

Integration of Language Skills in Teaching English

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Abstract

The title of the paper is *Integration of Language Skills in Teaching English*. Around the world most of the countries are following that, teaching English as second language. In India, English played as vital role because English is the official as well as second language. The integrated approach is one of the approaches that tell about to equal importance to all the four language skills. Also, this paper attempts to describe, what the problems are facing by the students without proper follow of *LSRW* skills. And how implement some approaches in the classrooms. There are four language skills in English, they are; listening, speaking, reading and writing. We can divide the language skills into two are Input skills and Output skills. The input language skills are known as *Listening and Reading*. And the output language skills are known as *speaking and writing*.

Introduction

This paper mainly focuses on the importance of English language skills. Most of the schools and colleges are not giving importance to the four skills. They give more importance on reading and writing and less importance to listening and speaking. Without proper integration of the four language skills, the students not capable of speak fluently in English. One wants to become well round communicator, to be proficient in each of the four skills. The four language learning skills are, *Listening, Speaking, Reading and, Writing*. Every teacher and learner should know the importance of English language. And the teacher should integrate all the four skills to teach.

Listening Skill

The words *listening* and *hearing* are different. Hearing happens unconditionally without making any effort. It includes noise and all other sounds. But listening is something different, it needs some efforts, we have to concentrate and keep following one's instructions. Listening is the first and most important skill; a language teacher should give importance for student's listening skill. To improve one's listening skill one needs to listen to English audios and videos. It helps the learners to improve listening skill. They also will feel happy to listen and stimulate their interest in the study of second or foreign language. Teachers have to clarify the students' doubts and explain the meaning of the difficult words. Also, the English teacher needs to

encourage them to listen and watch English news, movies, commentaries and telephone conversations.

Common Listening Problems

Some of the common problems faced by the learners while listening or watching English audios and videos include the following. Listeners feel difficult to follow the actual sounds uttered. Many listeners feel that the conversation or commentary is very fast, and they are not able to follow the speaker/s. And, if they do not know the meaning of the words spoken, they show difficulty in understanding instantly what is said. Some of the students get stressed out and lose their concentration. Also, most of the conversations in English movies is in foreign slang, so learners are not able to catch the words. The slow learner needs to hear the audio clips many times.

Solutions for the Problems

The instructors should make some efforts and take further step to give solutions for the above-mentioned problems. The native English speakers mostly speak in English colloquial slang. So, instead of the native speaker's audio, use Indian people's English conversation. In this way they will be able to understand natural actual sounds of the word, and no need to hear many times for the same audio. In order to avoid getting tired, the teacher needs to split the recording into short passages.

Speaking Skill

The capacity to express one's thoughts, opinion, feelings, joy and ideas to others is through speaking. Everyone who shares their message or information mostly prefer English language for communication. While speaking professionally, it requires proper pronunciation, tone, clarity, coherence, pause, uniformity, content, etc. A good speaker can recall words quickly and arrange it in proper order with correct grammatical structures and deliver fluently. But it needs more practice and hard work for second language learner. The teacher needs to take further steps to develop their speaking skills, by telling the importance of English language, and how the language helps to shine one's life, etc. In this way the teacher motivates to the students, always speak in English or think in English for their daily attitudes. Likewise, the teachers have to give any general English topics, conduct language games, narrate short stories, developing hits, translate a passage, give any realistic situations way improve their speaking skill.

A person, who wants to speak fluently in English, would need adequate and diverse vocabulary. So, the teacher should keep this in mind and design his teaching and materials suitably to improve the students' vocabulary day-by-day. Also, the speaker has to develop his or her confidence to speak in English. The teacher has to arrange pairs or group study, presentation, conversation among the students, and some interesting topics to express in front of the students. Another important aspect is the teacher should give feedback to the students, correct their mistakes and encourage them to speak in English.

Common Speaking Problems

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Some of the common speaking problems are inhibition to speak in English, inferiority complex among the students, lack of training and coaching, fear of speaking in English, worry about criticism, stage fear, lack of vocabulary, etc. Some students are able to deliver everything in mother tongue but are unable to deliver the same content in English.

Solutions for the Learners' Problems

The English teacher must take initiative to solve some of their speaking related problems. Some students are unwilling to speak in front of the full class, so the teacher has to encourage speaking in front of the students. Also, the teacher shouldn't expect accuracy of language from the students; whatever they speak in English, the teacher should just encourage them. The teacher should give more importance to vocabulary. Vocabulary-based games should be encouraged. The teacher has to tell them about the real problems faced by second language learners and show how they could overcome such problems.

