. By contrast, an integrated approach brings these domains together in instruction. Moreover, language is learned most effectively for communication in meaningful, purposeful social and academic contexts. In

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Chowdhury, P

real life, people use language to talk about what they know and what they want to know more about, not to talk about language itself, whereas in the typical school setting, the emphasis remains on content of different academic subjects and language finds attention and focus only in language classes. In most cases, language learning and content learning are treated as independent processes. Mohan (1986) notes: "In subject matter learning we overlook the role of language as a medium of learning. In language learning we overlook the fact that content is being communicated" (p. 1). Again, the integration of content with language instruction provides a substantive/firm basis for language teaching and learning. Content provides a primary motivational incentive for language learning insofar as it is interesting and of some value to the learner and therefore worth learning. Language then will be learned because it provides access to content, and language learning may even become incidental to learning about the content. Content also provides a cognitive basis for language learning in that it provides real meaning that is an inherent feature of naturalistic language learning. Meaning provides conceptual or cognitive basis on which language functions and structures can be placed. In the absence of real meaning, language structures and functions are likely to be learned as abstractions devoid of conceptual or communicative value. In India, especially in West Bengal English is taught in most secondary schools as a second language and CLIL remains a largely unexplored concept for many practising second language teachers. Interestingly enough CLIL finds a place in the West Bengal Elementary Teacher Education Curriculum Framework and certain practicum in the prevalent revised B.Ed. Courses imply practice but how far the teacher education system prepares teachers for the same and how far practising and trained teachers are aware of this remains to be brought under the scanner. Habitat/Context? appears as an important factor in the study since teaching in rural belts practically boils down to translation in second language classes and in most cases note giving practice in vernacular with scant scope for CLIL which would be much needed for the learners' linguistic as well as cognitive development.

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Thuy, Linh Nguyen Thi (2016) in their article "Reconsidering the First Steps of CLIL Implementation in Vietnam" aimed at discussing four critiques raised by insiders regarding (i) the significance of CLIL in Vietnam, (ii) teachers' readiness, (iii) students' readiness for CLIL and (iv) the lack of available CLIL materials and the study revealed that "CLIL training is necessary from teachers' viewpoint. The outcome of the questionnaire reveals that the teaching staff were not prepared for CLIL during their teacher education" and the findings further

endorsed that “besides improving English competence, teachers for CLIL need to understand their new roles and modify their teaching approaches, as well as do team teaching with language teachers to succeed in CLIL. (p.29).” In many researches it is often noticed that teachers might lack “professional competences” for materials adaptation, supplementation and design (Coonan 2007, in Mäkiranta 2014), that leads to lack of confidence and hence a lack of positive attitude towards CLIL. Again Nhan (2013) finds that the limitation in English competence of teachers or students become a more serious hindrance for CLIL when the content subjects for uppersecondary school students are more complex and advanced and as a result, CLIL for upper-secondary education tend to impose more demanding requirements such as teachers’ competences, facilities, etc. that may generate a lack of positive attitude towards CLIL among the teachers. Smala, Simone (2013) in the study titled “Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) showed that curriculum materials are often not available in the second language and special attention needs to be given to the preparation of content into understandable segments. Birch (1995) has proposed a focus on scaffolding subject content in CLIL classrooms with Vygotsky’s Zone of Proximal Development (Vygotsky, 1978) in mind, as well as taking related concepts from second language teaching methodology, like Krashen’s (1981) comprehensible input concept, into consideration. Both approaches postulate that learning occurs when learners are exposed to information just above their current understanding. The researches in the area reveal a plethora of problems mostly centred around TLM and teachers’ competency even after formal training, that leads to a dearth of confidence and hence a lack of positive attitude towards CLIL in the long run.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To find out whether there is any significant difference in attitude towards CLIL between urban teachers with B.Ed. and urban teachers without B.Ed.
2. To find out whether there is any significant difference in attitude towards CLIL between rural teachers with B.Ed. and rural non B.Ed. teachers.
3. To find out whether there is any significant difference in attitude towards CLIL between trained rural male and trained rural female teachers.
4. To find out if there is any significant difference in attitude towards CLIL between trained urban male teachers and trained urban female teachers
To find out if there is any significant difference in attitude towards CLIL between urban male teachers with B.Ed. and rural male teachers with B.Ed.

