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Innovation in teaching General English and literature to the rural students

Abstract

This paper aims at the way of teaching general English and literature to the students who have come from rural background to learn the language as a subject and second language. Particularly, this paper concentrates on the difficulties of the students who learn English language to meet the upcoming challenges of the day in an innovative way. It also adds some point which is related to the text called LSRW. These are the four skills which is must for everyone who chooses English as medium of instruction. While teaching English these four skills to be followed by the students to involve in listening, speaking, reading and writing .why, because it will create interest to the rural students who wanted to learn the English as second language. The purpose of learning language is to communicate effectively through constant practice.

Key words: General English and Literature, LSRW, Rural students.

Teaching English language is a tough task for the students who are from rural background, why because they are not practiced from the primary level to the higher level, but they read English as a subject not as language. Particularly students those who choose English as a second language, they will feel hard to read and write the subject without

practice. Practice is the word which lacks from the beginning of their primary level to higher education, which denotes the teachers who teach the subject as a subject not like language.

For e.g. New born baby learns the language through imitation of parents, relatives etc., it means communication reaches the person through practice not by memorizing the subject.

To learn the language, students should follow the four skills namely listening, speaking, reading and writing which is important to develop the deep concern towards the language learning. Children from the rural background they study the language as a foundation of all other learning. It's not just collections of words to one another and makes us to express the feelings to others. Language is a kind of communication, and it also a barrier to the rural students who learn English as a subject.

This language entered in to our country after British arrival, soon after English was adopted by the people to communicate with others. Whenever we speak English language it talks about the remarkable history of the rural students who face a lot of problem as it was second language. Some of the students they feel comfortable to learn than others who find difficult to express in English. They do not know proper pronunciation, spellings and grammatical rules. Those who have learned it as language created inborn interest on this subject and engaged themselves to learn about the history of it.

Whenever students learn some subject they should consider that particular language like their native language to communicate with others. Lack of confidence which threatens the students to treat the language as alien language and loses their hope to learn or speak English language. it is language used all over the world not of any compulsion but because of the realization .the students of rural and semi urban areas in our country treats English as second language not like their mother tongue.

The practice provided in school is theoretical and in exam point of view. Many of the students are good in English but when it comes to the point of communicating in English they feel hesitate to speak among the students as they were teasing them. To avoid the hesitation students should practice the language from their school by creating awareness regarding the importance of English. It is compulsory that the teacher who teach English should be honest to equip the skills of the students. They are the one who should create an atmosphere to the students to learn and practice the language. “Throughout India, there is a belief among almost all castes and classes in both rural and urban areas in the transformative power of English. English is seen not just as a useful skill, but a simple of a better life, a pathway out of poverty and oppression” (Graddol p.120)

Nowadays, students are expecting the teachers to bring more innovative techniques to learn English easily without any trouble. First thing, the problem faced by the rural students are begins with family and society. In village side most of the parents are uneducated; they are not able to mentor the students as educated do. This doesn't mean that parents are not known anything. It means to say that, in this way students are lacking to learn the importance of the language and the communication skills as they don't have guidance at home.

Imitation and practice are important to learn the English language learning. Whenever students learn the second language, they follow the rules of first language to learn the language easily. One more important thing is rural atmosphere does not provide students the opportunity to speak and learn English. For eg. In rural areas even during the English period most of the teachers explaining the story in Tamil as students are not familiar with the second language.

Secondly, we should motivate the students to learn the language with some interesting activities, by using flash cards, authors photographs with their life history, quiz related to lesson or poem which we teach, pictures related to the story to be collected to make them

understand easily without confusion. If at all we follow all methods to teach then the range of the students will definitely change and it will take them to reach higher heights to bring their performance on the language what they felt difficulty to learn.

Students from various level should spend their time in listening some English channels which screens the conversation of the character to make all the person to learn the story and some words on daily basis to enhance ourselves to communicate in English with others. Even an infant starts learning language through listening their parents for few months.as soon as joined in school we adapt a syllabus in which writing and reading of English is given much importance than other subject as it is given much importance. But students are afraid of speaking English as they were not practiced regularly in the language.so, all the students must listen the language to speak English in a proper way.

By speaking, students will learn the English language to write and read. teachers always teach the general English with author introduction and explain the story of the poem, prose, short stories and one act play with clarity. some students will show interest to clarify the doubts by asking some questions from the sections which is not clear, but rural students they won't ask question as they don't show interest to learn or listen the lesson with interest to know the depth of the theme.in this way they are lacking in the English language to read, write, speak and listen.

When we come back to English literature, students are made to learn the in-depth of the particular period of writing, author introduction and theme analysis, character analysis and works etc.as soon as one of the rural student join in English literature, he or she feels much difficulty to learn all the subjects in English. Thereafter, that particular student feels hard to show interest towards the subject and loses hope to cope with the English language .so, student and teacher should have rapport to understand each other to feel comfortable with the subject.

Teacher should act like mentor to change the mind of the students to learn the subject .if students not satisfied with teaching then that will affect the life of them and their family.so, students cooperation is important to acquire knowledge on particular subject which he or she feel hard to deal. Students are the one who are responsible for their mistakes not others. If they understand their responsibilities then they will start learning the language with full of interest.

For that they should not learn English as subject, why because, it has something which is necessary in our life to communicate with other students. To learn literature English knowledge is important to learn the facts of literature. Learning language is not an easy task, but still if we think can make it better. These are the difficulties which rural students face in and outside of the city or village. The present study attempted to explore the above mentioned problems and also highlighted some strategies by the learners. Its shows that English not only helps the students to get pass mark but also to face the challenges and take right decision in our life.

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