

**ISSN** INTERNATIONAL  
STANDARD  
SERIAL  
NUMBER  
**ISSN-2321-7065**

**IJELLH**

**International Journal of English Language,  
Literature in Humanities**

**Indexed, Peer Reviewed (Refereed), UGC Approved Journal**



**A Two Day International Conference on  
Emerging Trends in English Language Teaching  
(ICETELT 2019)**



**Organised by**

**The Department of English, School of Science and Humanities**

**Kongu Engineering College (Autonomous)**

**Perundurai**

**Volume 7, Issue 8, August 2019**

**[www.ijellh.com](http://www.ijellh.com)**

A. Prema

Assistant Professor, Department of English

Erode Sengunthar Engineering College

Thudupathi, Erode, Tamilnadu, India

premansivam@gmail.com

R. Ramyadevi

Assistant Professor, Department of English,

SCAD Institute of Technology

Palladam, Tirupur, Tamilnadu, India

ramyadevi.ma@gmail.com

## Role Of Grammar In Teaching And Learning English As Second Language; Innovative Approaches And Technological Advancements For Modern Era Learners - An Outlook

### Abstract

Grammar is the system and structure of a language consisting of syntax, morphology, phonology and semantics. Since the emergence of English Language teaching, there is an ongoing debate over whether grammar is needed for the acquisition of the language. But knowledge of grammar will have good impact on learner's language skills – listening, speaking, reading and writing. As Professor David Crystal explained that “sentences exist to make sense of words; grammar makes sense of sentences”. Grammar is bound up with the meaning and effect of what one intend to write and say; it gives the words to talk about the choices one makes when communicate. Learning and understanding grammar will help the learner to speak English effectively and fluently. The availability of current practices in

teaching L2 to the modern era learners do not cater to their needs. Hence this paper emphasizes the importance of grammar in teaching and learning English and significant use of emerging technological tools to teach grammar which is the fundamental for learning any second language.

**Key Words:** importance of grammar, acquisition of language skills, technological advancements

#### Introduction:

Grammatical competence acts to promote accuracy and fluency in second language production (Gao, 2001), and increases its importance as the learner advances in proficiency (Díaz-Rico & Weed, 2010). Grammar plays a significant role in governing the use and application of language. The learner's knowledge of grammar helps him/ her to construct a sentence which is grammatically correct and convey the intended meaning. One can't learn a second language accurately and communicate it effectively without having the knowledge of grammar. Effective communication involves correct choice of vocabulary and how to put them in a coherent way to reach communicative goals. Hence grammar learning is indispensable to achieve these goals. Various methods like grammar translation method, direct method, Audio- lingual method, structural approach, Suggestopedia, Total Physical Response, have been followed for teaching grammar. But these methods are incomplete to attain the goal in learning a second language. The main outcome of learning a language is to attain the mastery both in oral and written medium. This fluency attainment is impossible without leaning the proper grammar. To make this grammar learning effective and to facilitate the learning process for modern era learners innovative approaches and technological advancements can be integrated in the classroom.

## THE ROLE OF GRAMMAR IN ACQUISITION OF LANGUAGE SKILLS:

The grammar competence of a learner expedites him / her to process and produce correct sentences, they may be either spoken or written. Grammar proficiency is an indispensable factor for the learner to acquire the four skills of language i.e. listening, speaking, reading and writing. If the learner's mastery of grammar is not sufficient, communication will be more likely to be disrupted and misconceived.

### (i) LISTENING:

The knowledge of grammar is not only needed for the acquisition of writing and speaking skills; it rather exceeds that to be also an underlying component in listening and reading skills too. The role of grammar pertains not only to one's production, but also to one's understanding and perception. Listening proficiency is essential for the acquisition of the second language. But to attain this proficiency, the learner must be good at the fundamentals of grammar. Listening cannot be attained by the mechanical way of listening to a passage whereas the listener must apply his prior knowledge of grammar and analyse the word order, structure of the sentence and then has to decode the message.

### (ii) SPEAKING:

The objective of learning the second language is primarily to attain the fluency in speaking. But in the present set up of teaching and learning a second language this target is not attained successfully. This is because grammar learning has been neglected. And so it ultimately hampers the speaking ability of the learners. Speaking is an interactive process of constructing meaning that concerns producing, receiving and processing information (Brown, 1994; Burns & Joyce, 1997). Speaking skill is one of the major abilities that is somehow troublesome for EFL and ESL learners. The ability to communicate in a new language i.e.

target language is based on its grammatical, contextual, social, and cultural rules, and variations are always difficult for EFL learners (Shumin, n.d.).

(iii) READING:

*Reading* is a complex process involving word recognition, comprehension and fluency.

Grammar is an important tool in reading. It removes the block in understanding the complex sentences. It guides the reader to see through the meaning in the passage and enhances the perception and leads to production of sentences. It is understood that grammar is an indomitable tool in the acquisition of reading skill. Because the L2 learner's mastery of grammar helps him to identify syntactic roles of words, dissect sentences into meaningful chunks, and recognize the syntactic structure of a sentence seem to contribute to the construction of meaning from the text.

This process of reading paves way to the successful acquisition of language unconsciously.

(iv) WRITING:

Grammar plays a significant role in writing process too. One cannot write efficiently and professionally without this instruction. It would be nearly impossible for the writer to articulate his thoughts and make them intelligible to the reader. Written communication is indispensable in the learner's professional life. The meaning will be changed by the wrong construction of the sentence and it leads to misunderstanding and ineffective communication. Native speakers can write English correctly, whereas non –native speakers of English can't write correctly without knowing the rule of grammar. General writings and technical writings should be free from grammar mistakes.