Chowdhury, P

5. To find out if there is any significant difference in attitude towards CLIL between urban female teachers with B.Ed. and rural female teachers with B.Ed.

4. HYPOTHESES

H₀₁: There no significant difference in attitude towards CLIL between urban teachers with B.Ed. and urban teachers without B.Ed.

H₀₂: There is no significant difference in attitude towards CLIL between rural teachers with B.Ed. and rural non B.Ed. teachers.

H₀₃: There is no significant difference in attitude towards CLIL between trained rural male and trained rural female teachers.

H₀₄: There is no significant difference in attitude towards CLIL between trained urban male teachers and trained urban female teachers.

H₀₅: There is no significant difference in attitude towards CLIL between urban male teachers with B.Ed. and rural male teachers with B.Ed.

H₀₆: There is no significant difference in attitude towards CLIL between urban female teachers with B.Ed. and rural female teachers with B.Ed.

5. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Sample: 700 female and male secondary school teachers, including both trained and untrained teachers, selected randomly from secondary schools from Kolkata, North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas, Hoogly and Howrah districts in the southeastern part of West Bengal, Purulia and Bankura in the Western part of the state, and Malda, Siliguri and Jaipauri in the northern part of the state. It was not possible to cover each and every district of the state and so representative districts from east, south, west and northern parts were selected for the study.

Technique: Typically, any discussion of research method is dichotomized and presented in either a quantitative or a qualitative category because the two paradigms have been assumed to be polar opposites and, among some, even separate and distinct scientific absolutes. Modern research has shown that a balanced blend of qualitative and quantitative research can only yield the most reliable results and application compared to only quantitative tools. Thus both qualitative and quantitative techniques were used in this study.

Tool: A prepared tool was used for the survey. The tool was duly standardized with the help of experts in the field. Follow up ? unstructured interviews were used to find out the teachers' perception about CLIL, their opinion about the

scope of developing skill for CLIL in the course they are taught in B.Ed. and their personal experiences with CLIL, if any. The scale was made on the basis of need of the present study after critical discussions with experts. The tool thus modified had 40 questions with response options 'Strongly Agree', 'agree'/'Disagree' and 'Strongly Disagree'. Values of 4,3,2 and 1 were ascribed to the 'Strongly Agree', / 'agree'/'Disagree' and 'Strongly Disagree' options respectively. The tool was tested for reliability and validity. The preliminary draft of the attitude scale was administered on a sample of 250 secondary school teachers of Kolkata and suburbs in West Bengal. The selection of these teachers was made from 35 secondary and higher secondary schools by employing multistage stratified proportionate sampling technique.

Reliability: The reliability of the scale was established by – (a) Test-retest Method and (b) Internal Consistency of the scale. The sample of 250 secondary school teachers, consisting of both male and female school teachers was tested twice with a gap of two months between testing and retesting. The product moment correlation 'r', that is the reliability index, was 0.82. Thus the scale was found to be reliable. The internal consistency of the scale was judged by computing the coefficients of correlation between total score on the scale and score on each of the five areas of the scale.

Validity: The validity of the scale was ascertained on the basis of content validity, cross validity, Item validity and Intrinsic validity. The aspects of inclusive education used in the modified scale has been substantially supported by the literature available in the area of inclusive education and the views and suggestions from various experts at the time of preparing a preliminary draft of the scale. Thus the scale can be said to possess adequate content validity. Each sub-sample of the whole teacher sample selected for the item analysis was entirely different from one another in order to avoid the chance of errors of carry over effect and thus it may be said that cross validity of the scale was ensured. Item validity was established since only those items with t-value of 1.75 or above were retained in the final form of the scale. The intrinsic validity for the scale was ascertained by ensuring internal consistency of the scale through product moment correlation method. The test retest reliability coefficient of 0.82 established the intrinsic validity of the scale. Procedure of

Data Collection: The tool was administered and also sent by mail to teachers in some cases. Sufficient time was given to the teachers before collecting their feedback so that their responses were well thought over and not perfunctory. Questions were explained in cases where it was needed. Sufficient rapport was built up with the respondents before administering the personal interview

Chowdhury, P

schedules so that the respondents could share their personal experiences without any inhibition.

