Role of Grammar in English Language Learning

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Abstract:
Grammar is nothing but the sum of rules and regulations of the language. There is ongoing debate regarding the influence of grammar in English language learning from the last few decades. But it is the fact that grammar plays an important role in second language learning. Knowing a language means commanding over its four basic skills- Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. So it is impossible to speak English accurately without the use of proper grammar. Each and every technical document and others should be free from grammatical mistakes. Knowledge of grammar is useful to correct the mistakes and to improve one’s script. Learning grammar is not necessary to learn first language as one can learn it through unconscious process. No one can learn grammar of second language accurately through unconsciously. Grammar should be taught or learnt. There are many ways, methods and approaches to learn second language. Learning grammar is one of the important
ways to speak English effectively, accurately and fluently. This article aims at present importance of grammar and how does it influence language skills of second language. And it gives examples that learning grammar is necessary to learn second language.

KEY WORDS: Grammar- English language learning- importance & role of grammar- grammatical competence.

**Introduction:**

Canale & Swain (1980) proposed that grammatical competence was an integral part of communicative competence. One can’t communicate effectively without having the knowledge of grammar. There are many methods, approaches to learn English language effectively. They are Direct method, Bilingual method, Reading method, Audio-lingual method, Situational approach, Communicative approach, Electic approach, suggestopedia etc. All these methods & approaches are communicative competence centered. Effective communication involves knowing how to use the grammar and vocabulary of the language to reach communicative goals. So grammar learning is necessary to achieve these goals.

A good command over the grammar of a language does not imply that one is able to communicate effectively and at the same time those who can speak English fluently, they are not considered effective communicators. Accuracy is the most important along with fluency. Fluency can be developed by communicative centered approaches but accuracy can only be learnt by knowing and use of proper grammar.

**ROLE OF GRAMMAR IN SPEAKING BETTER**

Speaking and writing are active skills where as listening and reading are passive skills. Grammar plays a vita role in speaking & writing better. Most of the undergraduate students are neglecting basic grammar concepts. So it hampers speaking English effectively. One should have minimum idea on basic grammar like tenses, articles, prepositions, verbs etc. For example one can speak English freely by using the structure subject+verb1+Object. One can narrate the cinema story, general tales, describing events, daily routines etc by using the single structure subject+Verb1+ Object. The following story narrated entirely using subject+verb1+object only
Once upon a time there is a lion in a forest. The lion is very powerful, cruel and arrogant. It is the king of forest. There are crowd of hares also. The lion searches for food. It gets hungry. It sees a hare and kills it. Other hares are afraid of it. They meet the lion and request him to kill one animal for a day. It agrees to their proposal. The hares weep for their fate. One day it is the turn of a female hare. It reaches the lion den one hour late. The lion gets angry, and asks the reason. She tells that she sees another lion and it announces he is the king of the forest. The hare takes the lion to a deep well and see its image. The lion jumps into the well and dies. A crowd of hares feel happy. The above story contains number of sentences. Each sentence contains Sub+Verb1+Object.

One can narrate past events or incidents by using the structure S+V2+O. For example the sentence I go to college yesterday is grammatically wrong. So one should have minimum idea that verb2 should be used for past events. Eg. I went to college yesterday. I enjoy to read books is wrong sentence. Gerund should be used after the verb enjoy. So I enjoy reading books is the right sentence. One should have minimum idea on articles and preposition rules. For Eg. We say he is good at English and we don’t say he is good in English. So if one speaks grammatically wrong, how can we say he is effective speaker though he speaks fluently? So grammar is indispensable for the second language learning.

If we take If conditions, If I were bird, I would fly & if you had asked me, I would have given. Learners understand clearly the meaning of these sentences by understanding the usage of appropriate verbs and rules of the grammar. Learners can improve their speaking skill by knowing the usage of modal auxiliaries like can, could, may, might, shall, should, will, would, dare, need not etc for Eg. I should go, you must learn English, he may come, I can do it. By practicing the usage of modal auxiliaries, they can enhance their speaking ability. They come to know that modal auxiliaries follow verb1. All the learners can’t learn English language in a single point of view. Research reveals that learners who learnt grammar instruction progressed to the next stage in the speaking.

ROLE OF GRAMMAR IN WRITING BETTER:

Writing letters, E-Mails, notices, Minutes of Meeting, reports, articles, documents, projects, journals etc comes under written communication. The meaning will be changed by the wrong frame of the sentence and it leads to misunderstanding and ineffective communication. English is the first language in few countries only. People of these
countries may write correctly. English is the second language in most of the countries. People in these counties can’t write correctly without knowing the rule of grammar. General writings and technical writings should be free from grammar mistakes. So learns should have minimum idea on grammar to be good at written communication. For example we take the sentences- Hang him, not leave him and hang him not, leave him. Though these are same sentences the meaning will be changed by putting the mark of comma. In the first sentence asking hang him and in the second sentences asking not hang him. So learners should be good at minimum grammar to speak and write accurately.

**IMPACT OF GRAMMAR ON LEARNING PASSIVE SKILLS:**

If the teacher speaks grammatically wrong, the students follow it. Some of the students feel whatever they listen from their teacher that is right. So he can’t improve accuracy in students. Reading is another passive skill. Learners understand and learn usage of prepositions, basic structures while they are reading articles, journals, newspapers, materials etc. So listening and reading influence one’s language learning.

**CASE STUDY:**

We did case study on number of students to know impact of grammar on English language learning. They started speaking simple sentences. Gradually they enhanced speaking skill by participating in different activities like Just A Minute, Debate, Role-Play, Seminars, Presentations, Group Discussions etc. They developed language skills gradually. Communicative approach helped them to improve their speaking skill but their confidence started with speaking single & simple sentences which became possible only through learning basic grammar. So grammar learning is essential in language learning. So accuracy is nothing but Skelton of the body where as fluency is the flush. So both are important to be effective communicator.
CONCLUSION:

So we can compare all parts of the body as rules of the grammar and movement of the body parts as the usage. The body will be fit & healthy when it has all parts and use it in proper direction. In the same way one will be effective communicator when he knows all the rules of grammar and use it appropriate way & speaking fluently. Practice speaking is the primary step to learn any language. In the beginning learners should focus on listening and speaking skills along with learning basic grammar rules as grammar is not acquired naturally and it needs to be taught. So grammar plays a significant role in learning second language effectively, accurately and fluently.