

Enhance Your English Language Skills: A Critical Evaluation Perspective on English Language Usage in the Classroom

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Introduction: A few months ago, I was conducting an activity for my students on Presentation Skills, and I was instructing my students what needs to be done and how are they suppose to present the content and about themselves when they appear on the dash. Meanwhile, one of my students came and told me that he couldn't present the topics as he was poor in communication skills, so-called in the English language. When I asked him the reason behind his poor communication skills, even though he has done intermediate in English medium, their language teacher always explains in their local or Mother Tongue. Then I understood, poor communication skills of a teacher may have made them run into jokes in many that teacher's class, but this is not a matter that can be taken lightly. Failing to deliver a lecture coherently and make students understand a concept means their job is not well done. Good communication skills become all vital since many of the concepts are technical and students deserve a logical explanation. However, many engineering colleges in the state are staggering under this sorry state of affairs. The English language is now a bridge language of international business, technology, research, and software.

English language learner learns the English language in addition to his or her native language. The instruction and assessment of students, their cultural background, and the attitudes of classroom teachers towards students have all been found to be factors in English Language Learning. In some approaches or methods, it has been suggested to assist English Language Learners to include bringing their home cultures into the classroom, involving them in language-appropriate content-area instruction from the beginning, and by integrating literature into the learning program. Around 2.1 billion people speak English and the number is still rising. To be a successful person in any field, one has to know, communicate effectively. In a student's social life and professional life, the English language is most important. It helps to build a strong relationship and a better understanding among fellow students and peers. After Chinese, English is the highest spoken language in the world. As a point, thus, most of the Educands especially those who are in need or seeking jobs are going after Spoken English or English Communication Skills courses or classes after their higher education like B. Tech, M. Tech, MBA, MCA or any other degree. But, most of these Spoken English institutions are still following the old methods like teaching and practicing Tenses and some of the major topics in English Grammar as an essential need to learn the language instead make them of speaking on a topic or issue. A national study said that this year by an employability evaluation company found that 51% of graduates, mainly engineers, were

deemed unemployable because of poor English. A student from a renowned college shares his experience, "We have had presentations where teachers would copy and paste passages taken from the web. We don't necessarily learn anything and many students just do rote learning."

It has become crucial in students' academic and professional careers, but developing good communication skills in English is challenging as the methods and approaches used can make the learning tiresome. However, the grammar rules only scrape the surface level of the language. What contributes to the development of written and spoken language in reality, is reading. Recent research on joyous reading has shown that reading is a pleasant experience that also results in the incidental acquisition of language. This makes learning will be easier, pleasurable and effective. Despite consistent evidence on this, young learners are not encouraged to read to gain language. Most of the studies have revealed that students who do more in-class reading develop a positive attitude towards reading. Further, young learners continue to do more independently, reading outside of class and in that way, they do well in language achievement tests like TOFEL, IELTS as well as in academic achievement tests. Free reading is a rewarding experience and the amount of reading done is correlated with the language knowledge, which includes grammar, vocabulary, writing competence, reading comprehension and cognitive.

Though many believe that learning the rules of grammar is necessary, the fact is linguists haven't discovered rules for the language completely; and grammar textbooks do not contain all the rules and structures discovered by linguists; teachers won't teach all the rules in the text or grammar book; students do not learn all the rules of the language; and do not recollect all that they learn either. Grammar rules are very difficult and it is complex to learn them unambiguously. These complex rules can be easily be acquired subconsciously by those who read for pleasure(who read extensively) than those who depend on these learning grammar rules. For sure, the readers use the acquired grammatical knowledge quite easily while speaking and writing. They must be in the position to focus on the message of the text and not at looking up meanings of words in dictionary/es. This will not motivate them to read further. Referring to dictionaries while reading is an indication that the text is inexplicable and therefore the teachers must help readers choose the text that they can easily comprehend. The readers obtained vocabulary incidentally if they come across any unknown word. And also, they will find a word's contextual meaning subconsciously. In the first, the reader comes across the word, he acquires a partial meaning, and in the second the reader adds more meaning and repeated exposure results in the acquisition of the complete meaning. In that way, the readers acquire not only the meaning but also the grammar of words and also the structures. Reading also helps us to develop a special language of writing. This is a meaning-making exercise and learning grammar with an intent to improve writing help learners focuses only on the language, not on the content. And next, writing is a composting process, which requires both content or information and as well as language. If we focus on the content, our

mind will subconsciously use language to give shape to the thought. If we just focus on the language, there is a chance that our mind will refuse to come up with ideas. It will increase writing uneasiness or apprehensions.

In this regard, according to Abha Gupta, to make our class more effective these seven principles will help to create a successful language teaching.

1. Know your students and motivate to learn the language
2. Create a welcoming classroom environment
3. Build Background Knowledge
4. Provide comprehensible input building vocabulary
5. Include frequent opportunities for interaction and discussion
6. Use multiple modalities during instruction
7. Conduct ongoing review and assessments

These above principles provide a basis for developing a broader theory of language learning for language learners. To help students develop a habit of reading, in-class programs should be conducted in schools and colleges, where a variety of books are available and the teachers help the students choose an appropriate text. In addition to guided reading, the college/school should create a reading environment by having reading centers where the students can access books easily as and when they desire.

Seven principles of second language learning have been identified as critical to successfully teaching ESL students.