Analysis of data: The t-test was also applied to the data collected so far after subjecting the data to normality test. The?? It was found to be near normal though not exactly normal.. t Test was applied on the scores obtained by teachers to test the following null hypotheses against corresponding alternative hypotheses:

[In the case of Alternative hypothesis, the hypothesis is specified as H_{xy} , where x denotes alternative number and y denotes the test number corresponding to the alternative hypotheses. Eg: H_{23} denotes alternative hypothesis for alternative hypothesis 2 for test number 3 or the third test as shown in the sequence below]

Null Hypothesis	Alternative Hypothesis 1	Alternative Hypothesis 2
H_{01} : There is no difference in attitude between rural B.ED vs rural non B.ED	H_{11} : Attitude of rural B.ED is better than rural non B.ED	H_{21} : Attitude of rural B.ED is poorer than rural non B.ED
H_{02} : There is no difference in attitude between urban B.ED vs urban non-B.ED	H_{12} : Attitude of urban B.ED is better than urban non B.ED	H_{22} : Attitude of urban B.ED is poorer than urban non B.ED
H_{03} : There is no difference in attitude between rural male B.ED vs rural female B.ED	H_{13} : Rural male B.ED have poorer attitude than their female counterparts	H_{23} : Rural male B.ED have better attitude than their female counterparts
H_{04} : There is no difference in attitude between urban male B.ED vs urban female B.ED	H_{14} : urban male B.ED have poorer attitude than their female counterparts	H_{24} : urban male B.ED have better attitude than their female counterparts
H_{05} There is no difference in attitude between rural male B.ED vs urban male B.ED	H_{15} : rural male B.ED have poorer attitude than their urban counterparts	H_{25} : rural male B.ED have better attitude than their urban counterparts
H_{06} : There is no difference in attitude between rural female B.ED vs urban female B.Ed.	H_{16} : rural female B.ED have poorer attitude than their urban counterparts	H_{26} : rural female B.ED have better attitude than their urban counterparts

For each of the above hypotheses, we compute the value of t statistic¹ Values of t statistic (rounded off to 3 decimal places) and corresponding inferences are summarized in the table below:

Hypothesis	Computation in Annexure	Computed t value	Observation	Inference
H ₀₁	I	0.125	Computed t < t _{0.005,∞}	H ₀₁ is accepted
H ₀₂	II	0.006	Computed t < t _{0.005,∞}	H ₀₂ is accepted
H ₀₃	III	-5.559	Computed t < - t _{0.01,∞}	H ₀₃ is rejected in favor of H ₁₃
H ₀₄	IV	-11.389	Computed t < - t _{0.01,∞}	H ₀₄ is rejected in favor of H ₁₄
H ₀₅	V	-2.936	Computed t < - t _{0.01,∞}	H ₀₅ is rejected in favor of H ₁₅
H ₀₆	VI	-4.829	Computed t < - t _{0.01,∞}	H ₀₆ is rejected in favor of H ₁₆

Analysis: B.Ed.-Attitude :Table shows the analysis of data as regards any influence of B.Ed degree [and hence with exposure to supervised practice teaching] on a teacher's attitude towards CLIL.

χ^2 Test was applied to test null hypothesis at 5% level of significance.²

	Teachers with B.Ed. degree	Teachers without B.Ed. degree	Total
Teachers with favourable attitude	154	70	224
Teachers with unfavourable attitude	360	116	476
Total	514	186	700

Inference: Since the computed χ^2 value is less than the tabulated value at 5% level, the null hypothesis is accepted and we have no reason to believe that B.Ed. degree with planned supervised practice teaching has any influence on a teacher's attitude towards CLIL. Location – attitude: Table shows the analysis of data as regards any significant difference between trained urban and rural teachers [having undergone supervised practice teaching] in their attitude towards CLIL.

χ^2 Test was applied to test null hypothesis at 5% level of significance.³

Chowdhury, P

	Urban teachers with experience of Pedagogical analysis under supervision	Rural teachers with experience of Pedagogical analysis under supervision	Total
Teachers with favourable attitude	186	38	224
Teachers with unfavourable attitude	406	70	476
Total	592	108	700

Inference: Since the computed χ^2 value is less than the tabulated value at 5% level, the null hypothesis is accepted and we have no reason to believe that Area has any influence on a teacher's attitude towards CLIL.