Reading skill

Reading skill refers to ability to understand the text. It is one of the receptive skills. It helps getting more knowledge of vocabulary, grammar, conversational techniques, etc. There are two types of reading are: skimming and scanning. Skimming is used to quickly read or recognize the content general idea of a text or any other materials. Scanning is to give more concentrated skill going line by line. The reading skill helps the learner to get new vocabularies and recollect learners' already known words.

Common Reading Problems

Some of the major reading skill problems include difficulty to understand the content of the books. The text is not matched with the knowledge and experience of the learners. Another problem is lack of vocabulary, so while reading the text the student should stops to look up for meaning and words in a dictionary. If the text book content is boring, students feel discouraged and sleepy. Next problem is lack of interest, because reading books takes more time. And poor comprehension leads frustration among the students.

Solutions for the Learner's Problems

The teachers have to know the age level of the children and based on their knowledge level they should set the curriculum to make sure that students choose their own simplified books to read what they choose. The teacher also clarifies the difficult words and its meaning in reading texts. Use plenty of illustrations in the text; it helps pre-judge the content and makes it interesting. It's better to ignore difficult words or assume the meaning of the words; it may help them to read fast. And encourage them to make reading as a habit in their life. Newspaper and magazine reading also helps them to improve their general knowledge as well as their vocabulary.

Writing Skill

Most of the countries are judging the students' knowledge through writing skill. While judging the written composition, teachers have to check some important aspects. These include content, formation of sentence, grammar, spelling, punctuation, presentation, style of writing,

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etc. Sometimes same word plays a multiple meaning, so we can find the meaning of the particular word based on the sentence. One of the best ways to develop writing skill among the students is free writing; it helps them to write their own essay, without any rules and regulations. Teacher should explain to the students how to write an essay or any written composition. Also, teacher must give general topics to them and encourage them to perform writing tasks. Creative writing helps to improve their creative power. Also, teachers should suggest the students to write short stories, dramas, novels, biographies, autobiographies, etc. This type of writing helps them to improve their writing skill.

Common Writing Problems

Some of the major problems faced by the learners include the following: they struggle to write a detail description of any composition. The students are not able to construct the sentence in proper grammatical structure. Also, they commit lots of spelling and punctuation mistakes while writing. Another problem is mistakes and corrections discourage them.

Solutions for the Learner's Problems

Instead of mentioning the mistakes in front of the students better to call the student individually and tell their corrections personally. After evaluating the paper, better to mention some encouraging words and write these in the paper. Teachers should treat the students equally without any partiality. If the student did any spelling mistakes, correct these, and then teach that particular word with special attention. The progress of rewriting and rereading should encourage them. And better to give less “imposition”.

Integrating the Language Skills

The integrated approach means giving equal importance for four language skills. This approach helps the students to learn the second language. If a person who follows the integrated approach, he/she will be able to understand any English conversation, able to speak fluently, able to read the text and understand the content and also able write without any mistake. So, a teacher should give equal importance to the four language skills in the class room and should help the students to improve their knowledge and skills. Integrating skills help you to build in more variety into the lesson because the range of the activities will be wider. Instead of giving more importance to simple exercises or structure-based teaching, give importance for integrating the four skills and it helps effective communication.

We can divide the four language skills into two types, are *Input skills* and *Output Skills*. The two inputs are listening & reading, which is also considered as receptive skills. And speaking & writing skills are known as output skills or productive skills. A good English teacher properly manages receptive and productive skills. It involves series of activities that use variety of skills. And every skills and activities are closely linked to one to another. The educator should have ability to develop in their students the input and output skills and elucidate these in the class room. First of all, the teachers should be familiar with the four skills, and then only they will have ability to teach their students.

However, very few teachers only integrate the four language skills effectively; many of them do not properly follow the four language skills. This situation affects the students' entire life. Now-a-days most of the schools and colleges give more importance to reading and writing and less importance to listening and speaking. So, this generation of students will be able to read and write in English. But they are unable to understand some English conversation and are not able to speak fluently in English. Especially village sector schools and colleges mostly teach English language using mother tongue. After students complete their schools or college they struggle a lot to communicate in English, while they enter new circumstances such as work place.

Conclusion

The teacher should take responsibility for their students' communication skills. If the teacher gives equal importance for listening, speaking, reading and writing, students will be able to listen and understand, speak fluently without hesitating, read any script of writing and understand the concept or information, and write anything spontaneously. So, for language teaching and learning process, students as well as teachers should know the importance of integration.

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