

Enhancing Communication Skills of the Learners in ELT Classrooms: An Overview

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Abstract

Communication is the primary mode of transferring information between two or more people. Communication skill is meant for imparting and exchanging information using certain language skills such as speaking, writing, or using some other medium. As English is the global language, the craze for the English language has resulted in the commercialization of teaching English in countries like India, where there is a need for a common 'link language' amidst a wide range of regional languages. Education has become a profit-oriented business, and the welfare of the students has not been concerned. In India, the traditional method of teaching English in the language classroom has not been changed for ages. Education is centered on examination, thus the importance and goal of teaching English as a second language remain untested. Only memorization and reproducing the content is given priority by the present educationalists, as their prime motive is to score good marks not to develop efficiency in the target language. Thus, the quality and purpose of teaching and learning English as a second language remains questionable. This research article analyses the methods and activities to cultivate communication skills among the learners. It also offers some innovative ideas and techniques to solve the problems faced by the students in attaining fluency in communication and vocabulary. It also drives the point that teachers have to be capable and sophisticated with personal and professional advancement to promote the learners' interest in learning the target language effectively.

Keywords: Communication, Language Skills, Global Language, Innovative Ideas, Professional Advancement.

Introduction

Language is the means of communication among human beings that includes both spoken and written forms. It consists of the use of words in an ordered and conventional way. Language as a system of communication is used by every country and community. Human beings can exchange information, thoughts, opinions, needs, ideas, instructions, emotions, feelings, and imaginations through language through communication. Communicative means of a language is referred to the linguistic aspect of the particular language. Every individual needs to communicate to share their knowledge with others and it depends on one's own personal interest and skills.

Effective communication skills are necessary for both personal and professional development. The ultimate aim of communication is to convey the message effectively so that the receiver understands it without any hardships. The general forms of communication are oral and written communications. English is not only a primary language of the countries conquered by the British. Most of the countries follow and consider English as a second language due to the influence of English in the business world and banking. As English is the common language used for communication, everyone learns English to get in touch with others at the international level. For example, English plays a vital role in India because most of the states in the country have their regional language. Thus, English has a common role as a language to communicate with other state people in India.

Language

Language as a vehicle of communication conveys an individual's ideas, opinions, thoughts, emotions, and feelings to another person directly through words. It serves through three components: the sounds, the structures, and the words. According to Chomsky, language is a set of sentences. Different communities speak different languages. Each language has its sounds, grammatical, syntactical, and lexical forms. Above all, it is factual that language is primarily spoken and not written. It

is possible to collect the messages of the ancestors as the spoken form of language was advanced by the written form. Language is stable and developmental. For instance, the current English is different from the English spoken at the period of middle age and at the times of Shakespeare. Later, English was developed into the standard language with the effect of American movies and BBC's establishment of 'Standard English' and pronunciation.

A child acquires the language from the surrounding. In this situation, the child undergoes the learning process of the mother tongue without being aware of the patterns or structures. It makes the child easy to learn and grasp the language and its structure subconsciously with the help of the surroundings while growing up. Second language learning is quite difficult and one has to put some effort to learn the language.

Language Acquisition

Language has played a main role in the advancement of human civilization. Learning a second or foreign language is known as language learning. For the Tamil medium students, practice is the main factor in learning English as a second language. In schools, the students learn all the subjects in Tamil. It leads them to have the habit of reading and speaking in the mother tongue which drastically affects their acquisition of the English language. These students rarely get a chance of speaking English or practicing English at home because of low exposure to the target language.

Psychological and sociological factors are also some of the reasons that affect the process of language learning. If there is no proper motivation, learning will take more time. Even if the learners are ready to acquire the new language, the environmental factors will be a matter where the students of Tamil medium may lack what is required. It would be more helpful for the second language learners if their parents could support the efforts of students to practice it at home. This is the reason why Tamil medium students fail to acquire the second language due to their backdrop of socio-economic and educational status.

The Necessity of ELT for the Non-native English Speakers

English Language Teaching is more essential for non-native English speakers than native English speakers. Native speakers use English almost everywhere because it is their language for communication. On the other hand, non-native speakers struggle in learning English because it is not their mother tongue for communication but they use English as a tool or vehicle to communicate with other language people. English is an essential language for the students because most of the books are written in or translated into English. After all, it is a universal language. Certain innovative and creative English language teaching methods help the teachers to develop better communicative skills and fluency among the students by conducting seminars, interactive games, and task-related activities in classrooms. These activities help the students to communicate in English and to come out of their comfort zone which will eventually improve their self-confidence and motivation by the usage of the English language frequently. It becomes the responsibility of the teachers to correct the pronunciation of the students and the usage of vocabulary. Thus, English Language Teaching helps to improve the vocabulary and communicative skills of the students.

