



METHODS FOR TEACHING SPEAKING SKILL AT SCHOOLS AND THEIR IMPACTS ON LEARNERS' ORAL COMPETENCY

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Abstract

Speaking is the process of building and sharing meaning through the use of verbal and non-verbal symbols, in a variety of contexts. Speaking plays a crucial role in second language learning and teaching. Despite its importance, for many years, teaching speaking has been undervalued and English language teachers have gone on teaching speaking just as a repetition of drills or memorization of dialogues. However, today's world requires that the goal of teaching speaking should improve students' communicative skills.

This paper purposes to explore some innovative teaching methods, approaches, techniques and activities used for developing speaking fluency and its effects of pupil's oral competency.

Keywords: English classroom, methodology, oral competency, speaking fluency, techniques and games

Introduction

The teaching and learning of English as a foreign language has grown enormously. More specifically, the focus has recently been on how to speak and use the language effectively. But , what does teaching speaking means?

According to scientist Nunan What is meant by "teaching speaking" is to teach ESL learners to:

Produce the English speech sounds and sound patterns

Use word and sentence stress, intonation patterns and the rhythm of the second language. Select appropriate words and sentences according to the proper social setting, audience, situation and subject matter. Organize their thoughts in a meaningful and logical sequence.





Use language as a means of expressing values and judgments

Use the language quickly and confidently with few unnatural pauses, which is called as fluency. Besides this point of view, nowadays. Teaching and learning of English as a foreign language gives priority to speaking skills. For this purpose, several methods, approaches, and techniques are being innovated and utilized in ESL and EFL classrooms.

Modern English language pedagogues are expected to use them and in the following some of new and effective methods are introduced:

1. Picture narrating

This activity is based on several sequential pictures. Students are asked to tell the story taking place in the sequential pictures by paying attention to the criteria provided by the teacher as a rubric. Rubrics can include the vocabulary or structures they need to use while narrating. Using pictures in the classrooms can help to develop pupils' imagination and it is incredible way to use words in their vocabulary bank. In real life.

2. Picture describing

Another way to make use of pictures in a speaking activity is to give students just one picture and having them describe what it is in the picture. For this activity students can form groups and each group is given a different picture. Students make a discussion the picture with their groups, then a spokesperson for each group describes the picture to the whole class. This activity fosters the creativity and imagination of the learners as well as their public speaking skills. Besides that young learners learn to gather and summarize ideas which are the best descriptions as well as this technique is great opportunity to work collaboratively.

3. Storytelling

Third activity is storytelling. Students can briefly summarize a tale or story they heard from somebody beforehand, or they may create their own stories to tell their classmates. Story telling fosters creative thinking. It also helps students express ideas in the format of beginning, development, and ending, including the characters and setting a story has to have.

Students also can tell riddles or jokes. For instance, at the very beginning of each class session, the teacher may call a few students to tell short riddles or jokes as an opening. In this way, not only will the teacher address students' speaking ability, but also get the attention of the class.





Furthermore, in the second or foreign language classroom context, teachers should train learners to utilize and practice the different strategies that can help them face difficult situations. The only way of training students in this direction is by means of a bank of activities in which they become aware of the different possibilities that they can put into practice. Authors such as Goodwin or Lazaraton offer a varied list of exercises to be used in class: poems, rhymes, dialogues, monologues, role plays, debates, interviews, simulations, drama scenes, discussions, conversations...

By the way of conclusion, Teaching speaking is a very important part of second language learning and in order to develop speaking skills in ESL and EFL classrooms educationalists are expected to use different, interesting and peculiar methods that are really useful for pupils. They should conduct every lesson with various speaking activities such as those listed above can contribute a great deal to students in developing basic interactive skills necessary for life. These activities make students more active in the learning process and at the same time make their learning more meaningful and fun for them.

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