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ROLE OF ENGLISH TEACHER IN DEVELOPING STUDENTS LANGUAGE SKILLS THROUGH
TASK-BASED ACTIVITIES

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ABSTRACT

Technology brought many changes in every aspect of one's life in 21st century. It showed its impact in both English languages learning and teaching. Content-based method, chalk & talk method, Grammar and translation methods are replaced with task-based method, E- teaching, Direct method and communicative approaches etc. The role of English teacher became prominent in developing language skills of students in modern era. So the teacher has much responsibility to make the students good at English language. He has to play different roles like mentor, motivator, counselor, facilitator, guide, student-friendly teacher etc. Teacher has to adapt a student-centered approach to teach English language. Then students get ample opportunities to learn English language.

English language teaching should be shifted from content based approach to task based approach. Students can learn language skills very quickly by participating in different activities like JAM, Debate, Extempore, Role-play, Mock- Group Discussions, vocabulary games presentations, seminars etc. so teacher should be confident and competent to lead the students towards proficient in English language. They become proficient in English by learning language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing). It is great challenge to the Modern English teacher to make the students expert in English. This paper aims at to discuss role of English teacher, challenges in teaching English language in modern era and ways to learn language skills through different sources.

Key words: Role of English teacher- language skills- task based activities- Challenges in English language teaching- solutions etc

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INTRODUCTION

The objectives of English language learning are

- I) To enable the students comprehend the spoken form
- II) To develop students ability to use English in day-to-day life and real life situation

III) To understand the written text and able to use skimming, scanning skills

IV) To write simple English to express ideas etc

The teacher should play different roles to get these objectives of English language.

Role of English teacher in developing listening skills in students:

Listening is the basis to learn any language. No one can speak second language without listening to it. Students, who come from English medium, are good at English as they have English atmosphere in their class rooms. After completion of degrees, they are good at technical English not general English because they are giving importance to their core subject in their degree. They are learning English from examination point of view. Most of students of rural background are poor in language skills due to lack of constant motivation, lack of English atmosphere in their class rooms.

The English teacher has to introduce and implement the following listening activities in his/her classroom to make the students good at listening skills

1. Make them listening to speeches, conversations, dialogues from smart phones, you tube and it related mobile apps.
2. Encourage to listen news in English, English movies, bulletins, debates etc
3. Provide charts, tables, non-verbal information to test their listening comprehension.
4. Suggest softwares or CD'S which are related to improve pronunciation skills and phonetic skills
5. Watch listen mock Group discussions, speech in YouTube.

Role of English teacher in developing speaking skills in students:

Language is primarily spoken form. To know language means to understand and speak the language. The teacher has to conduct the following tasks which are helpful to learn and strengthen one's speaking skills

1. By conducting Just A Minute (JAM), teacher can build up confidence in students. They have to express their views on particular topic in English in a minute. It is helpful to them in the beginning of language learning.
2. Encourages to participate in Role-Play which is one of the effective methods for language learning. It develops thinking skills and spontaneity
3. By participating in conversations, they can improve their communicative functions or conversational skills like greeting, agree/disagree statements, accepting, rejecting invitations, apologies, asking and giving directions, suggestions etc
4. Debates: the students are given a topic and ask them to give their opinion. They discuss pros and cons of a topic. By participating in debate, they can improve their communication skills, interpersonal skills, logical thinking and they get confident.
5. Group Discussions: English teacher has to explain about Group discussion, how to participate, do's and don'ts of GD etc and conduct mock Group Discussions on current affairs. They can improve their general English and they will be good at knowledge of the subject, communication skills and leadership qualities by participating in Group Discussions.
6. Presentations: students should be encouraged to participate in paper presentation, power point presentations on various topics. They should be able to use audio-visual aids properly. They can improve their presentation skills, clarity of expression, proper body language by participating in presentations.
7. Speeches: A topic has to be given to the student and ask him/her to give brief speech on that, the teacher has to explain public speech techniques and encourages students to give speeches on the eve of Independence day, Republic day celebrations etc
8. Mock interviews: These are helpful to develop employability skills and students come to know interview rounds, strategies, list of frequently asked questions at the time of interview, interview techniques. Teacher has to conduct mock interviews and prepare them to attend interviews in multinational companies and other companies

9. Narrating story techniques: It helps students their expressional ability and develop their imagination. The teacher has to correct their mistakes and guide them to use proper tenses. He has to tell first small stories and then he has to give a few clues and should be asked to narrate it.

10. Describing events/ persons/things

The students may be given a topic or pictures and ask them to describe it. For Eg. What are the steps to draw amount from ATM, procedure of making tea etc

Role of English teacher in developing Reading skills in students

Reading is one of the important skills to learn English language. Lord Bacon said that "Reading makes a full man". Other linguists supported this view.

Tasks:

- I. Students should be encouraged to read text book passages aloud mistakes pronunciation, stress could be corroded.
- II. They should be encouraged to read passages silently to understand the matter.
- III. Separate assignments for reading should be given.
- IV. Allow them to guess and meaning of un familiar words in passage or story
- V. Make them good at skimming, scanning, skipping skills.
- VI. Make them read English newspaper daily in class room for five minutes

Role of Teacher in developing writing skills in students

Writing aims at clear and efficient communication .The skill of writing has to be cultivated. Speaking and writing are active skills. One must be able to write an article, reviews, letters, essays without grammar mistakes, spelling mistakes and by using appropriate vocabulary and following proper sentence formation. So teacher has to conduct the following tasks to develop writing skills.

Tasks

1. The teacher has to teach essay writing, paragraph writing techniques and ask them to write essays on particular topic of their own
2. Make them good at E-mail writing, letter writing and report writing.
3. The teacher can use dictation technique to test students spelling and he may conduct spell bee.
4. The teacher has to give assignments on writing skills.
5. Ask them to write reports and reviews of movies

So teacher must be competent to teach and conduct the above tasks. He may come across various challenges in their process.

CHALLENGES

1. Teacher has to adapt technology to teach English language. If schools and colleges don't have e-equipotent, it will be difficult to teacher to follow E-teaching.
2. The teacher has to motivate student constantly to learn English language. Most of students are seeing English as examination point of view.
3. If the teacher doesn't have self-confidence, if he is not good at conducting tasks, he can't lead students effectively.
4. Over crowded classes may be hampered to learn English language effectively
5. Allotment of 3 hours per week may not be enough to complete syllabus and to conduct events

There are solutions to the above problems. It depends on teacher ability to solve the problem.

SOLUTIONS

- If the schools, colleges don't have E-equipments, the teacher has to use smart phone .By using smart phone, he can download audios, videos and record them to share with students.
- The teacher has to prepare each and every topic thorough and get knowledge on way of conducting various events/tasks.
- The teacher has to motivate students by conducting seminars, workshops, events, guest lectures, and competitions on English language frequently.

- The teacher has flexibility to divide the class into two sections and ask the two class representatives to lead the events.
- He has to work an extra hour beyond working hours or within schedule to conduct tasks.

CONCLUSION

English is important tool of communication all over the world .Teacher has to feel responsibility to develop language skills in students and prove himself/herself that he is the best teacher and fit for English teacher .He must have self confidence, command over English language .Teacher has to adapt modern teaching techniques to train the students .For this he has to be very patient, dedicated and systematic. Then only teacher can develop language skills in students.

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