Communication Skills

Communication skills are concerned with the ability to transmit and receive messages. Human beings develop the habit of proper communication decades ago. Effective communication skills have become a predominant factor for employees in diverse fields. During the time of interviewing candidates, most recruiters judge the candidates based on how they communicate in the English language. Communication is conveying a message from one person to the other. The process is completed when the receiver gets the message from the sender. Sending and receiving messages do not make the process of communication successful. The sender sends unambiguous messages to other people. The messages sent by the sender have to be received with less distortion possible. Effective communication is essential in every sphere of life for both personal and professional development. To understand things better, instances from real life are derived. In most institutions and firms, only good communication tops the hierarchy. To be successful in any field, it is quite essential to be a good communicator.

Task-based Activities

In classroom activities, students are asked to share their ideas or opinion to infer something from what is given. If language is used in the natural contexts, there can be abundant opportunities for learning to take place through interacting or communicating in the target language. By using various English Language Teaching methods the teachers have to encourage and motivate the learners to attain the required mastery in the particular language skills. Activities like practicing speaking skills with the help of radio and T.V., exposure to vocabulary, group conversation, debates, skimming and scanning, evaluation, note-taking, precise writing, letter writing, comprehension, using dictionaries, and imaginary description have to be given to the learners to develop the vital language skills of the target language.

In the majority of the schools, English is taught through traditional methods. In order to develop the language skills of the students, teachers have to implement and incorporate innovative teaching techniques and strategies. This research article unveils that by using various creative methods and activities in the language learning classroom, the learners attain the required mastery in the particular language skills. These techniques enable the students to compose their ideas independently and present them effectively while writing and speaking. Thus, the primary duty of a language teacher is to increase self-confidence among the students by keeping them active and creative during the process of language learning. The English Language Teaching at the college level aims to develop the students' knowledge and language skills required to become an effective and successful professional in the future. It leads them to be qualified and manage in their profession. Nowadays, researchers highlight students' mistakes in second language learning and also project certain remedies to overcome these issues. Language learning, similar to any sort of human learning, includes committing mistakes.

In India, the mode of instruction in teaching has begun moving quickly from vernacular language to the English language. People's mentality towards the English language has drastically changed and there is an incredible interest in English language teaching in the nation. As the English language has now turned into a global language, every individual of the world utilizes English for commodity and survival. English has turned out to be important for financial, portability, and social achievement in the present world. At the same time, the teaching of the English language in India is not given much consideration by the ministers of education on various conditions throughout the nation as they look at English as one of the subjects, not as a language that will aid the learners to gain both personal and professional advancement in their future. Therefore, language teaching in English has not yet gained the level to which it truly relied upon. Consequently, teaching English holds a key position in the whole educational program. In this situation, English owes the obligation to empower the students to accomplish the language objectives specifically. Hence, the teaching of the English language is required to be fortified and difficulties and issues should be diminished with the best endeavors of government, researchers, and teachers.

Interactive Classroom

In a communicative classroom, learners are supposed to listen to reliable materials with no exclusion or hindrance of verbal response. Language skills like listening and speaking have to be focussed in an interactive classroom as learners prepare to practice these skills in the classroom. The productive activities such as discussion, role play, and debate about controversial or present topics have to be promoted to create an interest among the learners and to make the language classroom interactive. In such group works, teachers' role is to monitor the work done by the learners, making arrangements, entertaining others, preparing materials for presentations and discussions. The role of teachers in language teaching is deliberately significant. Interacting with the learners in the classroom makes the students enjoy the conversation. Thus, the teacher has to allow students to imagine answers and make assumptions, make them observe and predict answers and also encourage communicative tasks.

Conclusion

Language has a great association with society. The best way to educate core language skills is to interact in realistic contexts. Learning and teaching can be an interesting and stimulating tasks for the learners because there are numerous possible matters which stimulate interaction among one another. In the typical classroom environment, language rules are clarified and practiced, wherein the language rules and the examples are learned by covering the context given in the prescribed book materials. Through interaction, learners will be able to understand certain and further advancements of the

language. Social interaction is considered to be more significant in second language learning. The learner obtains an idea from the response and that specific information becomes intake when the learner makes use of that information internally. This process continues as discussion or communication and therefore, it enhances the second language learning and speaking skills of the learners. Interaction inspires learners to practice the language more practically.

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