

New Trends in English Pedagogy - Role of an English Teacher

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“There is nothing permanent except change” – Heraclitus

Change is the law of nature. A trend is the general tendency towards change. Everything in this modern world changes according to the needs and technological advancements. There is a seasonal change, fashion also changes, human being's attitudes change teaching and learning styles also change with the passage of time. The newer trends that have emerged in the field of education have entirely changed the face of traditional system of education, but in the last century English curriculum has hardly seen any change. There is a dire need for English language to be in the process of transition because English is the common means of communication among the people of different nations. It is a global language, and the Official Language of 53 Countries 400 million people around the world speak English as their first language. Learning English as a second language for most of the people does not come naturally, and one has to put in a lot of effort to have proficiency. Thus for a better future of language education there is a need to bring in new changes at an ever-increasing rate which are based on new trends in teaching and learning this language. English language has created a great impact in the modern era. It has been proved as a functional language in many fields.

Traditional notions of education are to give way to the new and more innovative ways of thinking about how we teach, learn and acquire language. Now-a-days, an English language teacher has to give up traditional methods and needs to adopt innovative, techno-based methods to teach English language. As we all know the teaching English as a second language is quite a challenging task for the teacher in modern era, as an English teacher has to act as a facilitator, communicator, motivator, mentor as well as a guide. There are many responsibilities that a language teacher shares apart from Pedagogical knowledge, like creating a learning atmosphere, developing interest, motivating students, making use of technology in teaching, and creating stress-free environment for pedagogical positive learning.

As teaching English language is a challenging task for the teacher in this modern era, the innovative methods are of great help to face these challenges as these innovative methods make the teachers effectively efficient and the help students by enabling them to learn English in an effective and easy manner. The new trends that make language learning and teaching easier are as follows:

Blended Learning: As we know teaching cannot be defined separately from learning. It is guiding and facilitating learning, enabling the learner to learn' (Brown, 2000). Thus teacher's role becomes multidimensional as they not only teach, instruct, guide, motivate, but also facilitate learners in their learning and support them throughout the journey of their learning. A blended approach helps teachers to respond more easily to learners' different styles by maximizing their strengths in every environment. It is easy for the teachers to prepare themselves to take into account such learning styles of their learners for this they can take help of pictures images and audio or verbal, they can also give their students reading text or ask learners to prepare an oral or written text. using an inductive approach to grammar like short instructional videos which may explain grammar concepts. Texts for Reading and Listening can be used that may help to develop vocabulary and enhance their comprehension. Videos and TV shows along with some educational plays or movies which students can watch at home which are followed by group discussions in the class. worksheets that are available online with feedback that students can be asked to complete along with remediation and practice.

Language Games :As per an old Chinese proverb “Tell me, and I’ll forget. Show me, and I may remember. Involve me, and I’ll understand.”, learning a language is no longer a rote memorization rather it is the process of imbibing the necessary language skills. Games can be an alternative route to learning a language as it is pleasurable for young children to get delighted in playing a game, and enjoy themselves while unconsciously they acquire an array of language skills. Games offer a dynamic learning atmosphere for learning English language as they require strategic thinking. Teachers can refine all the basic language skills of their students along with the improvement in pronunciation, spelling, grammar and syntax all at their power. During that time the element of enjoyable competitiveness works as a catalyst to get students practicing the language more frequently. Further the progress in the game helps students in learning more of the language, so as to reach higher level skills in their target language. A study in 2003 by the language acquisition experts, published in Asian EFL Journal. revealed that the students reported that games are: Time effective, have Fun and enjoyable, a source of meaningful context for language use, enhances learning motivation and communicative competence, lessens anxiety, helps to Integrate numerous linguistic skills: reading, listening, speaking and writing and creates a positive attitude towards learning English as a second language.

Skill based Activities: Teachers can have the idea of performance-based activities by creating exhibits and fairs for displaying student's work. Examples include things like grammar and vocabulary games fair. Teaching reading, speaking, and writing skills in an explicit way is the best way of preparing students for life and careers as Skill-based instruction ensures a good amount of instructional discourse time is dedicated to teaching students how to listen, speak, read, think, and write, in all subjects. Skill-based instruction will help students to move towards independence and trains them how to think at different levels, solve problems, and perform on their various academic tasks with success.

Mobile learning mobile phone is a useful tool for audio recording as here Learners can record themselves and later they can share it with friends, for feedback. This is a great opportunity to practice pronunciation, stress, accent, and intonation Learners can also record their acts as role-plays and can assess their verbal and non-verbal abilities on wide range of topics and integrate them into their projects' Learners can also make use of the microphone creatively, and incorporate voice recordings into edited videos for listening drills.

Learning by apps: the new mobile apps in the market are of great help for the kids to learn a foreign language they are helpful for children as they become more creative, more flexible, and are engaged in problem solving. Children can play their way through the games and lessons based on stories and tales. They can further explore and learn many different languages while using these apps, and kids will earn points for correct answers and race against time to level up, like one such app is the Little Pim series which is based on a collection of language learning videos that focus on teaching children the essential building blocks of a language.

Learning through Enquiry: This method is based on the idea that the learners can be given a question or a problem, which they have to solve by investigating and researching out the facts hidden in the content. They further learn how to develop and interpret the content through enquiry, special skills of comprehension and interpretation can be developed through this process. With the help of this approach teachers can promote learner's autonomy of thinking. The teachers as facilitators provide support to their students at all levels particularly at initial stages of enquiry.

Discovery based learning: Although, the Discovery-based learning is one such methods where there is very little participation of the teacher as here the students are not given the answers but rather the means to reach the answer. It is a method that helps the learners to discover the real facts by interacting and investigating with the environment around them, they are made to explore and perform experiments in order to reach the final results. In this method students can take help of internet and multimedia tools. Since it is one of the "21st century learning," styles that's why it can be easily used by the teachers to motivate the students.

Content and Language Integrated Learning It helps in providing a great exposure to the language where no extra time is required in studying the curriculum, which can be of particular interest in vocational settings." This approach involves learning content and concept based subjects like history, geography, sciences or others, through a language. It is based on theme based learning method which is very successful in enhancing the learning of languages sling with other subjects, and helps students develop a positive attitude for themselves as language learners. They learn language while studying subject matter of distinct subjects. Here teachers can engage students by organization of concept based Debates and Exhibitions or giving them essay writing on the subject content.

Conclusion

Thus it can be concluded that the use of new teaching techniques and methods plays an important role in effective teaching and learning. Due to individual differences students learn in different ways, therefore, introduction of new techniques helps students overcome all learning problems. Thus teachers of English language can use the above methods and make their teaching more efficient and effective.

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