Emerging Techniques in English Language Teaching

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Abstract

The present work aims to provide a detailed account of the emerging techniques in English Language Teaching. Teaching English Language has undergone enormous changes over the years especially the last decade. There are many educational options available before the present generation learners, the newer techniques seem to have emerged which entirely changed the traditional system of education. English Language had a vast scope and influence the whole personality of an individual and it has become a universal language. In teaching English, language teaching methodologies helps to acquire knowledge through direct method Grammar translation method, Audio lingual, structural approach etc. But apart from these basic methodologies, new current techniques also emerging for the students to encourage their education. A number of different techniques like use of technology in the classroom, Project based learning, using teaching aids in means of effective and innovative, make conversation and group discussion are helpful to improve the level of fluency and communication. With so many techniques flooding in education has become an essential requirement. Teachers can make active use of tools and technologies to improve standards. Approaches and techniques in teaching may vary according to the student’s ability for some students know fluency of speaking but they lack in grammatical skill. This also has challenges like student’s care free attitude in learning English, Poor teaching methodology, Lack of innovation, Different in culture and accent, Hesitation in speaking, inadequate provision of teaching aids, Limited access. This paper intends to familiarize the techniques and methods of English language teaching in exploring the new ways for teaching learning approach. If English is taught through recent methods and technologies, it will help to make learning atmosphere pleasant and conductive.

Keywords:

English language teaching techniques, current techniques and methodologies, Use of Teaching learning materials, Basic techniques in teaching, Students ability in learning, Challenges in teaching English.
Introduction

Education like other areas of our society has evolved with rapid development in recent years. Commonly, teaching is based on a teacher who explains a topic and the students take notes. But this approach became occasion and education today revolves encouraging students to rise their curiosity and desires. Without considering what you are interested in, with today’s technological development and rise of internet helps to access knowledge in broad about any subject. However, most of the knowledge available in English including websites, books, press, news reports mostly. So, learning English is an essential one. Teachers work for the students’ improvement in proficiency and communication. This paper illustrates the techniques and skills in teaching English and the barriers in language teaching.

Innovation in English Language Teaching

English language teaching is a continuous process which always have many changes and we are observing day to day. Use of internet and electronic devices made teaching into effective with innovation. Invention based on networking, social networking sites, educational websites have changed the use of English. If we want any information in any language learning, we can access all through these. Teachers also make their lesson plans using current techniques by preparing interactive lectures, worksheets, using productive teaching materials, giving shortcuts or rules for grammar. Software is also available to know about latest dictionaries, words and related knowledge of the language.

Teachers have to focus on the student’s majority of understanding. Suppose, students want to explain the content firstly in mother tongue then in English, they have to teach in according to the students’ ratio. In this continuous learning world, teachers are expected to develop the professional development and communication for the students’ future. Trends and innovation in learning English should improve the standard of communication through effective curriculum structure, acquiring knowledge based on respective ages of students, providing proper guidance etc. Websites for teaching English also available under, englishgrammar.org, ESCParty land.com, BBC Learning English, brighthub.com, busyteacher.org, etc.

Major Teaching Skills

Introducing or motivation

The main purpose of using this skill is to create students’ attention and involvement. It is gained through asking questions related to the lesson, explain why the lesson is important, talk about something related to the experience of students in the area of activity or knowledge or linking the present lesson to the previous lesson or to future learning.

Explaining with examples
Giving explanation with illustrations help the students to understand the concept well. Illustration can be given from simple examples to complex examples. Teachers should use examples which are applicable to the student’s past knowledge. After giving examples, the teacher needs to ask question to know whether the students understand or not.

**Varying stimulus intensity**

The teacher should maintain about six behaviours to increase the attention of students.

i. **Movements:** The teacher has to move from place to place at various times during the lesson, like move in the left, right, forward and back of the teaching space.

ii. **Gestures:** The teacher should use gestures and body movements which help to convey extra meaning and understand better.

iii. **Focusing:** when a teacher wants to highlight a point or idea, it is clearly stressed through pointing or use of verbal expressions (eg. listen closely, watch this etc.)

iv. **Interaction:** The teacher makes changes in the interaction style. It varies in the kind of participation required of students. The teacher can directly ask questions or ask the students to role-play or allow them to explain on the board.

v. **Fluency in communication:** This title mentions, speaking a language easily, reasonably, without having stop a lot. Good speakers communicate and get their message even though they may commit mistakes. The teacher should:

vi.

a. To be clear about the message, that wants to communicate.

b. Communicate his ideas as naturally as possible.

c. Have audience appeal like friendliness and confidence.

d. Good control of language like selection of words, pronunciation, meaningful figures etc.

e. Pace the students into the lecture rather than overcome them.

**Teaching Techniques and Approaches**

Teaching English is a complex one. There are many techniques and strategies used in English language teaching. Those approaches are helpful for the students to acquire the language successful. Different methods in teaching include grammar translation method, bilingual method, direct method are the traditional methods and technology based approaches are recent methods.

**Grammar translation method**

This method is a classical method and it is focused on translation and of rote learning of vocabulary. Grammar translation method teaches grammar and it provides vocabulary with direct translation to memories. The rules of the grammar are explained to the students in their mother tongue and given practice to the rules. Spelling and vocabulary are directed to students with
analysis of texts of grammar and exercises are given. This approach enable students how the language functions and understanding of English.

**The Bilingual method**

This method was developed by C.J. Dodson and set out to make improvements to the audio-visual method. The bilingual method makes use of the traditional three P’s presentation, practice, production. It means the material is presented at first and the students should practice together, and they are expected to produce something new with their knowledge. The mother tongue of the students is the greatest resource in the language. This method focuses on reading, training in speech, oral work to enhance students communication.

