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Role of English Teacher in Developing Pronunciation Competency in Students**ABSTRACT:**

English is an International language and it is used as the first language in many countries like United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, America, and New Zealand. It also employs as the second language in India, Bangladesh, Srilanka, etc. Pronunciation plays a very significant role in learning English language. It is one of the essential parts of communication through listening and speaking. Though English is the native language of both British and America, the pronunciation differs from each other. Also, the pronunciation of both countries differs from the pronunciation of Indian English due to the effect of various dialects, social and cultural back grounds. Most of the Indian students are facing various problems in learning English pronunciation as they are completely habituated in speaking their vernacular language. Creating communicative competence in the students is a crucial objective of the English Language Teacher. The teacher must inculcate the interest of learning English in the minds of the vernacular medium students to improve their proficiency in communication skills with English medium students. This paper adumbrates different ways to improve the pronunciation of the vernacular language students through listening to phonetics, stress, intonation patterns.

Keywords: Pronunciation-English language-vernacular language students.

INTRODUCTION:

Communication in any language largely depends on clarity of speech. It is not exception to only English language. But, it is very crucial in English language since it is a global language. Pronunciation competency plays a vital role in global needs. Speaking English with correct pronunciation is a part of communication. No two speakers speak exactly alike. Speaking correct pronunciation gives lasting impression on the listeners. It can be achieved by practice.

Pronunciation involves the phonemic sounds, the stress and the pitch tone while speaking. Most of the teachers teach pronunciation in the classroom, just by showing the phonemic symbols to the students and pronouncing orally.

Creating communicative competence in the students is a crucial objective of the English Language Teacher. The teacher must inculcate the interest of learning English in the minds of the vernacular medium students to improve their proficiency in communication skills with English medium students. What the teacher has to do to develop such an interest among the students is he should apply activities in the classroom. If the teacher gives proper guidance to the students in practicing English pronunciation, the students will be mastered in it. In this regard, the language teachers must have an idea on phonetics, stress, rhythm, intonation, pronunciation rules and teaching methods for pronunciation. Basically, there is no one to one correspondence between word and spelling in English. Same spelling, sometimes, gives rise to different sounds and different spelling would represent the same sound.

E.g. Enough- f

Through- u:

Though-ou

In the above words the same spelling 'ough' gives different pronunciation.

In the words- these, tree, receive, dream, different spelling gives same 'ee' sound (i :)

To overcome this problem, Phonetic Alphabet Association introduced phonetics in which twenty six letters raise forty four sounds. So, each letter has its own sound and some letters give different sounds as in machine, apple, pale. Indian students should follow Received

Pronunciation (RP). It is the standard model of pronunciation. It is used by B.B.C, Oxford and Cambridge and educated men in south England.

PRONUNCIATION TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS:

The students usually listen and imitate what the teacher pronounces. If the teacher utters the words with wrong pronunciation, students also follow it. So, the English language teacher has to follow proper accent. He has to provide the facility to listen B.B.C News, pronunciation CDs, conversations, videos, etc. in the ESL class room. Hence, students can quickly learn through listening and imitation.

Nowadays, the teachers are in a busy to complete their syllabus prescribed by the boards or universities. The English language teacher should spend his/her time in the English language laboratory to enhance the language skills of the students. The teacher should also practice the sounds of language, stress and intonation effectively and should be thorough in teaching them.

Teacher should explain the phonemic symbols and the sounds they produce. Once they get an idea on how to identify phonemic symbols and how they pronounce, they can learn pronunciation through practice. We cannot utter the words correctly only with the knowledge of phonetics. So, the teacher has to explain stress on letters as well as on word and its rules.

English language lab helps a lot to practice the pronunciation. Teacher is supposed to take technical support to explain the organs of speech. He should also explain how tongue, teeth ridge, hard and soft palates, larynx, nose, lip movement help to pronounce words. He has to give exercises, oral drills and activities to improve the student's pronunciation skills. If the English lab has separate software, it will help a lot to listen, imitate, pronounce and to check and correct their pronunciation skills. In this process, teacher has to act as a role-model, guide and facilitator.

Oxford, Cambridge, Webster dictionaries are useful to learn and correct pronunciation skills. So, teacher should encourage and motivate the students to refer to dictionary. Students can clarify their doubts in pronunciation by referring to dictionary.

Generally teacher conducts vocabulary games to improve students' word power. In the same way, he has to conduct pronunciation games. He must divide the entire class into different groups to create teaching-learning environment without any disturbance. He has also to write word on the blackboard and ask the students to pronounce correctly. The students should be

encouraged to listen to English songs and rhymes to improve pronunciation. They should also be positive to practice the sounds effectively for their growth in pronunciation.

Teaching should be student-centric and a two way process. The teacher ought to focus on individual attention and ask the students to read a paragraph or conversation. In this process, he has to identify the pronunciation of the students and correct it if anything wrong in sound. He can ask the students to read an article and record it to make them listen to their own pronunciation later.

After giving such training, the language teacher is supposed to conduct oral and written exams to know their abilities in pronunciation.

By teaching pronunciation rules, the learners can get command over it.

For e.g.

If the word ends with p, t, k the plural of the word pronounce like s

e.g. p - cap caps

t cat cats

k book books

If the word ends with b, d, g the plural of the word pronounce like z

b - tab tabz

d -bud budz

g – bag bagz

By explaining similar words like soar, sore, sour, adopt, adept, adopt, space, face, etc. the language teacher can create interest in students in developing vocabulary and correct pronunciation. Direct to Home (DTH) plays a key role in learning pronunciation competency. It provides the students to check their mistakes through using satellite channels. Nowadays, various speaking pronunciation apps in the global market are available to learn and strengthen standard pronunciation competency. So, students should adopt latest technology to download mobile apps regarding pronunciation skills.

Teacher must avoid Grammar and Translation method as it does not give importance to pronunciation. Audio-Lingual method, Oral approach, and communicative approach are better methods to make the learners masters in pronunciation.

CONCLUSION:

Speaking English without pronunciation skills do not make the student master over English language. Almost all companies consider students basic pronunciation skills at the time of recruitments. Uttering correct pronunciation is integral part of communication. So, the language teacher should feel responsible to improve students' pronunciation skills. Students should not depend on the teacher all the time. They have to spare sometime out of the class to practice what they learn in the English class room as well as in lab since it is continuous process. Pronunciation is one of the utmost important aspects in communication.

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