

Prerequisites to Overcome Problems in Teaching and Learning English

T. Karthikeyan

Abstract

English is a language of global communication. It is also a medium that helps the people around the world to acquire knowledge. Teaching English as a global language is always a challenge for a teacher. For India, English is a colonial language. The challenges in teaching and learning English are: Mother tongue interference, Learning methods, Translating method, Lack of interest, Lack of motivation, Lack of practice, Mistakes in English, Crowded classes, Psychological problems and so on. Although the teacher and student have equal share of responsibilities, the teacher has more of a job than that of a student. This paper deals with the problems in teaching and learning English.

Keywords: Teaching English, Communication, Teaching Problems, Teachers' challenges, Learning methods.

Introduction

Teaching of any subject becomes much effective and more systematic when the teacher is fully aware of the aims and values of teaching of that subject. In India English now exists as a second language and it should be taught as a language and not as literature. English is the major language of news and information in the world. It is the language of governments and business in many countries.

Today English has gained the status of enabling individuals to negotiate their own salaries with their employers. Hence, it is the general aim to teach English to the students of schools and colleges in India which is the need of the hour.

Objective of the Study

The major aim of the study is to deal with the problems faced by the teachers and students in teaching and learning English.

Hypotheses

The following are the hypotheses of the present study (1) The teachers have various issues and problems in teaching and, (2) There are many diversified needs of learners

Questions

- 1) What is the nature of language?
- 2) What are the 'Linguistic Principles'?
- 3) How language and society are combined together?
- 4) What are the challenges of teaching and learning English?
- 5) What are the various types of children in a classroom and problems they face in Classroom?
- 6) How teachers can tackle the problems in teaching English?

Discussion

English is the language of international business, trade and professional communication. Traditionally much emphasis has been placed on English language learning in schools. English plays a crucial role in empowering learners with the capabilities necessary for lifelong learning, critical thinking, problem solving, creativity and innovation and for adapting to the rapid changes and demands of society. English opens up a world of leisure and entertainment for learners. Linguistic principles

There are also many linguistic principles. A curriculum designed for the English language learners should include not only basic skills and basic thinking, but also higher-level thinking. When designing academic content for English language learners, teachers should make sure that they keep the standards for academic content while using every possible means to make it more accessible to students. Teachers should offer explicit and culturally relevant instruction. Suitable strategies can also be employed for the students's level. They can include support meta cognitive and specific learning strategies. Procedures should be followed by the teachers to focus on the instructional goals. Teaching vocabulary is also essential for implementing the strategies. can also provide oral and written language models for students to follow. Teachers should teach English so as to develop the four skills of LSRW.

Language and Society

A speech community is a group of people who share a set of rules and norms for communication and interpretation of speech. Speech community is defined as a group of people who form a community and share the same language or a particular variety of language. They speak the same language or dialect. Language is the equipment for communication. It shows the peculiarity of a certain society.

Problems or Challenges in Teaching and Learning English

Most of the problems arise due to the interference of mother tongue in speaking English. It makes a pupil to forget the proper intonation and pronunciation. Some people are not aware of teaching methods. It should concentrate on the basic skills of LSRW. Translation method is used in rural areas. Its aim is to teach through English and not to teach English. It is a major problem in teaching and Learning English. Another problem is English is a second language in India. People must be aware of the various accents of speaking the language. They should know the difference between American English and British English.

Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 18:4 April 2018

D. Nagarathinam, Ph.D. and R. Vani, M.A., M.Phil. (Eds.) *New Perspectives in ELT – 2018*

T. Karthikeyan

Prerequisites to Overcome Problems in Teaching and Learning English

Lack of motivation, interest and practice can also be considered as challenges or problems in teaching and learning English. The individual's drive and need for achievement and success, curiosity, desire for stimulation and new experience and so on. Many teachers are unable to teach English effectively, because they face a lot of problems due to the lack of teaching aids.

Most of the mistakes are habitual. We commit mistakes in learning or teaching English unknowingly. Mistakes are major problems both for the teacher and learner of English. Another problem is the size of classes everywhere being considerably large in India and thus student's participation in the class work is quite impossible. The ratio of students in relation to teachers is not proportional. It should also be recognized that the practical work in the teaching of English demands that the number of students in the class be limited.

Psychological problems are common in teaching and learning English. English is believed to be the most difficult subject to teach and learn. This belief is not an optimistic approach towards progress. Mal-practices in learning English is also a challenge for teaching the language. It will be on its peak at the time of exams. It is a common problem that can be spotted anywhere especially in rural area.

Solutions for the Problems in Teaching and Learning English

Developing the interest to teach and learn English is the best way to solve most of the problems. The purpose of learning the language should be made clear to the learners, for English has become the most powerful language of the world. Difficulties in learning English can be solved by identifying the types of students. Students should be categorized as Slow learners, Average learners and Gifted learners, by calculating their IQ by using various IQ tests available in the field of teaching. Slow learners should be concentrated on their studies while the Gifted students are recommended to carry on co curricular activities in learning English

As for teaching English, the teachers should use various audio-visual aids as a way to enrich the motivation given to students. In this way teachers can save their time and energy. Usage of audio visual aids can also provoke the imagination and participation of learners in the learning activities. As a teacher one should know how to manage the classroom to provide physical and mental comfort. physical comfort can be given to the learners by providing proper learning atmosphere, seat arrangement according to the growth of students and making proper light arrangements and ventilation. Mental comfort can be provided by a teacher when he/she knows how to motivate, involve, inspire, teach and evaluate the learners.

Communication should be healthy in order maintain a good teaching and learning atmosphere. The barriers in communication should be prevented from being occurred in a teaching and learning situation. the communication should be two-way communication in order to share the views of both teacher and learner.

Summation

The teaching and learning process should be lively. Most of the problems in teaching and learning can be solved easily if the teacher and the learner co-operate in their progress. However,

Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 18:4 April 2018

D. Nagarathinam, Ph.D. and R. Vani, M.A., M.Phil. (Eds.) *New Perspectives in ELT – 2018*

T. Karthikeyan

Prerequisites to Overcome Problems in Teaching and Learning English

the teaching should be based on the needs of learner and it is the duty of the learner to realize the purpose of learning the global language. If the harmony between the teachers and the learners are maintained in a healthy way, we can be pretty sure that no other problem can emerge in teaching and learning English.

References

Dr. Evangelin Arulselvi, Pedagogy of English. Chennai

Essentials of Teaching and Learning - Authors **Dr.Rita Rani Mandal**, M.A., M.Phil.(Eng), M.Sc.(Psy), M.Phil., Ph.D.(Edn) and **Mrs. S. Renukadevi**, M.A., M.Ed., (Ph.D.), Chennai

T. Karthikeyan, I M.A. English
Ayya Nadar Janaki Ammal College
Sivakasi
Tamilnadu
India