**Direct Method**

This method is a natural method and it allows a teacher to teach English language through English. It focuses on to develop a good oral fluency. Student will learn the second language in the same way they have learnt the first language. It gives great interest on correct pronunciation; it advocates teaching of oral skills by connecting them to direct language experience.

**Technology Based Approaches**

**Smart Class**

It is an amazing technology enhances the way students learn. It can provide students with an enriched learning experience by projecting visual elements. It makes differentiated learning styles. The greatest advantage is to be interactive when using touch screen for every student as the ability to utilize the smart board directly on them.

**Audio and Visual Aids**

It is the audio and visual presentation of the material with goal of improving comprehension and communication. these include pictures, slides; videos, films, DVDs, PowerPoint, tape recording, working models which directed at both the senses of hearing and slightness.

**Common techniques**

Students have the general thought that English language is a difficult one to learn. So, now a days, English teachers handle many shortcuts and strategies to teach the required content. for example, if a grammar part is teaching means, the teacher can use shortcuts, like in coordinating conjunction, the teacher can give trick as ‘FANBOYS’ representing its letters for conjunctions as

F A N B O Y S
Indicating - (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so)

Likewise when teaching poems and its figures, the teacher can provide shortcuts by simple diagrams, signs, symbols or through mind map to get the knowledge successfully. These shortcuts are easier for the students to remember. Gamification is also a method in language teaching as the teacher will make puzzles, quiz, word building, and debates regarding the subject. so, these common techniques reach the students rapidly.

Language Laboratory

A Language laboratory is a classroom, specially designed for the students to practice speaking and listening with aid of tape recorders, earphones, microphones and other audio visual materials. This is a very useful tool that facilitates classroom engagement and interaction to maximize language immersion. In learning a language, language laboratory offering more advanced features and functionalities.

This laboratory achieves three main objectives.
1. **self learning:** The students move in a self guided but structured and get training to achieve the goals set by the educational institutions.
2. **Complimentary:** language lab allows a student to obtain the information through digital and work in media and putting them into practice through interactive activities.
3. **Monitoring and evaluation:** Teachers should analyse the progress of each student and receive reports of strengths and weakness to better adapt of the classroom activities.

The language lab boosts the motivation of students to learn different concepts of language in an intuitive way.

Barriers in Teaching English

**Viewpoint of learning English**

English is a globally accepted language and knowing how to use English effectively is important one today. But most of the students ignore this fact and have a carefree attitude towards learning English. Students had less attention in writing assignments, preparing for the tests in English. Main reason is, the students are comfortable to speak and write in English for they always surrounded by friends speaking common language and do not feel to practice their English. But in other subjects like science and technology, they make discussion and appearance in their own language.
Poor teaching methodology

While teaching English, the teacher has to help the students to develop their communication skills and not just the textual translation. English class should work out with discussion, thinking differently, conversations, giving related ideas regarding the lessons, conducting quiz and debates. Textual matter includes someone’s point of view and there is no use of explaining the ideas. This does not bring students creativity and own thoughts are suppressed.

Lack of innovation

Teachers should bring innovation and variation in their own way of teaching. English teachers can hesitate to bring changes in their teaching style but if one time gain success means, they would surely use for the future classes. Innovation is not only based on the technology and multimedia but it is also the way of changing their style in recent approach. Using effective teaching aids, boosting up with motivation, comparison of ideas related to factor experience etc. when these changes made in the class, the teachers need to get feedback about the class and make correction if necessary.

Difference in culture and accent

In many parts of the world, the people are hesitant to accept new cultures and inculcate them. When we learn a language, we also learn the culture of the place belongs to. English has many cultures and it spread more. a teacher can make the student comfortable and prepare the student to adopt different culture and explain the importance of language. Hesitate in accepting a new language and its culture is also a barrier. So, the teacher should focus on the student by giving suitable instruction and provide cultural knowledge in the situation.

Overcoming the Barriers

Class speech and pronunciation

Teacher can focus on their way of speech and tone of pronunciation which will reach the students for understanding. They should speak slowly and clearly and avoid miscommunication for it results in confusion.

Frequent check for understanding

When a topic is teaching, check both what the teacher had said and what has been understood. This reflects while asking questions in the topic. The teacher my ask ‘what’s your understanding of this content?’ instead of ‘is that clear?’

Be patient and specific
English language teacher maintains patience and seems to be specific in some aspects. While teaching, the pronunciation of words should be comprehensible for the students to know the variation of words. Use of words and conveying ideas can be in a specific style and so the students will get the spirit of understanding. The teacher should encourage the students and change the mindset that English is hard to speak. It can be done by taking special interest among students and to fulfill their thirst in language learning.

**English in International Scenario**

English is used widely not only in India, but all over the world. It works as connecting language and also Lingua franca. The use of global language, at first it is impossible to discuss about it and now using all over the world. India is a developing country and it needs relationship with other nations for social, political, economic reasons and so every countryman also skilled in English. It also makes connection in trading, technology, electronic advancements. All developed countries use English as main medium of instruction. English is not the language of poetry, fiction or drama but, it is the language which is like a bridge for expressing and learning all the innovation,

**Conclusion**

The conclusion drawn from this paper is the student’s communicative and literary skill can be developed through teaching techniques and strategies. Contemporary emerging techniques in English language teaching like use of technologies and other recent methods utilize students for understanding the language effectively.

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