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ROLE OF NEWSPAPERS IN LEARNING ENGLISH LANGUAGE: A LINGUISTIC STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Language can be read, written, spoken, and used to teach and to develop ourselves. As a result, its proper teaching and learning become mandatory not only to achieve the myopic aim of passing examinations but to communicate properly at national and international levels.

Newspaper can be an important tool in learning language. In fact, they cover almost all areas of knowledge and keep us well informed. They are useful in the teaching of various subjects. Students learn many new words and expressions. They learn how to express themselves and how to follow the expression of others.

This research paper aims to study the advantages of using newspapers as instructional tool in teaching and learning of English language. It will also focus on new methodologies and approaches of using newspapers in the English language classrooms; thus further promote the use of newspapers as teaching tools in language lessons. In addition to that, the methodologies discussed in this paper could provide deeper insight for teachers to utilize newspapers in English language classrooms effectively.

Keywords: Newspaper, Teaching English, Vocabulary, Information, Communication

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INTRODUCTION

It is well recognized that mastering of the English language is a prerequisite for success in today's communication-driven global workplace, since it is the major world language and the medium for education and technology.

The ability to read is one of the basic necessities of modern day life. In day-to-day life people encounter material for reading either in their first language or a foreign language. With the instances in normal day-to-day life that require a person to read a written text being numerous, reading becomes essential for everyone.

The present paper is a study on the significance of using newspapers that may contribute in increasing reading and comprehension skills for learning English language.

Teachers in education rely mainly on textbooks that are mostly outdated. These textbooks are not rich in providing variety in the use of vocabulary as well as in all aspects of life. So, the students tend to use only the words that they learn from the textbooks. For example, most of the books that are used at Libyan secondary schools include short stories that have direct questions which need to be answered along with grammar tasks at the end. There is no social interaction among the students or their teachers in the class except for the answers to the direct questions. This is only the activity in the reading and comprehension class at these schools.

The newspaper articles are been to be highly motivational for students of all ages and students enjoy the variety of reading and visual material included in the newspaper, teachers will help their students comply with state educational standards and prepare them for both standardized tests and real life situations by using newspaper articles and photos in conjunction with specific strategies and rubrics. Therefore, the important function of modern education which is to teach students to use many informational resources available, including the newspaper as a current reference can be achieved.

Use of English Newspapers: The use of English newspapers in the classroom in regular basis will inculcate many good ideas and habit of grasping vocabulary spontaneously. Students read newspaper for the sake of information but they learn a lot even without many efforts. Some major uses are:

- Learning a lot of Vocabulary.
- Increase in Reading speed.
- Process of learning becomes innovative and interesting
- Offers a wide variety of information in every walk of life.
- Cost Savvy
- Develop writing and listening skills.
- Learning grammatical structures.
- Learning Crafty words and constructions.
- Use of Idioms, Phrases and many new innovative constructions.

Role of Newspapers in Students Life: Teaching English to a non-native English speakers in somewhat challenging as it take a lot of time in understanding students learn or cram their syllabus and pass their examination but they fail in speaking, reading and writing and I think Newspapers can be vital in all their talents as they play an important role in this regard.

- Opens many new ways of discussion and conversation in classroom.
- Can discuss innumerable aspects of newspapers daily and can do a creative writing section on the spot every day.
- Working of a newspaper can give many new ideas and openings
- A lot of job opportunities can be found through 'Classified' section.
- Daily discussion of 'Headlines' give a lot of knowledge and exposure.
- Games as 'Treasure Hint' from Newspaper can give vital information in pairs and increase feeling of sharing and team work.
- Can learn Photography and interest in the use of Camera.
- Writing of Articles will increase their knowledge of Grammar and creativity.

The newspapers reading can be introduced to any level from beginning to large lines to reading till end. In the beginning they will understand large lines them body of the news and after words Editorial and Articles. This will give them not only understanding of the language but their creativity will be at best and they will try their level best to write.