## TRADITIONAL APPROACHES OF TEACHING GRAMMAR:

Grammar is the central point to the teaching and learning of languages. It is also one of the more difficult aspects of language to teach well. Various methods like grammar translation method, direct method, Audio-lingual method, structural approach, Suggestopedia, Total Physical Response, have been followed for teaching grammar. But these methods are incomplete to attain the goal in learning a second language. In all these methods, grammar is taught by explaining the forms and rules and then drilling students on them. The learners are able to produce correct forms on exercises and tests, but they are unable to use the language in context. Whereas the communicative approaches pay no attention to form, but focuses on meaning. These approaches focus only on either the form or meaning while turning a blind eye on the other one, they have both been found to be ineffective on their own. Communicative competence can be gained without linguistic competence. But the main outcome of learning a language is to attain the mastery both in oral and written medium. In order to attain this target, grammar teaching is to be contextualized, Meta – linguistic awareness both in the target language and also in the native language can be done. In the classroom, activities such as Consciousness raising tasks, checking tasks can be conducted. Although these activities are aimed at making grammar forms prominent to learners, this is always achieved through communicative tasks. These tasks are designed in such a way that they promote learners' awareness of the grammatical forms of the target language along with engaging them in communicative interaction. These activities can together enhance the learners' target language development and awareness.

## Technological Advancements For Teaching And Learning Grammar:

### (I) Grammar Learning Through Multimedia:

Technology has become an integral part of our life in the past half decade. In this technological era, different technological devices and tools have been playing a crucial role in

language teaching in general and in grammar teaching in particular. Technological advancement was found to be effective in the field of language teaching and learning, exclusively in grammar instructions. Language learning through Multimedia basically refers to the use of technological support such as LCD projectors, slides, TV, audio-video modules, computer network, power point etc., for learning. Usage of multimedia in the classrooms, make the learners involve much into what they intend to learn. L2 grammar with a high degree of complexity can be very challenging for both instructors and learners. Teaching Grammar through Multimedia makes its meaning clear by illustrating relationships in a way that is not possible in the conventional way of teaching. Also, in the L2 classroom, students are different, so the same input resource will not be comprehensible to all the students in the same way. Teachers should satisfy these diverse needs by providing a diverse range of resources. Multimedia teaching is one of the perfect ways to do this; multimedia material can be comprehensible to a variety of students because of the rich context, it provides and its visual features which can help students' comprehension in a way that other resources can't. Multimedia presentations are attractive, challenging, and stimulating as long as they are chosen carefully. As they help teachers to bring the real world into the classroom, they make learning more meaningful and more exciting (Brinton, 2000). Visuals can help arising the reader's interest, curiosity and motivation (Mayer and Moreno, 1998).

## (II) Social Media For Learning Of Language And Grammar

English Language learning has taken a new turn in its long journey as L2 with the latest ideology of Web-based learning which has promoted learner self autonomy and facilitate the language learning from the rigid, monotonous kind of conventional language teaching that was in existence for a very long era. The use of social media like Facebook, Twitter, wikis, blogs, YouTube and much more emerging online forums facilitates both the

learners and the teachers in providing language learning modes of flexible features unlike that of the old fashioned, teacher-centric, passive learning environment. Most of the students are active on at least one social media site, regardless of his location or race. This lively forum provides ways to share and interact with others. In addition, it can be used to tell a story or describe an event. This approach boosts students creative writing skills and assists in writing efficiently. The users may be using fewer words to post a message, but proper grammar has been followed. The lack of confidence or fear often encountered by students in a traditional classroom often vanishes as soon as they login to social media. As a result, it is easier for them to find and develop their unique writing style with conscious grammar usage. Teachers can use this technology in a positive way and give their students the tools they need to communicate through the written word. Language is always evolving, and technology is a healthy part of that evolution.

## Conclusion

Teaching and learning a second language is a long process with multiple stages. Grammar is a crucial factor for the learner to develop his second language properly. It provides the learner confidence to think, speak and write independently. While learning a second language learners should focus on language skills 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. Hence teaching grammar will be effective if it's taught through the innovative ways by using technological supports. Technology integrated language classroom will bring the real world into it and motivate the students to learn and practice with accuracy and fluency. It is indispensable for an English teacher to get transformed from 'teacher to technologist



‘and which enables them to further utilize technology in creating interactive grammatical contents that fit their specific needs.

## References

- Parnaz Kianiparsa and Sara Vali. The Effect of Grammar Learning on Speaking Ability of EFL Learners'
- Shumin, K. (n. d.). Factors to consider: Developing adult EFL students' speaking ability. *Forum*, 35(3), 8-13/29.
- Canale, M., & Swain, M. (1980). Theoretical bases of communicative approaches to second language testing and teaching. *Applied Linguistics*, 1(1), 1–47.
- Sheena Gardner, (2008), Changing approaches to teaching grammar.
- Beverly Ann Chin, (2008), The role of grammar in improving students' writing.
- Neeraj Bishnoi (2014).Effectiveness of Multimedia Programme in Teaching English Grammar to Secondary School Students
- Díaz-Rico, L. T. & Weed, K. Z. (2010). *The crosscultural, language, and academic development handbook: A complete K-12 reference guide* (4th ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.
- Gao, C. Z. (2001). Second language learning and the teaching of grammar. *Education*, 2, 326- 336.
- B. Pavan kumar (2015).Role of Grammar in English Language Learning. International Journal of English Language and Literature and Humanities.
- [https://www.academia.edu/12284393/The\\_importance\\_of\\_grammar\\_in\\_second\\_language\\_teaching\\_and\\_learning](https://www.academia.edu/12284393/The_importance_of_grammar_in_second_language_teaching_and_learning)