- 1) Know your student and motivation to learn the second language
- 2) Create a welcoming classroom environment
- 3) Build Background Knowledge
- 4) Provide Comprehensible Input by building vocabulary
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The best curing practices that you can make your students or learners speak better, apart from regular practices or activities lets try given activities.

Encourage the students to tell a story (storytelling): everybody loves to hear a good story that could be moral, social or ethical which can make the audience get involved in their talk. Because, it's not about that topic that you chose, but it is about how better you present your story.

When we are telling a story, the audience pays attention or lay their ear and linger around you. It is because of the language and the body language you use while you speak or present the topic.

Allow them to participate in group tasks: when the young learners join in group tasks, they all will communicate in instructed language i.e. English, among themselves.

Conversation Practices: Most of English students need to learn how to converse naturally after gaining basic level grammar and vocabulary knowledge. This requires frequent free talk and which should be based on their interests to keep them motivated to learn the language. While doing so, they will pick up the correct pronunciation and intonation and feel of the language with the teacher and their conversation partners' help.

Some topics are suggested below to speak English freely which we can use in our classes or laboratory.

1. What did you do this week?
2. Why do you plan for this weekend?
3. Tell me about your family
4. Describe your job
5. Tell us about your hobbies
6. Tell us about your pets
7. What kind of music do you like?
8. What was your childhood like?
9. Why are you learning English?
10. Tell us about your best friend?
11. What did you do on your birthday?
12. What is your favorite holiday?
13. What are your main goals for this year?
14. Do you believe in astrology?

15. Do you believe in life after death?
16. What are the craziest things you have done?
17. How do you make new friends?
18. Is talent the most important thing for success?
19. Should guns be banned?
20. Are scientists researching things that matter?
21. Is world peace a reality in our world?
22. How healthy are school lunches around the world?
23. What are the biggest changes faced by humanity right now?
24. Has technology made our lives easier or more complicated?



Listening will make you understand better: When most of the students listen to a native speaker of English, they focus on comprehending what all the words mean. This is important and necessary, but there is a lot more you can learn from this listening. Try listening not just to what the words mean, but do observe how the person says them.

Notice the person which words that he links together in a sentence, or when they say “ye” instead of “you.” Try to remember these details next time you speak and your English will begin to sound more natural and also you will get to know more pronunciation too. When you listen to native speakers of English, it can be hard to understand each word that is spoken. They might use many words that you don’t know, because, they talk too fast or may have a strong accent. The more you listen to English, the better you will understand how to speak English naturally and fluently.

Reading will make you comprehend the language better: Reading helps to develop young learners’ language skills. It also helps them learn to listen to and also vocabulary. This helps them, to improve their comprehension when they listen to a speech or a TV Show, which is vital as they start to read. They need to comprehend how those stories work too. The more you read, the more imaginative you become and your imagination thinking levels increase. Whenever you read a fiction book, it takes you to the other world. In that new world, your imagination works at its best as you try to see things in your mind and your world.

Talk to yourself: For sure, this will look funny, we know. But by practicing a few minutes a day in front of the mirror you will come to know how far you learned and when, where and how to use different expressions. You’ll also come to know and learn where you make most of the mistakes. Below, you can find a range of topics you could practice on.

Develop your Slang: Slangs are used in a highly informative speech that is outside conventional or standard usage and consists both of coined words and phrases, and new or extended meanings attached to established terms. Slang develops from the attempt to find fresh and strong, colorful, sharp or witty expression and generally either pass you into disuse of slang or comes to have a more formal status. And when it comes to these slangs, are used as an informal speech and make the language more user friendly. It makes spoken English more colorful and pungent and helps you express your thoughts in a better way.

Practice on stress and Intonation: when we speak, we give more emphasis on certain words of a particular sentence by making or speaking them louder than the other words used in that particular sentence. Then the words re going to receive the extra force of speech are said or called as Stressed words. And the words spoken in normal tone or force are called as unstressed words.

And Intonation is primarily a matter of variation in the pitch level our voice, in other words, the fall and rise of the pitch level of the voice while we speak, is called Intonation. This will enable us to express our emotions and attitudes while speaking.

Vocabulary: Improve your vocabulary through reading. Reading will make you learn or expands your vocabulary. There are two types of vocabulary. 1. High-frequency Vocabulary and 2. Low-Frequency Vocabulary. We better focus to gain or practice on low-frequency vocabulary. And when you are reading an article or a piece of information about something, your mind will come to know new words and puts that new words for later use.

Practice on tongue twisters: Learning the correct pronunciation of the English language is very important. These tongue twisters surely help us learn to give exact pronunciation a letter and of consonant sounds. By practicing these tongue twisters your spoken language improves speedily.

Eg: Which watch did which witch wear and which witch wore which watch?

This helps us to pronounce the word 'wh-' as well as 'w-' sound.

The shells she sells are surely seashells. She sells seashells by the seashore. So, if she sells the shells on the seashore I'm sure she sells seashore shells.

This tongue twister will help us to pronounce the letter 's' and the 'sh' sounds.

How many berries could a berry bare carry, if a bare berry could carry berries?

This will help us pronounce the 'b' sound.

Nevertheless, we must have a continuous practice of speaking the language. It's like exercising our body to maintain good fitness. So, listen to the people who speak better English in your surroundings, watch English movies for diction and intonation, as discussed above, read books and newspapers which will give you much exposure towards vocabulary and try speaking in English and participate in group tasks to better the language. Until and unless we follow the above, we cannot cure our English speaking fear in the future days to come.

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