Developing habit of Newspaper reading: A daily reading of English newspaper will be a world of quality learning for students. It will bring a great understanding of the subject. In India, normally teacher's avoid this kind of creativity but it is imperative as it will give many positive results as in India we are facing problems of Reading, writing and speaking some major points to ponder of developing habit of using newspapers are:

- Motivation is the most important factor teachers should ponder amongst students.
- Encourage them to use library for this work if English Newspapers are not available in their homes.
- Help them for Reading as it is a good way of learning language.
- Ask them to use Dictionary for better understanding of Vocabulary.
- Encourage them to write important things in their own way.
- Ask them to divide Newspapers in many sections as:-
 - a) Headlines
 - b) Stories of events and situation
 - c) Special Features
 - d) Editorial
 - e) Classifieds
 - f) Other useful information
- They should emphasize on them as per their interest, knowledge and area in which they want to brush up till perfection.

Activities to be introduced in the class room: Teachers can introduce many activities in the class room such as:-

- Daily's new words from Newspaper will give them a room for daily reading of paper.
- Reading aloud any particular news in classroom one by one.
- Writing any given news in your own way.
- Writing news just by changing tense, meaning or omitting particular word.
- Asking students to read any particular news and reproduce it verbally and then write it in your own way.
- Group Discussion on current Issues.

These activities are based on practical exposure which I personally did amongst group of 100 students dividing then in the group of 10 each. This make them learn and reproduce it in their own way. Sometimes situation become funny and laughable but a good teacher should always encourage and motivate students. Those students who are good in speaking should be given the task of expressing news in their own words and those who can write they may be given writing tasks. Some advantages which can be observed are:

- Enrichment of Vocabulary
- Increase in General Knowledge
- Improvement in Reading Ability
- Improvement in writing
- Increase in worldly wisdom, external affairs and International exposure.
- Knowledge Grammar, correct use of words, Tenses and other things.
- Up gradation of language

The most important purpose that I want to emphasize here is that newspaper should be considered as supplementary material that needs to be added along with the text used in the classroom. Students can enjoy reading topics independently based on their own interests even outside the classroom.

Newspaper has responsibility for creating reading habits, which is seen to be essential for the different levels of the students. But due to the enormous exploration of information published in the form of news in the newspapers, makes it impossible for the students and the teachers in mastering or reviewing all the published news to be read. Under these circumstances the best way of serving the targeted students is by making the tool available to the students by displaying of the newspapers in common places where visitation of students is regular. We also need to educate as well as make the students aware of the best additions of the newspaper which would not only keep them updated with the world around them but also help them to be aware of the resources, academic scholarships, research information and scientifically and technology based on information rendered to them through this most easily economically available learning aid.

Literary articles have always been a regular feature of all newspapers of English. There is a long list of notable authors and scholars who have been associated with the English newspapers Rudyard Kipling was the first man of letters who combined journalism with literature by writing short stories in the Civil & Military Gazette where he worked as an assistant editor from 1882 to 1887. Although a work of literature can never be regarded as a direct documentation of history, the literature of every age is bound to reflect the socio-political issues of that time. The short stories of Kipling were mostly about the British soldiers in India.

In Kipling's own words, "*If history were told in the form of stories, it would never be forgotten.*" A fact which our columnists should know while writing long, boring narratives to describe a historical event.

Apart from the contributions of well-known writers, we see literary columns and book reviews by some lesser-known or even novice contributors on a regular basis in almost all of our English newspapers. Although the standard of these articles differs from one paper to another and only a few can be regarded as valuable contributions towards literature, their very existence in these newspapers proves that the English press is still committed to quench the thirst of its scholarly readers who read newspapers for reasons other than politics and current affairs.

In the education sector, newspapers are used as a teaching resource in the language and literature classes of our schools and colleges to achieve various learning objectives. Teachers select articles to be shown to their students as examples of good writing skills and balanced critical reviews/commentaries. Since article writing and report writing have become a part of some syllabuses, the importance of these has increased as teachers are always on a look for some well-written report or article by some professional journalist

Conclusion

In the modern world, ELT has become very innovative and progressive as we have introduced technology and electronic devices in ELL. Use of Newspaper is also imperative and successful mode of teaching. It works as helping tool as it teaches innovatively as well as interactively. A teacher can make even his lessons or lectures interactive as well as use his wisdom for planning his syllabus teaching. Scholars work or plan on innovation in classroom teaching. Hence, newspaper are really an effective tool of teaching as it contains a science and methodology behind it, student should be given a proper training of using newspaper in such a manner that they can avail the best information, knowledge, wisdom and skill of English language.

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