Personal experience – B.Ed.: An Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was conducted to examine whether personal experience of CLIL in form of demonstration classes in the teacher education course or exposure to international workshops attended during their service, and having a B.Ed degree, has any influence on a teacher's favourable attitude towards CLIL. 224 teachers' favourable responses were categorized as follows:-

Tabulated value of F with Degrees of Freedom 1,1 at α -level 0.05 = 161.4

	Teachers with personal experience	Teachers without personal experience	Total
Teachers with B.Ed.	107	47	154
Teachers without B.Ed.	61	9	70
Total	168	56	224

ANOVA was calculated⁴ and F values are computed as follows

Factors	Degrees of Freedom	Sum of Square	Mean Square	Observed F
B.Ed. Degree	1	1764	1764	110.25
Personal Experience	1	3136	3136	196.00
Error	1	16	16	

Thus we observe that:

F value for the factor 'B.Ed. Degree' < tabulated F value.

F value for the factor 'Personal Experience' > tabulated F value.

Hence the Analysis of Variance indicates that personal experience has a positive influence on a teacher's favourable attitude towards inclusive education. But no such conclusion can be drawn for B.Ed degree.

A Study on The
Attitude of
Secondary School
Teachers of West
Bengal Towards
Clil

4. QUALITATIVE DATA ANALYSIS

An interview schedule was also constructed and administered to the high school teachers. Data Analysis revealed that around 45% teachers familiar with the concept of CLIL feel that it is beneficial for the learners while the majority are apprehensive for the introduction of CLIL methodology. The lack of confidence and very poor or almost no exposure to the method in a planned and well organized way was evident and the responses revealed a general lack of confidence when it comes to the development of necessary knowledge base and skill for CLIL. The interview practically brought to the forefront the need to revisit the approach of teacher education to still to considering the language class separate from the content based class.

CONCLUSION

The study reveals that content teachers in tandem with language teachers should be provided with a systematic approach to the identification and instruction of language aims within content teaching, and that the main teacher development courses are failing in ways more than one in doing so, despite NCTE curriculum revision in both elementary and secondary level teacher education. The need for in-service professional development of the teacher educators themselves emerges as a necessary corollary. The teacher education curriculum clearly points to the development of CLIL skills and techniques as a part of the course, though the study reflects teacher education not developing teachers adequately for this approach. :

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END NOTE:

¹ For each of the above hypotheses, we compute the value of I statistic as follows;-Let x_1 and x_2 denote the scores of the two sets.

x_1 (mean) and x_2 (mean) are sample means from the two sets. n_1 and n_2 are the sample sizes of the two sets.

t statistic is computed as follows:

$$t = (x_1(\text{mean}) - x_2(\text{mean})) / (s \times N)$$

$$N = \text{square root } (1/n_1 + 1/n_2)$$

$$s = \text{square root } ((X_1 + X_2) / (n_1 + n_2 - 2))$$

$$X_1 = \sum x_1^2 - n_1 (x_1(\text{mean}))^2$$

$$X_2 = \sum x_2^2 - n_2 (x_2(\text{mean}))^2$$

Tabulated value of t at 1% & 0.5% confidence levels are noted as follows;-

$$t_{0.01, \infty} = 2.326, t_{0.005, \infty} = 2.576$$

Please note that degrees of freedom ($n_1 + n_2 - 2$), for the sample sizes corresponding to each of the hypotheses are greater than 120 (please refer to n_1 and n_2 values in Annexures I to VI). In Table 12 of *Biometrika Tables for Statisticians, Vol. I*, degrees of freedom greater than 120 is marked as infinity (∞). Hence we have noted tabulated I values with degrees of freedom as ∞ .

