

THE LATEST TREND IN TEACHING AND LEARNING EFL/ESL

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Abstract

There is nothing permanent except change. Change is the law of nature. A trend is the general tendency or direction towards change. Recent trends, methodologies and developments portray the vital role of education sector. English language teaching has undergone tremendous changes over the years, especially the last ten years. Students are burdened with studying, learning and grasping the materials. a change in the trend especially the teaching learning.

Process of English language has to undergo a transition for the betterment. Seasons change, fashion changes, attitudes of human beings change but it is disheartening to note that in the last century English curriculum has hardly undergone any change.

Keywords: Methods, trends, transition, learning process.

Introduction

Technology is pervasive. It has made its way into people's daily life. It is present in homes, supermarkets, banks, schools, etc. provoking an impact on everyday activities. Through the years, technology has become faster, smaller, more affordable, and therefore, more accessible to the public in general. One of the most wide spreading contributions of technology is the Internet. It has come into many homes changing the way people communicate study, work, entertain and even socialize. Technology is found in every corner from movies to games, music to videos; it is an important source of entertainment. The Internet provides a great opportunity for entertainment because people can watch videos, download music, chat with friends, or read information that interests them. In addition, technology serves a major purpose which is communication.

English language teaching has undergone tremendous changes over the years, especially the last ten years. Students are burdened with studying, learning and grasping the materials, and of course, lectures with the collection of relevant information from prescribed texts. Many careers alternatives once regarded insignificant are gaining importance at present such as communication Skills, soft skills, technical skills, interpersonal skills, ICT literacy etc. For this, a change in the trend especially the teaching learning process of English language has to undergo a transition

for the betterment. Seasons change, fashion changes, attitudes of human beings change but it is disheartening to note that in the last century English curriculum has hardly undergone any change.

Modern trends of teaching English

The field of language education is changing at an ever-increasing rate. Traditional notions of education are giving way to newer, more innovative ways of thinking about how we learn, teach and acquire knowledge .Now-a-days, English is the common means of communication between the peoples of different nations. As a global language, its various areas have been largely investigated, especially that of EFL teaching and learning. So English language teaching plays a significant role in language learning and gaining its objectives. English teacher has to give up traditional methods and has to adopt innovative methods to teach English language. English teacher has to play various roles like facilitator, communicator, motivator, mentor, guide and build bridge between theory and practice. So the teaching is challenging to the teacher in modern era. The innovative methods are helpful to face the challenge and how these innovative methods make the teachers efficient and how these are helpful to students to learn English in effective manner.

Change in the Goal of Teaching English

There are three key changes in the purpose of teaching English.

English for Academic Purpose (EAP)
English for Occupational purpose (EOP)
English for Specific Purpose (ESP)

Firstly, EAP refers to the teaching of English language in primary, secondary and common graduate level educational institutions. This approach aims to built-up the students to be aware of basics of English, and encourages the students to have general thought about the basic grammar, pronunciation and the use of English for common purpose. Secondly, EOP refers to the teaching of English language for professional purpose which in practical requires a basic insight about the concerned profession and its relevance with use of English. The approach of ELT has been a great task for the

tutors to educate the beneficiaries as it requires specialized knowledge about the particular occupational jargons. Thirdly, ESP refers to the teaching of English language for specific need in which the intention of the learners is restricted within the particular use. ESP advocates the designing of special courses instead of one multi-purpose course, to suit the needs of different of students. The concept of ESP is said to be particularly adequate for teaching English to students of science and technology EST. Moreover, English at the undergraduate level of engineering differs from English in other undergraduate courses because it has a specific purpose unlike a general purpose in other colleges. It differs from other courses in the three aspects, such as relevance, register and style. These three aspects gain supremacy in material designing because the course must engage the students for both academic and professional purposes. Their academic functions include oral and written communication, comprehension of lectures and books, note-making, note-taking, paper presentations,

Early Start in Teaching English

Many countries have started teaching English in earlier grades at school. For example, since 2011, Saudi Arabia introduced English in earlier stages of a student's learning. Also in 2011, Japan introduced English in the primary stage, and, in 2012, UAE (United Arab Emirate) introduced English in the KG stage instead of Grade 1. Governments often lower the starting age for English or introduce English in the first grade, based on the optimistic desire to raise standards but aims of primary foreign language programme can be hopelessly unrealistic, given the time allocated to early foreign language learning. Parents also have very unrealistic expectations of what can be achieved by children in a school learning context and expect children to become bilingual overnight.

Change in the Approach to Teaching Culture

Both the local or native and international culture dominates in English language classes. There is less focus on teaching the culture of native speakers of English unless there is a specific purpose for doing so. Indeed, any strategy for change must contend with the diverse factors affecting the education system, the interactions of its parts, and the intricate interdependencies within it and with its environment.

Changing View of an English Teacher

It is increasingly being recognized that the quality or effectiveness of teachers is determined by their linguistic, teaching, and intercultural competence rather than their being a native speaker of English. Every care should, therefore, be

taken to create proper atmosphere for the teaching of English at the Secondary School level. First of all, only those who are fully competent to teach English as a foreign language to Indian students should be appointed as English teachers. In view of the special problems and natural

Change in Teaching Content and Test Design

In many parts of the world, there is a typical teaching lesson for reading. The teacher meets her class and gets the lesson going by selecting one student, who is capable of reading, to start the reading of the text. The other students are expected to follow along in the text. At the end of the story, the teacher assesses students' reading comprehension by asking a few questions. Those who know the answers raises their hand and the teacher calls on them. Once the questions are answered, the reading lesson usually ends.

