RESEARCH ARTICLE

VARIOUS ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHER

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ABSTRACT

English language occupies a crucial role to gain the knowledge and communicate effectively to fulfill their work in various parts like academics, social, organizational and business situations. At present scenario, the demand of learning effective English communication skills increases due to the globalization. Gaining English language skills are as important as getting technical skills and it occupies main part in professional studies like engineering to reach ones destination in a successful way. The main purpose of inclusion of English language for Engineering students just not only for academic purpose but also to build soft skills and effective communication skills which help to shape their career.

Teaching English for technical students is attached with specific purpose to get placed in organizations, to upgrade their career, to build cordial relations and to convey information clearly. Sometimes it comes under challenging task in the case of second language learners whose exposure is a little. It extends the role of language teacher and the prior is to impart the right and required skills to the students. To reach the needs of the students, the teacher has to update his/her knowledge and invent new methods and techniques for introducing the concept. This paper concentrates on the need of the adopting new roles and skills to overcome the challenges in English language classroom for Engineering Students.

Key words: Engineering, students, Classroom, Adopting, Roles, Skills

"The English Language is Nobody's Special Property. It is the Property of the imagination: It is the property of the language itself." - DEREK WALCOTT

Language learning process depends on the individual ability and the following factors like exposure, interest, practice and social status of the learner. According to Derek Walcott, language learning depends on ones imagination. At present scenario, English language skills occupy a major part in professional studies especially engineering sector to get placed in a corporate world. Sharing ideas or information, maintaining cordial relationship among colleagues is made crucial to use English language effectively. Learners at college level are varying from kindergarten. Background knowledge of the learner at kindergarten is more or less similar but in the case of engineering level, it is different in terms of previous education and knowledge comes to the matter. The more they expose to the language, the more they gain. This principle is the main in the process of learning English language. The role of the teacher is crucial to set positive environment in and around the class. As the learners are from different back ground in engineering stream, it is more challenging task of the teacher to

select and implement different techniques and methods according to the strength of the class and the topic. For the successful implementation of the selective methods, the teacher needs to adopt various roles like learner, Planner, Designer, facilitator, supporter, Manager, Assessor, evaluator and motivator apart from traditional teaching. Depend on the situation the teacher needs to wear the mask to improve the performance of the learner.

Various roles of an English Language Teacher

Learner	A teacher is a continuous learner to enhance and update his/ her knowledge as well the learners' knowledge.
Planner	Time and tide wait for none. Time is very precious. Using every minute in the classroom is possible with perfect planning. It is the crucial part in the teaching and learning process.
Designer	Design and implement various activities, methods, strategies and different techniques related to the concept.
facilitator	Whenever the student finds difficulty while doing the task, it is the responsibility of the teacher to show path or to explain in detail or help with the content.
supporter	Mistakes are the common one while practicing a language. Instead of highlighting learners mistakes, teachers need to support and share constructive feedback and at the same time the teacher needs to give a chance to the leaner to understand his or her own mistakes. This never leads to inferior. At that stage teacher need to support a lot to avoid the inhibition of the learner.
Manager	The role of modern teacher extended with the innovative practices in the class. In this process the teacher needs to manage his or her class effectively especially when implementing activities or tasks for effective use of the available time.
Assessor/ evaluator	Assessing is a part of learning. This process helps the learners to identify the strengths and at the same time it gives a chance to identify the areas of development.
motivator	In the class we may find different kinds of learners. Understanding individual strengths and weaknesses of the learners, the teachers motivate the learner to overcome the problems faced by them.

In present day classroom, the teacher performs multiple roles to give better input to the learners especially in engineering classroom where learners are from different backgrounds. The role of the teacher shifted from traditional to modern by adapting new and suitable methods according to the learners' abilities. In this process first a teacher should be a continuous learner to update his/her knowledge by attending training programmes, conferences, seminars, workshops or sharing ideas with colleagues. Second Planning is a very crucial part in teaching and learning process. Without giving proper planning, it may not be possible to use the time properly. So, the second and important role of the teacher is to plan and to implement new methods and techniques to teach the concept. In the same way, the above roles need to adopt according the need of the Teaching-learning practice.

Engineering is one of the professional streams where the students need to communicate effectively for their professional purpose. To implement new methods in engineering classes, the teachers are facing some of the challenges like time limitation, heavy strength of the class and different social background students. These problems may not become the major obstacles to train the students. These problems may overcome by suitable tasks and minute to minute plan according to the topic. Other factors like time management and increase student talk time (STT). Creating interest among the learners and getting active involvement of the learners is in the hands of the teacher.

Teacher can make resources from nothing. No need to spend a lot to arrange sophisticated tools every time. The best resource is the interest of the learners. The role of the teacher is to give continuous exposure to the learner to learn the language in the class room and in the college premises. Through practical exposure, the students can learn a lot. The role of the teacher is to guide and monitor.

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My experience with students, I use different methods to teach literature. The level of the learners is second year B.Tech. The title of the text is Life, Language, and Culture. It is the prescribed text for B.Tech. students by JNTUK. The text exposes with the different cultures of the world. Initially I select Traditional role like explaining the concept and providing mean of the new words and at the end providing writing task. Here, Teacher talk time(TTT) is active and passive role occupied by the student. I observed that the students are monotonous and identified a little involvement. Later I divided the whole class into groups and ask them to prepare a lesson and give presentation either oral, poster or power point. In this process Student talk time is high and teacher talk time is a little. Through this they actively involved and presented. I observed the whole class involvement. Every student has identified their own strengths and weaknesses. So, learners' involvement and interest has been given prior importance in the process of language learning. Reflection is the one of the important quality in the process of teaching and learning. This helps us to plan for further activities with past experience.

Planning + implementing + Reflection = Better teacher

These three occupies major roles to train the learners. That gives a scope to think, understand the students and realize the needs of the learners and finally creates platform of learning with practical involvement. Identifying slow learners and providing special attention and giving enough courage through motivation also very important.

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn"– *Benjamin Franklin*

In the words of Benjamin Franklin, when we create a chance to the student to involve practically in the task then they can learn and understand. To create suitable environment to the students in the class is the major responsibility of the teacher. For that a teacher needs to use different techniques and innovative methods to avoid monotonous in learning process.

Conclusion: English language skills and Communication skills occupies crucial role in engineering education to share their knowledge in global scale. It is as important as technical skills because all the technical subjects are in English language. To train Engineering students different roles need to be adopted. Besides practicing traditional methods, the teachers need to be implementing latest techniques and methods. Planning, implementation and reflection helps the teacher a lot to train the students.

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