

Embedding Sustainability in English Language Teaching: Advancing Employability and Social Mobility through the SDGs

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Abstract: Language in today's global landscape is under-theorized within development discourse, despite growing emphasis of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on education, employment, and inequality reduction. English Language Teaching (ELT), although commonly associated with employment opportunities abroad, continues to be narrowly framed around grammar acquisition and assessment success rather than as a driver of sustainable development. This paper aims to examine ELT through the lens of SDGs 4 (Quality Education), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and 10 (Reducing Inequalities) as a means to contribute to progress of humanity. The study is grounded on the Capability Approach by Amartya Sen and the Theory of Capital by Pierre Bourdieu. The finding reveals that mastery over English language opens vistas for quality education, participation in knowledge-based economies, employment, access to international job markets, and social advancement.

Keywords: Sustainable Development Goals, English Language Teaching (ELT), Social Mobility, Employability, Linguistic Capital, Sustainable Education, Capability Approach

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