

# The Influence of Mother Tongue on Students' English Language Learning in Telugu Medium Schools: A Linguistic Study

Sykam Santha Kumari<sup>1</sup> and Sushma Patnaik<sup>2</sup>

Assistant professor, Sir CR Reddy College of Engineering (Autonomous), Eluru<sup>1,2</sup>

**Abstract:** *The current research investigates the influence of the mother tongue (Telugu) on students' English language acquisition in Telugu medium schools across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Drawing from linguistic transfer theories and second language acquisition models, this study explores phonological, syntactical, and semantic interferences that arise due to mother tongue influence. The qualitative research approach includes classroom observations, semi-structured interviews with students and teachers, and analysis of written and oral English assignments. The findings reveal that while the mother tongue acts as a scaffold for early language learning, it also contributes to significant linguistic interference, affecting fluency, pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary. The paper concludes by suggesting pedagogical interventions and curriculum design modifications to improve English proficiency among students in regional language settings.*

**Keywords:** Mother Tongue Influence, Telugu Medium Schools, English Language Learning, Language Pedagogy, India Language Policy

