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Methods adapted to improve ELT

Abstract

The present century is full of innovations, challenges, opportunities and competitions. This competitive world needs experts in English language. But most of the students face language as barrier. To help those students, English language teaching needs improvement. Methods adapted to teach ELT conveys the effectiveness of language skills. Soft skills are an essential part of communication skills. This paper deals with the methods used for language teaching and also discusses the aids used for language teaching purpose. With the help of technology one can teach language effectively and clearly. Effective language teaching strengthens and encourages students to break every chain of language barriers. This paper also discusses the importance of teachers in teaching language to students.

Keywords: Methods, language teaching, motivates, conventional learning.

Introduction

Teaching English in effective way is a major challenge to present teachers. If a teacher teaches in the same old way of last few decades then that teaching would not achieve its goal. Students of present generation are trained in such a way with modern technology. They can receive source from any part of the world. Internet brought everything to one's doorsteps. So, teaching to the students who are advance in technology is quite challenging. Both for teachers and students it is the

second language. Before, teaching part, students can put their acquisition part in daily practice. When a learning practice is done regularly, then the teaching of a teacher can bring effective change to their language speaking and learning. This paper also deals with the games in language which motivates the students to know more in English language. This is something different from conventional learning. Soft skills are part of communicative skills. Some like or hate soft skills. But, for learning and teaching language one cannot ignore soft skills. The importance of English has expanded worldwide due to IT revolution, globalisation etc.

Prof. Jacob Tharu says,

“English is no longer some remote but a powerful mystery, lying hidden in the world of text books and examination” (Jacob Tharu 2006)

Teaching English through conventional methods

At earlier days, students were taught English in their sixth standard. It is something like another subject introduced to them along with Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Mathematics. English is taught only as a second language and no large exposure is given to students to communicate in English. Therefore, this results in lack of communicative competence. Some methods are followed to teach language which are discussed below

Grammar Translation Method is one of the methods used by teachers to teach English language to beginner English learner of young students. Each and every word is translated to the students. But, the chaos arises that native language is concentrated more than second language. Students cannot attain the full benefits from this method. Even till date, this method is used in many remote and rural areas throughout India.

Bilingual method is another method, which is preferred by majority of second language learners. In this method, teachers explain the content in their native language and then ask the students to perform their activity to translate into English. This is one of the wonderful ideas for the sake of new learners but the drawback lies in the fluency of speech. Students who adapt to this method lack in fluency and naturalness in their speech.

Direct method is used in most of private schools. Teachers teach only in English. This forces the students to communicate in English. Seclusion environment due to language can make all the students to speak only in English. This method finally results in effective communication.

Teaching in English is tested through examination in India. The communication skill is not given much importance and not at all tested. This drives the students towards backwards in communication.

Methods to improve spoken skills

Students must be given chances to speak in debates. Debates help them to convey their own ideas and also stand firm on their perspective. When they try to convey their ideas, they can improve their fluency in English language. Teachers must arrange debates in classroom regarding subjects that can enhance their speaking skills.

Group discussions can also be a effective idea to improve students in their spoken skills. English language teaching involves group discussions within and outside the class. If a teacher discusses and also responses only in English then that can help students to adapt the particular language with easiness.

Another method is to adapt a character in a play. But, in this method, teachers' role plays a major role because when a learner adapts a character, then the teacher must correct his/her speech and gestures. Then, he/she can improve her vocabulary and also speaking skills.

Games related with languages can kindle the enthusiasm of students. For eg: Crossword puzzles that can make the students to think and come out with new words which they are unfamiliar. This can help them to learn new words and use them in their talk.

Visual aids is the another method where the class environment is so friendly and pleasant. Teachers can give few visual aids to the students and wait for their innovative thoughts. This can kindle the innovations of the students and can make the students to open up their mouth. But, the most important thing is that instructor or teacher must allow students to bring out their ideas only in English.

These visual aids can be brought to students only through CALL & MALL. CALL which means Computer Assisted Language Learning. Today, computers role is extended in every field. Students of their generation are digital natives of our country that help them to access easily. Teachers can use this idea to enhance their teaching. Students also get motivated and encouraged while working on computer and they can discuss about it in detail. That helps them to learn the language with more confidence. Mobile Assisted language teaching is in practice. Today, all the people even from kids to old people, has mobile. In schools and colleges, self study works are given to students. Through mobile, they can get access to any material regarding their subjects. This gives them to widen their thoughts which will result in speaking up their thoughts with no fear.

Conclusion

To meet the emerging challenges in English teaching, teaching in conventional methods takes away large portion of time and energy. Conventional methods focus only on grammar pronunciation which lacks in communication skills. But, for future students need fluency in speaking only then they can get more job offers. Our education system, lacks in speaking only then they can get more job offers. Our education system lacks in speaking and listening skills. They only focus on reading and writing skills. This makes their self-esteem low in communicating with others.

The people who are good at speaking English in fluency and more or less correct pronunciation fetch them good position in National and International organisations. Teachers who are instructors and also facilitators help the students to speak in English. Teachers' motivation makes them to improve in language. Their support is essential in arranging students' thoughts while speaking with their fellow members.

Perfect pronunciation is not possible because there is both broken and spoken English. Teachers' ultimate aim must be clear pronunciation rather than perfect pronunciation. It can be achieved through

Phonetics. Every educational institution must be provided with language lab, computer based technology to learn language, LCD projectors etc. Teachers and students must be provided with latest teaching aids with the help of technology that could improve the quality of teaching and learning ability of students effectively.

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