

International Conference on English Learning and Teaching Skills ICELTS, 2018

The Institute of Engineering and Management, Kolkata has organised an International Conference on English Learning and Teaching Skills from 26th of July to 28th of July, 2018.

This conference, organised by the department of Basic Science and Humanities in collaboration with Indian Statistical Institute, British Council, Kolkata, and ELT@I, brings together participating countries from all over the world: featuring over 130 research papers, keynote addresses from distinguished International and National Speakers, and interactive Workshops.

Dr. Debanjan Chakrabarti, Director of British Council, spoke on the assessment details and improvements of testing speaking and listening skills. He explained that lack of communication makes it harder to get employment, how understanding things in depth and finding solutions is the key but communication is of prime importance.

The inaugural Lecture was delivered by Mr. James A. Dragon, Director, American Centre, Kolkata. He has several valuable years of experience imparting education amongst the various stratas of the society. Mr. Dragon drew from personal experiences and shared various stories where he taught English to children in remote villages of India and many others.

Amy Lightfoot, Assistant Director Schools, English and Skills – Academic, British Council, India, conducted a webinar on academic strategy and new-world assessment techniques. Her thrust area of discussion was the use of digital platforms for professional development and the monitoring and evaluation of teacher competence and performance.

Dr. Sarani Ghosal's plenary talk was an enlightening session on the incorporation of remote learning methods and inclusion of "suggestopedia" methodology of teaching rather than conventional methods. Dr. Ghosal emphasized on the need for flexible classrooms for creative learning.

Dr. Pillai's plenary Session was invigorating in its approach novel writing methods for generating newer formats and contents of writings. She took the audience through a hands-on writing tutorial and explained the dos and don'ts of creative writings. She shared invaluable personal experiences and anecdotes to emphasize on the importance of developing writing skills as an integral part of communication.

Dr. Chatterjee explained and demonstrated the value of involving different arts and different human senses in the process of language learning. The people present were first taught to "listen"

to an evocative song to set the mood and then taught to “read” a poem and analyze it in the light of the music. It proved to be an excellent exercise in language learning techniques

Dr. Raman touched on the important pedagogic requirements in fostering communication skills, public speaking skills, interview skills, and interpersonal communications.

ELT@I CHAPTER, KOLKATA

Dr. G. A. Ghanashyam, the president of ELTAI, inaugurated the ELT@I Kolkata Chapter.