



ENHANCING SPEAKING AND WRITING SKILL OF SECOND LANGUAGE THROUGH METHODS

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ABSTRACT

Language is a method of communication. It is an expression of sounds or sound signals in a scheduled pattern of symbols which conveys a message to one person to another. ELT teachers today are faced with a bewildering choice of aims, methods and materials. Language learning is a skill that can be perfected only through constant practice and continuous exposure to the target language. Language is an identity of every culture, where cultural elements rest in it as literary works or as art. This research paper brings out the importance of the direct method. The direct method came as a reaction to the translation method. It emphasises the value of oral training in learning English. Students acquire fluency of speech. They are quick at understanding spoken English. The students who learn by this method have good pronunciation. They can converse in English with great facility; language is speech reading before speech is like putting the cart before the horse.

Key Words: language teaching, student learning, direct method, communication etc.,

INTRODUCTION

Language is one of the most prized possessions of man. It acts as a repository of wisdom, a propeller for the advancement of knowledge and a telescope to view the vision of the future. Language is a means through which we contemplate the past, grasp the present and approach the future. The English is spoken and understood all over the globe, so it has got an international importance. It is the language of diplomacy and it contains many a rich literary treasure. We often

wonder why fluent spoken English has been a hitch for most Indians even after the sixty years of Independence. Today, English dominates in every sphere of life, be it education, TV or print, electronic media or internet, the spell of English is everywhere. There is hardly any sphere of social life where English does not make its bang.

Today, parents in modern society swollen with pride if their kids speak well-versed English fluently and they are proud parents admitting their kids in convent schools only because of the fascination of spoken English. English, apart from its enormous utility, is considered the language of gentlemen and sophisticated ladies. With the soaring progress in every area, English too is flourishing rapidly and now India is one of the most developing countries which do sense the phenomenon of English. Hence, after independence, English has progressed greatly despite the opposition from various quarters.

It is quite obvious that today multinational companies are spreading everywhere in India and the demand for communication is the most requisite. Even students wishing to pursue their career in multinationals too feel the need of spoken English. Markets are flooded with English titles and newspapers in English. Then why our youth is always unsuccessful in impressive communication skill. There are numerous reasons for the absence of their communication skills. Let's take a peep into them.

ENGLISH IN OUR SOCIAL LIFE

English has been the official language in our country, for more than two hundred years. English is playing an equally important role in the social life of Indian people. Majority of educated people use this language for correspondence. They find it more convenient to converse in English. In marriage parties or at the time of some social ceremony, the invitation cards are mostly printed in English. We use date format obviously in English format. More than 95% of us know English numeral format rather than Tamil numerical.

***“A language is not a subject which can be taught;
it is a subject which must be learnt.”***

Knowledge of English language is a successful passport for employment.

English prevents us from isolation from the world. English as an international language occupies an important place in the education system and life of our country. English has been rightly described as a window on the rapid progress of technology and scientific knowledge that is constantly taking place in the world. It has been rightly described as a language of opportunity. It

is the key to the storehouse of knowledge. Above all, English is the means of interstate communication.

“Anyone who can read English can keep in touch with the world without leaving his own home.”

(French F G: *Teaching English as an Instructional Language*: Page 11)

English in India is a legacy from the British who colonized the country and their language permeated through some of the most important parts of society: the government, the media, the education system, the legal system, and gradually the social sphere as well. India is a vast nation and in terms of number of English speakers, it ranks third in the world after USA and the UK. An estimated 4 percent of the population use English and even though this may seem like a small number that is about 40 million people. Thus, this small segment of the population control the domains of professional and social prestige. Though it is closer to British English since it originates from that style, with the influx of globalization American English has definitely had an impact on the youth as well as in the professional sphere. However, it can neither be classified as American nor British English and it is intermingled with other Indian languages, and emerged with its own distinct flavour. This has made several scholars realize that it cannot be equated with either.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE LEARNING

Each language is unique because it has its own style of functioning without language, we shall not be able to express ourselves. Learning a second language is an artificial process. The atmosphere of listening or speaking is created for some time but that is not as natural as we have in the case of mother tongue. English serves as a common language of Indians; and thus it brings closer the people residing in different parts of India. The objective of teaching prose is mainly meant to develop the four language skills-listening, speaking, reading, and writing; mainly reading which expands one's proficiency in the use of language and gives the skills to acquire more knowledge. A passage can be taught extensively and intensively. Intensive reading enriches the pupil's command of vocabulary and grammatical structures, extensive reading further reinforces them. Silent reading is the most important skill that should be aimed at while teaching a prose lesson-for it develops concentration, and make the pupil fast readers.