Unlike traditional methodology, modern methodology is much more student-centred. the students are the most active element in this process. The teacher is here not to explain but to encourage and help students to explore, try out, make learning interesting. In the modern teaching skill the main skills are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. They can be classified into two groups: receptive (listening and reading) and productive (speaking and writing). These skills consist of sub-skills; for example, reading includes skimming (reading for gist), scanning (reading for specific information), intensive reading, and extensive reading.

E-Learning

The online method of learning is best suited for everyone. This digital revolution has led to remarkable changes in how the content is accessed, consumed, discussed, and shared. Online educational courses can be taken up by office goers and housewives too, at the time that suits them. Depending on their availability and comfort, many people choose to learn at weekends or evenings. Unlike classroom teaching, with online learning you can access the content an unlimited number of times. This is especially required at the time of revision when preparing for an exam. In traditional form of learning, if you cannot attend the lecture, then you have to prepare for that topic on your own; in eLearning, you can attend the lectures whenever you want with ease. Because of the proliferation of tablets and smart phones, I believe that textbooks will disappear in a few years. Furthermore, the access to knowledge in terms of flexibility and mobility has changed drastically.

Strategic Teaching and Learning

Teaching in English language classes focuses on fostering student thinking as well as language content, outcomes, and learning activities. There are significant and complex student-teacher interactions inside and outside the classroom. The traditional form of teaching in a University often involves lectures being given to large groups of students, accompanied by tutorials and workshops, with some independent study. However, there are several other modes of delivery that can also be very effective, and you may have come across terms such as the flipped classroom and problem based learning. This information below is designed to give you an overview of various modes of delivery you can consider in your teaching and learning.

We should consider ways to make your lectures more impactful and engaging. Explore the facilitator skills required and how to avoid potentially difficult scenarios when students are working in small groups. We should explore the key learning aims of practical classes and how to get learners to effectively engage with them. Massive open online courses (MOOCs) offer an opportunity to refresh the way you think about curriculum design. Active learning will explore teaching and learning methods that put the student in charge of their own learning through meaningful activities. Problem based learning is a student centered approach, where students learn about a subject through understanding and solving problems. Work based learning provides students the opportunity to learn through real-life work experiences. Blended learning is a traditional classroom teaching combined with online learning and independent study.

Teaching through games:

There are many methods to teach vocabulary. One of the important methods is teaching through games. English teacher should conduct vocabulary games, puzzles, jumbled words, and anagrams, to improve their vocabulary in friendly atmosphere. He has to conduct quiz competitions on synonyms, antonyms, one-word substitutions, idioms to enhance vocabulary in students. He has to explain words and its meanings through examples and ask the students guess the meaning of the words in context and produce sentences for every word and ask them use in different contexts.

Teaching grammar through Inductive method:

Grammar plays an important role in learning language. So teacher should not teach it from examination point of view and he has to make the students good at grammar as it plays

a vital role in constructing sentence and in written communication. He has to follow inductive method to teach English grammar. In this method, the examples are given first then the rules are described. For E.g. when the teacher explains tenses, he does not tell structures first. He gives sentences as examples and asks the students to tell similar sentences. Then he introduces structures and asks the students to frame of the sentences of their own. So the Inductive method is the best method to teach English grammar.

Teaching through Conversations and Role-Play:

As teaching is student-centered, teacher has to involve students in conversations and role-plays to improve their general English and to avoid stage fear in students. Teacher has to give various contexts and ask them to participate in role-play and conversations. Teacher should play a role of mentor and facilitator. This method is useful to understand some of the listening and reading sections.

Teaching through evaluation and summarizing:

A continuous teaching without questions and without involvement of students creates monotony in students. It is known as teacher-centered teaching. He has to ask questions on every aspect at the end of the class and has to summarize what he taught in the last few minutes. Then only students understand the lesson very clearly. He has to spend five minutes time for queries and to clarify the doubts.

Teaching with sense of humor:

Humor strengthens the relationship between the student and teacher and it reduces tension, stress in students. It creates a friendly atmosphere in which students like to learn. It is the effective tool for learning. Students like the teacher who has sense of humor. So he should not be always serious in the class room. The excessive humor leads indiscipline in students. The teacher has to balance the students in between serious and humor.

Teaching language through literature:

Most of the students are good at technical English but they are unable to express their daily routines and they are not good at general English. Learning language through literature, discussions, reviews, analysis helps the students to improve their communication skills. So teacher should encourage the students to read novels, stories, essays to improve their general English.

Teachers as Life-Long Learners

In a knowledge-based society and to remain competitive and employable, teachers are expected to engage in continuous professional development or professional learning activities from the beginning to the end of their careers. As with any other profession, teachers are also expected to assume greater responsibility for their own professional learning, continually developing their knowledge and skills.

A teacher can't successfully educate students without becoming a lifelong learner . Lifelong Learning Helps Teachers Face Challenges. It Helps Teachers Face Challenges and the best teachers are willing to learn from their students. Lifelong Learning Makes Big transitions on the Job Easier to process and fosters creativity.

Conclusion

The traditional method lays more emphasis on a teacher himself and is teacher centered. Repetitive practice, mechanical drills and memorization are the hallmarks of the traditional methods. The theories and methods are constantly evolving in the ELT. The teachers of the ELT are aware of the best practices in teaching and learning English and how they can be made beneficial to the students. It is possible for every child to learn English in the most enjoyable manner

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