



Reminiscences

Mr Hugh Catchpole's

Notes on

**ENGLISH GRAMMAR
AND USAGE**

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**Dedicated to
the loving memory of
Mr Hugh Catchpole,
whose inspiring personality
and thorough professionalism
made many a student his devoted disciples**

FOREWORD



Mr Hugh Catchpole belongs to that breed of legendary teachers, who did not take up teaching profession as a calling or a vocation but immortalized it with their missionary zeal, selfless dedication and single-minded sense of commitment. During his career, spanning more than 68 years, he played a vital role in the grooming and nurturing of thousands of young minds, and I consider myself lucky to be one of them. As a child, everybody idolizes his teachers, but the 'Notes on English', given by Mr Catchpole 40 years back to me as a student of PAF Public School, Sargodha, have not only become my prized possession but also continue to provide me guidance and help whenever I am in doubt about the usage of some word or phrase.

I hope this handbook, containing Mr Hugh Catchpole's Notes on English Grammar and Usage, will be of some help to the younger generation and also preserve the memory of my great teacher, Mr Hugh Catchpole.

I would also like to acknowledge, with thanks, the effort put in by Air Commodore Khayyam Durrani in compiling these notes in the shape of a book.

(TANVIR MAHMOOD AHMED)
Air Chief Marshal
Chief of the Air Staff
Pakistan Air Force

03 May, 2007



HUGH CATCHPOLE

OBE, CBE, SITARA-I-IMTIAZ

BIOGRAPHY MR HUGH CATCHPOLE

Mr Hugh Catchpole was born in 1907 in Ipswich, a small town of a pretty rural county, Suffolk in England. He did his Master's in History from Oxford University and made the profession of teaching the bread and butter of his life. Before starting his career as a teacher, Mr Catchpole did some flying in civil and played cricket for the Suffolk County Eleven.

His enviable career in education spanned 68 years, beginning in 1928 as Assistant Master at the Prince of Wales' Royal Indian Military College, now Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC), Dehra Dun, India. He went on to become the Principal of RIMC in 1948, and held the post till his retirement in 1953. The first Pakistani Air Chief, Air Marshal Asghar Khan and his successor Air Marshal Nur Khan had been Mr Catchpole's students at RIMC. After retiring from RIMC, he came to Pakistan to become the founder Principal of Cadet College, Hasan Abdal. After expiry of his contract at the Cadet College in 1958, he joined PAF Public School, Sargodha as Principal. He stayed there till 1967 and then joined Abbottabad Public School as the Head of English Department, a post he held till the last day of his life.

Mr Catchpole died at the age of 90, on 1st February 1997 at the Military Hospital in Rawalpindi, surrounded by Rimcollians, Abdalians, Sargodhians and Abbotonians, whom he loved. Just two months before his death, he had to inaugurate a guest house named after him at Rashtriya Indian Military College, Dehra Dun. He had given a bountiful donation of Rs 1.5 million for that guest house and planned to shift there after retiring from Abbottabad Public School. In his will, he wished to donate all balances of his account to the institutions he had been associated with. More than Rs 8 million were donated by him to different institutions including Ipswich School, Suffolk, UK, Rashtriya Indian Military College Dehra Dun, Cadet College Hasan Abdal, PAF Public School Sargodha and Abbottabad Public School.

Mr Hugh Catchpole was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1968, and the Commander's Badge of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) and Sitara-i-Imtiaz (SI) in 1979, for his lifelong meritorious services to the cause of education.

He is survived by hundreds of students, who proudly treasure their deep personal association with this legendary teacher. To them, he was an institution unto himself.

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