Indian Writing in English

India is the third largest English book producing country after the US and the UK, and the largest numbers of books are published in English. Creative writing in English has been an integral part of the Indian literary tradition for many years. Many believe that is a challenge for Indian novelists to write about their experiences in a language, which is essentially “foreign”. However, Indian English has been used widely by several writers who have been able to successfully use the language to create rich and invigorating literature. India is rich with tastes, sounds, and sights that are any writer's dream and stylistic influence from local languages is a particular feature of Indian literature in English. Many perceive English as having released the local languages from rigid classical traditions that could be an obstacle while writing. It is Indian writers in English who have truly showcased India to the world not only in terms of understanding the country better, but also by establishing that the language no longer represents the western concepts of literary creativity as its ranges have expanded.

DRAWBACKS OF SECOND LANGUAGE LEARNING

The students, who are learning English as a second language undergone lot of problems, let us see what they are:

1. Lack of confidence level in second language spoken makes them to hesitate even though they have ideas in their mind.
2. The sentences spoken by them are fragmented because it takes time to translate ideas or view from mother tongue (First language) to English (second language).
3. Each and every language has its own way of grammatical structure, hence it will spoil while translation method used by the learner leads to irregular sentence structure.
4. Lack of vocabulary turns their spoken unrelated to their view.
5. They treat language as a subject, so they use it when they open books or in an examination point of view. It is a language, so we have to live within, only then good spoken of second language comes out.
6. Grammar is a structure of language so grammar knowledge of second language is must for proper use of the language.
7. Spelling and pronunciation errors of words change the concept of information.
8. Memorising the sentences without understanding the meaning of the concept for examination point of view will misguide the second language learning process.

All the above points are gathered from teaching experience Arts and Science college students. It will be solved by using the best method of learning second language.

BEST METHOD OF LEARNING SECOND LANGUAGE

English is one of the most widely used languages in the world; it is very beneficial for people from non-English speaking countries to learn the language.

Teaching English to non-native speakers can be a complicated task, because different students have different levels of English language proficiency. Educators have come up with different English. There are many different reasons for people to learn English as a second language, including business advancements and personal communication. Regardless of the reason, it is important to know and understand your learning option. Having this knowledge will enable a person to make the best decision regarding how they are going to learn English. Consider the following methods that are available and their benefits:

Method: - a method is a well thought out plan for the presentation of the subject matter based upon the selected approach or “correlative assumptions”. An approach prescribes an axioms or priority statements. A method lays down the procedure. So within one approach the teacher can employ different methods. Methods may be altered according to the demands of the situations.

Some methods of teaching English are;

- (1) The Translation method
- (2) The Direct method
- (3) Dr. Michael West’s new method
- (4) The Substitution Table method
- (5) The Project method
- (6) Inductive-Deductive methods

The Bilingual Method

When a child learns the mother tongue, he forms the concept and grasps the situation and learns the meaning of words simultaneously. The advocates of the Bilingual Method believe that it is a waste of time to recreate the situation while teaching a foreign language. Their argument is that teaching-learning process is facilitated if only the mother tongue equivalents are given to the learner without duplicating the situation. The Bilingual Method, therefore, makes use of the mother tongue in this restricted manner. It differs from the Grammar Translation Method .

The Bilingual method was a teaching method developed by C. J. Dodson. It employs the use of both the target language and the native language of the learners in a classroom situation for the teaching of the target language. This presentation aims to explicate the concept of the bilingual method and its advantages as well as disadvantages in ELT.

