Very much essential

Our Principal often uses two statements in his speeches “very much essential” and “pathetic situation”. The junior classes’ students have learnt by heart those two phrases and whenever they want to impress upon outsiders that they know English, they make use of those phrases in their own way.

When the teachers from U.K. visited our school, the children were excited to use their limited vocabulary to the maximum. We were in VIIth class then. One boy Nishant who is weak in English always impresses on others that he knows good English. Those teachers entered our class and started asking some questions about studies. Their accent was British so we could not understand easily. But Nishant was looking overconfident and was first to answer all questions. His replies were mostly “yes”, “no” “oh yes”, “I know”. When the teachers asked what we thought of copying in exams. Now Nishant wanted to try hand at some new phrases so he replied, “Madam it is very much essential.” They got stunned. The Science teacher present in our class clarified the statement of Nishant. Then one teacher asked, “How do you feel in your hostels?” Nishant had often heard the Principal using phrase, “pathetic situation” in that context, so he thought it was a relevant phrase to put into use then so he replied, “pathetic situation”. The facial expression of the teacher changed. She thought that students are speaking the truth and later asked the Principal who laughed heartily to listen the whole episode. The students of our school think that these phrases mean good. In answers also certain students use these two phrases frequently. Our Principal has gradually stopped using these phrases in his speech!