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New Perspectives in ELT - 2018

Improving Learning Environment in Classroom

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Abstract

Language is dynamic. One cannot deny language in learning. A good learning environment leads a student to learn in an interesting way. Through learning environment, students feel valued and empowered. A learning environment is different from traditional studies. Learners centered environment should be encouraged for the students in classroom. This paper deals with the ways of improving the learning environment among the students.

Keywords: learning, students, environment, language.

Introduction

Language plays a vital role in our life. Among the languages used in India, English occupies dignified but delicate position. The continuation of the study of English is both desirable and necessary. English is a link language between India and foreign countries. It is a language which is understood by the educated people in our country. The political awakening and national unity of our country is possible only because of the study of English language.

Language is a method of communication. It is a method of communicating Ideas, emotions and desires. All humans begin learning language naturally. But learning foreign language is not so easy. People may learn a foreign language naturally if they have adequate environment for it. In past, grammar occupied a central position in language learning. For the foreign language teacher who is dealing with the students of homogeneous mother tongue, the knowledge of contrastive syntax is a very valuable.

Objective of the Study

Learning environment can be improved by the teachers through play way method.

Research Questions

- 1. What is language?
- 2. What is learning environment?
- 3. What is play way method?
- 4. What are the chief advantages of play-way method?
- 5. What is the result of the play way method?

Discussion

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Languages are taught in classroom. Often, they are also 'caught' outside the classroom. We come across people, who have never been to school, speaking several languages fluently. Perhaps the most wonderful thing in life is our ability to process language at lightning speed. People have legitimately been curious about language learning. Behaviourism, Cognitive theory, Humanism play a crucial role in improving the learning environment. These three theories are different from traditional studies.

Childhood is otherwise known as Play-hood. Child's love to play is common. Through the Play way method, the teacher may change the learning environment. Learning of English as a foreign language can be made joyous activity if imparted on play-way lines.

Play-way

The term *play-way* was first used as a method of teaching English by Coldwell Cook at the Perse Grammar School. It was the outcome of his experience of teaching Shakespearian plays to his students. He felt that class-room lessons were dull, uninteresting and distasteful. He employed a method by means of which his students began to take a keen interest on the subject. He asked them to select parts according to their tastes and abilities and dramatize those plays in the literature periods. The students organize an open-air theatre in the school compound, divided up the parts among themselves and memorized them with great eagerness. Thus learning became associated with spontaneity, freedom and pleasure through practical activities.

Make English Learning Easy

English being a difficult subject can be made easy, tangible and practical if it is imparted by the help of play-way, method. It can encourage the creative power of the pupils, who learn English. Children can get an opportunity for natural expression of their emotions and feelings. They can develop their initiative, tone-thought and skill in full measure.

Useful Functions of Play

In the teaching of English, Play serves three useful functions, viz,

- 1. Exercise competence
- 2. Stimulates imagination
- 3. Enables experimentation beyond the real level of development. Today play is used in the teaching of English in such forms as dramatization songs, poems, etc.

 Games

Games, in the teaching of English can supply a reasonably realistic environment for communication; and they can give plenty of practice in speaking. If we divide up our classes into small groups, games can also give the shy people to chance to participate gradually more and more alongside his more extrovert and self-confident fellow-pupils.

Dramatization

Actions accompanied by speech are very helpful in language teaching. It can bring the world outside the class-room. Dramatization is particularly effective with small children. They

are not self conscious and enjoy pretending. Teenagers and young adults are often acutely self-conscious, unless they are extroverts. However, by working in small groups and allowing the less shy to start the thing going, one can usually overcome the shyness of all, and have them joining in before long. The teacher can drill particular structures, or preferably contrasts between structures, by dramatization; and, as in the case of games, he can make the work realistic and situational by this means. He can also teach English gestures and facial expressions, which are often different from those of speakers of other languages.

Songs

Songs are both a pleasant relaxation after intensive language work, and on excellent way of helping pupils with rhythm, stress and pronunciation. These are some songs which one particularly useful for specific pronunciation problems. The initial presentation of a song should always be oral the teacher should sing the song several times and encourage the pupils to join when they feel ready do so.

Advantages of Play Way method: Educative value:

Play-way has educative value on account of the following:

- Play-way is a great motivating force. Play-way activities are based on the natural urges of the children.
- Play-way kills drudgery and boredom. The children willingly undertake to do a piece of work.
- ❖ It follows learning by doing and practice, which is effective than telling.
- ❖ The method is based on the laws of learning and it provides a great incentive to original creative work.
- Play-way provides opportunities for the sublimation of various instincts of children.
- Play-way assures maximum freedom for the child with the result that he develops originality, power of reasoning, imagination and insights.
- Play-way gives training in the democratic way of life. The students learn to co-operate and to help each other. Play-way stimulates mutual goodwill and fellow feeling.

Summation

Students can be involved in customized learning activities. It creates a joyful learning environment. Teachers should prepare relevant teaching-learning material after designing the learning activities. They also must plan the activities ranging from simple to complex. They are the guides, supervisors and leaders for the learners during the learning process. Children should be evaluated through play-way activities so that they will be engaged and motivated by the teachers. At the end, they classroom must be a learner centered one.

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