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Title of the Book: Teaching English with R. K. Laxman's Cartoons

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In this neat and extensive book, Dr. Jagdish Patil, a teacher and linguist looks at the popular difficulty : Teaching of English, with a brand new and easy-to-apply approach underlining the seriousness of the topic and profundity of R K Laxman's Cartoons as far as learning English as a skill functions at ground level. Dr. Patil has provided lots of fascinating data, deliberates it in a lively well-informed way and very soothingly disposes the anxiety of teaching and learning of this foreign language: English. The finest cartoons of Laxman with linguistically deft touches of Dr. Patil contribute greatly to the light, pacy and educative tone of the book.

The innate fear for English among the Indian students and the simultaneous anxiety of the teachers is practically dealt in this 280 pages book with equally practical solutions for effective language learning with help of Laxman's cartoons. The art of Cartooning and its properties along with its finest proponents are intensively touched upon in the very first chapter of the book. Also, it cements the new reciprocative relationship between Teaching of English and the cartoons of Laxman. " R.K. Laxman's Cartoons can be used to teach English language" says Dr. Patil. And this 'Can' is a true success story of the book that dared to use Cartoons effectively like anything.

The most notable feature of the book is its elaboration of Pragmatics which is generally missed while teaching of English in India. Pragmatics studies language and its context. The unfortunate situation: English is Second/Third language for Indian learners and their incompatibility with it from the perspective of context and is never received any attention. The second chapter and the all three core chapters embrace pragmatics to make it an integral part of teaching English. The areas like Semantics, Stylistics, Psycho-linguistics, Discourse analysis, Speech Act Theory, Maxims of Quality, Quantity, Relation and Manner, Felicity Conditions are dealt truthfully. For the first time in the history of English Language Teaching, Pragmatics with the help of cartoons is used at classroom level and the drills are surprisingly successful.

Traditionally, Vocabulary and Grammar teaching form a teacher's job: to expose English to the *tender* brains of Indian students and we have failed miserably. In an enlightening and

entertaining celebration of Language teaching, Dr. Patil passionately proposes Cartoon based language activities to teach this foreign language's vocabulary and grammar. The chapter on Vocabulary Teaching, more than a dozen innovative methods are proposed apart from Cartoons like group SMS, Pictures, Films, Songs, etc. The mere size of the selection of cartoons for vocabulary teaching is astonishing as the sections like connotation, denotation, nouns, seasons, vehicles, meaning in context; and vocabulary on medicine, education, human anatomy, and judiciary are woven for pure learning. The teaching effect is soothing for me. It would be a treat for learners. Dr. Patil should be congratulated for making Teachers of English comfortable and their attempts a fun.

We fail English Grammar is a reason why the chapter four materialised and it allows a teacher to use picture as a context in Grammar Teaching which, earlier, was semi-occasional. Tense, Articles, Pronouns, Modals, Concord, Reported Speech, Voice, Negation, Affirmation, Interrogation, Phrases and the like are presented to make Grammar Learning an absorbing process. And the space created for the infinite number of grammar activities is linguistically commendable. A subtle travel from the micro aspects (Vocabulary and Grammar Teaching) to macro ones (Dialogue writing and Composition) is deft and striking; and forms the content of the chapter five. Delightfully, the chapter tests what is proposed in earlier chapters and administers completeness and totality to the interface: English Language Teaching and R. K. Laxman's Cartoons.

The tone of the book is informative, revolutionary, witty and linguistically genial. It is a must have for teachers of English from Primary Schools to Degree Colleges. Dr. Patil has adumbrated the book for the broadest possible popular audience and outdistanced in producing an accessible and enticing treatment of the subject.