Disadvantages

1. A possible disadvantage of the method is that if the teacher is not imaginative enough, this method may degenerate into the Grammar Translation Method with all the attendant drawbacks.
2. Secondly, the Bilingual Method is useful at the secondary stage, whereas, the Direct Method is more useful than the Bilingual Method at the primary stage.
3. In Bilingual method the meaning of English sentences and words when given in mother-tongue, become clear but it does not fulfil spoken skill.
4. It neglects speech, students learn through this method are very poor in speaking English, because they are not given any practice in it. They are just passive listeners and do not actively participate.

THE DIRECT METHOD

French scholar C. Marcel put forward a sustained theoretical challenge to the grammar translation method. The aim of the direct method is to convert the student into a fluent communicator in the target language and the teacher is usually a native speaker. The entire class is conducted in the target language. Ideally at the end of the course the student should not only communicate in the target language but also think in it, and speaking skill is given importance. The direct method of teaching was developed as a response to the Grammar-Translation method. It sought to immerse the learner in the same way as when a first language is learnt. Teaching is done in the target language, grammar is taught inductively, there is a focus on speaking and listening, and only useful 'everyday' language is taught. The weakness in the Direct Method is its assumption that a second language can be learnt in exactly the same way as a first, when in fact the conditions under which a second language is learnt are very different.

The Direct method created a direct bond between the words and their meanings, thought and expression. By this way we learn right pronunciation, phonetics of second language. This is also known as Reform Method/Natural Method/Phonetically Method/Anti-grammatical Method. The natural language learning principles provided the foundation for what came to be known as the Direct method, which refers to the most widely known of the natural methods. Second

language learning must be an imitation of first language learning, as this is the natural way humans learn any language, and so MT has no place in SL lesson. (Baby never relies on another language to learn its first language).The spoken language is primary and that this should be reflected in an oral-based methodology. Oral communication skills are built up in a carefully graded progression organised around question and answer exchanges between teachers and students. Printed word must be kept away from second language learner for as long as possible (same as first language learner, who doesn't use printed word until he has good grasp of speech).The learner should hear the language first, before seeing it in written form. The translation of second language to first language should be avoided, although the mother tongue could be used in order to explain new words or to check comprehension. An important condition for successful language learning is the absence of stress. First language acquisition takes place in a stress free environment. The Direct method must be taken place in natural atmosphere of a second language.

“The direct method of teaching foreign language, sometimes also called the natural method, refrains from using the learner’s native language and uses only the target language. It was established in Germany and France around 1900.”

TEACHING GRAMMAR

Grammar is a system that gives certain rules, governing the use of language and its constituent elements like phonology, morphology, semantics, syntax etc. It is required for a sound basis of language. The teaching of English grammar should take account of the fundamental principles of linguistic development and the teacher should know and emphasize the fact that grammar is the description of a more or less unstable and changing medium of expression.

According to Thomson and Wyatt,

“Grammar presents the facts of language arranged under certain categories and deals only with what can be bought under general laws and stated in the form of general rules.”

How can students improve their English?

Practice makes a man perfect. Early childhood is the correct time to push the children into learning process. Encourage them to read English novels and fiction and discuss them in class with their teachers. Dialogues and conversation among characters will help them to communicate with friends. Pursue them to listen to the coverage of English channels so as they might learn the correct pronunciation of the words. Speaking, reading, listening and writing must go hand in hand to learn the language thoroughly.

Young people who have lost their childhood time without learning and honing speaking skills too can gather novels or biographies of great people from libraries or download from internet. Today, markets are flooded with bestsellers which would interest them. Moreover, English serials regarding the celebrities' interviews and fun programmes too can help learning the speaking skills. Schools and colleges too can screen these sorts of programmes in common halls gathering the students to the capacity of the room and engage them in the task of discussing after watching the movie.

CONCLUSION

Direct method came as a reaction to the Translation method. It emphasises the value of oral training in learning English. Students can acquire fluency of speech. They are quick at understanding spoken English. The students learn by this method have good pronunciation. They can converse in English with great facility; Language is speech reading before speech is like putting the cart before the horse.

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