2. χ^2 value, computed based on the above data after applying Yate's correction for continuity

$$= \left[\left\{ \left| \frac{154 \times 116 - 70 \times 360}{700} \right| - \frac{700}{2} \right\}^2 \times 700 \right] / (154+70) \times (360+116) \times (154+360) \times (70+116)$$

$$= 3.696 \text{ (rounded to 3 decimal places)}$$

Tabulated value of χ^2 with Degrees of Freedom 1, at α -level 0.05 = 3.841

3. χ^2 value, computed based on the above data after applying Yate's correction for continuity = $\left[\left\{ \left| \frac{1186 \times 70 - 38 \times 4061}{700} \right| - \frac{700}{2} \right\}^2 \times 700 \right] / (186+38) \times$

$(406+70) \times (186+406) \times (38+70) = 0.595$ (rounded to 3 decimal places)

Tabulated value of χ^2 with Degrees of Freedom 1, at α -level 0.05 = 3.841

4. ANOVA calculations are as follows;

Sum of squares of raw values = 17460

Correction Factor = $(224)^2 / (2 \times 2) = 12544$

Total SS (Sum of Square) = $17460 - 12544 = 4916$

SS due to Degree = $[(154)^2 + (70)^2] / 2 - 12544 = 1764$

SS due to Personal Experience = $[(168)^2 + (56)^2] / 2 - 12544 = 3136$

SSE (Sum of Squares due to Error) = $4916 - 1764 - 3136 = 16$

A Study on The
Attitude of
Secondary School
Teachers of West
Bengal Towards
CLIL

APPENDIX

SCALE TO MEASURE ATTITUDE OF SECONDARY TEACHERS OF WEST BENGAL TOWARDS CLIL

Name:

Age: Sex: Male Female

Name of School:

Locality- Urban Rural

B.Ed. - Yes No

[Please tick mark against appropriate Strict confidentiality will be maintained and the data will be used for research only.]

1. CLIL is useful for language acquisition.
Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree
2. CLIL is useful for content subject acquisition
Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree .
CLIL is useful for acquiring both the language and the subject
Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree
4. I doubt that CLIL is useful at all
Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree
5. Reading specialised texts in English in the classroom or independently is important
Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree
6. Searching for some information from the Internet using sources in English is done in class

Chowdhury, P

- Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed
7. It is useful to make students explore charts, tables and drawings containing some information in English
Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed
8. Teacher student ratio makes it impossible to practise CLIL in my class
Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed
9. Reading specific terminology in English must be practised
Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed
10. Reading specific documentation (reports, check-lists, accident reports) is useful
Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed
11. Reading instructions in other subjects can be done in the class
Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed
12. Writing a summary on the basis of videos/texts presented in the classroom is practised for CLIL
Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed
13. It is useful to give Test instructions and assignments in English in other classes
Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed
14. Describing charts, tables and drawings containing some information in English can be done for CLIL
Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed
15. Writing down specific terminology in English is useful
Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed
16. Translating from English into my mother tongue and backwards in useful in all content areas
Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed
17. The curriculum must be revised for effective implementation of CLIL
Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed
18. The teachers should be trained separately for CLIL
Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed
19. Teacher Education courses did not prepare us for CLIL
Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed
20. Present timetable doesnot permit effective implementation of CLIL
Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed
21. There is ample scope of effective implementation of CLIL in the present curriculum
Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed
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22. Teachers should get incentive for implementing CLIL
 Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed
23. CLIL leads to wastage of time in the class
 Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed
24. CLIL cannot be applied to a multilingual class
 Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed
25. CLIL calls for a reconstruction of the examination system
 Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed
26. Participating in subject-related discussions in English can be done for CLIL
 Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed
27. Making topic-related oral presentations in English should be done in all the classes
 Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed
28. Using English during group works and carrying out projects should be made mandatory for effective CLIL
 Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed
29. Listening to audio-files in English can be done in class for CLIL
 Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed
30. Listening to instructions for filling out specific documentation in English can be done in class for CLIL
 Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed
31. Listening to some part of a topic-related material in English presented orally by teacher can be done in class for CLIL
 Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed
32. Listening to subject-related presentations presented in English by peers can be useful for CLIL
 Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed
33. Listening to English during group works, discussions and carrying out projects is useful for CLIL.
 Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed
34. CLIL cannot be practised in multilingual and multicultural classes
 Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed
35. CLIL is not fit for Indian classrooms with huge student strength
 Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed
36. Subject teachers other than language teachers feel burdened with CLIL
 Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed
37. Students would be subjected to stress due to CLIL
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Chowdhury, P

Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed

38. The course structure and allotted time makes CLIL very difficult to be practised

Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed

39. Content of subjects other than language would suffer with too much emphasis on language through CLIL

Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed

40. CLIL leads to development of metacognition needed in understanding all content areas

Agree Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly Disagreed