Task 2: Writing Academic Essays

The perceived supremacy of the English language in the modern world tends to overshadow the significance of local languages. Learning the English language can help us in many ways- it helps us communicate with individuals hailing from different social backgrounds and communities, moreover, it helps provide us access to the international job markets and aids us in our education as English is used as the medium in many of the South Asian countries, including Pakistan. However, this immense focus on the development and usage of the English language has adverse effects on the growth of our local languages, often leading to their neglect, so they may never prosper to great heights much like the English language did.

In my opinion, it is necessary for us to learn English, but not at the expense of our native languages. Whereas on one hand, English can help us in many different ways- both in our professional and personal life, On the contrary, I believe that the preservation of our native languages is our duty. Our native languages showcase our rich cultural history and the beauty of our culture can only be seen through the lens of our cultural languages. Preserving a language at risk of extinction means preserving its culture, traditions, and wisdom. Each community speaks a different language and these languages embody unique ways of seeing the world. All languages have their own unique set of folklore, music and literature that separates it from one another while also showing the customs and traditions of the people who follow that specific culture. For example, where on one hand, we have Heer Ranjha in Punjabi, on the other, we have Adam Khan and Durkhannai in Pashto. Moreover, these stories cannot be translated in their true essence in the English language because their beauty can only be understood in the language they were created in. Losing these languages means losing an entire cultural heritage. As Rita Mae Brown puts it,

“Language is the roadmap of a culture. It tells you where its people come from and where they are going.”

To make sure that our local languages don’t go extinct and aren’t neglected, certain measures should be taken to ensure the balance of both, national and international languages. Schools should implement bilingual education programs, that not only teach English, but also teach students in their local languages. This will aid students in gaining proficiency in the English language while also having a certain sense of pride regarding their mother tongue. This will help maintain the linguistic heritage of our land. Moreover, schools can organize different initiatives to celebrate the culture we were born in which will help foster pride in our local languages and encourage us to use them in our daily life.

Moreover, to ensure the preservation of our local languages, we must make sure that we can proudly represent them in an international level. One way of doing so is to give our local languages the title and prestige of a “National Language”. An example is the 8th schedule to the constitution of India that states that Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu, are all the national languages and pride of India, after an amendment, Sindhi was also included in this list. If Pakistan follows the footsteps of our neighbours, then this will ensure that all of our national languages will be preserved and respected, both, nationally and internationally.

In conclusion, while learning English is essential to our success in the interconnected world that we live in, it is equally as important for us to promote and nurture our local languages and provide a helping hand to help them grow.