



## Innovative Ways of English Classroom Teaching

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“Classroom is the centre of the world development.”

During the last two decades the world has been rapidly getting smaller – a global village with USA as its headman. Quite expectedly, in this era of globalization, one has to transact business through the medium of English. English has also occupied the most dominant place in the educational system of India. Its necessity is felt in the academia, industry, trade etc. It is the language which is understood by the people in all over the world. In fact, English is the key which opens the gates of western sciences and arts for Indian people. By learning English, we can step into the western sciences and arts. It opens a wide window of the international world relations for us. If we close this window, we will shut ourselves up in the four walls of the nationality. Its study gives an opportunity to get employment not only in India but also in other countries.

For the purpose of oral communication, English has become the most effective language in this fast changing world. If the students will not learn English properly, it is difficult for them to cope with the wide world. Therefore, to empower students through spoken English has also become a challenge for the English teachers throughout India, where English is nobody's mother tongue is preferred in most schools and colleges for almost all the subjects. English is offered as a subject for very few periods in a week. Besides these periods, the majority of our students do not get any environment where they are supposed to speak in English. So, for them, there is no opportunity for the fluency in English.

So the world beyond the institution's premises is quite harsh to our non – speaking students. Interaction has taken a major role through different modes of communication and the most effective mode is conversation. It is, therefore, pragmatic that a fresh look at the English teaching – learning situation be made and a congenial situation be ensured in order to improve the spoken skills of our students in English.

First of all, we should be very careful about the curriculum design. But in the recent time, the curriculum, as well as, the course book, is prescribed for the students without recognizing their needs, aspiration, aptitude and taste. Generally, some politically motivated educationists loyal to the ruling party are given the task of framing the syllabus for the language – learners. Therefore, this extra – academic preference of the syllabus – framers ultimately scales down their much – needed attention on the learners' interest.

This article attempts to focus on some situations and evolve some guidelines relevant to an ESL classroom in order to motivate and develop the skills of the students. The teachers are true motivators. They can motivate the students and make sure that they become involved in the learning process.

Claxton and Murrell are of the opinion that if the teacher's instructional style and the students' learning style match, there is usually a productive language – learning environment. It is important that the teacher should be aware of the learning style preferences of the students and accordingly adjust his/ her own method of teaching. Boylan opines that when teachers are conscious of the learning methods, it becomes more productive which they are going to apply in a language class. In the same way, Davis, another significant researcher in this area, gives suggestion that students can be taught what methods the teachers are going to apply in the language class. It improves the learning efficiency no matter what style the teacher uses. As students practice a variety of activities, they become aware of various techniques that can be used. If the teacher specifically demonstrates the various methods in the classroom, the ability to use these different methods will enhance the ability of the students. A teacher should try to provide a variety of learning experiences to accommodate the various learning styles that exist in an average language classroom.

Generally, in teaching – learning process, both the teacher and the students are not interested in learning English as a language, an important tool for communication but their aim is to score high marks in the examination and not to speak fluently. At this time, it is the duty of the teacher to teach English in such a way that the whole classroom atmosphere become alive and students may also automatically start to speak in English. The various methods which we can be adopted in the classroom by the teacher are asking questions, word games, declaring classroom as an English zone, celebration of English Day, oral presentation on various topics, conducting debates, describing various pictures, storytelling, narrating the unforgettable moments of our life, role play, discussion on a particular topic etc.

It is high time to adopt new methods to teach English in order to improve the fluency of the language among the students. Let us know some of the important methods of English language teaching that can be applied in the classroom for effective teaching.



### ❖ **Opinion of the students**

Students should be in the centre of the classroom. So, the teacher will encourage the students to give their opinions. So, the classroom activity shall be started with the opinion of the students on a particular topic instead of giving the definition for those topics by the teacher. Once the students finish giving their opinion, the teacher can start modifying their sentences and begin the definition with their own point of view. In this way, the teacher will make the classroom alive. It will encourage the students to start thinking and expressing independently. It gives a chance to them to share their ideas on a particular topic.]

### ❖ **Word Games**

A strong sense of vocabulary is essential for effective communication. Word games develop vocabulary among the students, and the students may learn maximum words with great interest. We can adopt various methods in teaching new words like-

- ✓ The teacher may give a long word and the students may be asked to form as many words as possible from that.
- ✓ A word with jumbled letters may be given and the students need to rearrange the letters in order to find the meaningful word.
- ✓ A word may be given which may have its own prefix or suffix with necessary clue. The students may be instructed to fix the appropriate prefix or suffix.
- ✓ Some words may be highlighted from the paragraph. Students have to guess what the highlighted words mean and write their answers. The purpose of this exercise is to help the students understand the meaning of the words and its usage.
- ✓ Crosswords: in crossword and puzzles, letters are to be given with the help of clues and students are asked to solve these puzzles. Later on answer can be verified.
- ✓ Students are asked to write synonyms and antonyms of the given words.

With the help of these exercises, students will be conscious and eager to learn more and more words enthusiastically. Such exercises will help the students to remember the words with exact meaning.

### ❖ **Declaring Classroom as an English Zone or English Day Celebration**

For effective classroom teaching, the teacher should declare classroom as an English Zone where all the students have to speak English compulsorily. The teacher may declare the classroom as English Zone, so that the students will be forced to use English as communicative language when they talk or discuss with each other. Necessary instructions must be given that anyone who comes into the English Zone needs to speak only in English. We can also celebrate the whole day as an English Day. Continuous monitoring is required to maintain the momentum. In this way, students are forced to practice the language which leads them towards perfection.

### ❖ **Oral presentation by the students**

For the fluency, perfection and accuracy in English, oral presentation by the students is the best way. In this activity, the teacher may ask the students to give a short speech in front of other students on a particular topic. The students may be allowed to choose the topic and enough time is to be given for preparation. This exercise will definitely reduce the stage fear and develop the confidence among the students. It will also improve their presentation skill.

### ❖ **Debate**

Debate develops the quality of arguments in English among the students which leads them towards perfection in English. Based on the interest of the students the topic may be selected and the class can be divided into two groups to support and oppose the topic. The teacher should be a referee and must have the controlling power over the students because sometimes the students may come out with emotional thoughts. The important aspect of this activity is to give an opportunity to all the students to express their views freely. This activity will trigger their thought process which will help them to express their views spontaneously. Through this activity, the students can argue fearlessly which will lead them towards fluency in English.

### ❖ **Describing or Narrating the Pictures or Moments**

The students may be asked to describe cartoon pictures or newspaper ads in one or more paragraphs. It will trigger the imagination of the students. The teacher may also ask them to narrate one of the unforgettable moments of their life. Even by showing two different pictures, the teacher will encourage them for comparative study which will enhance the thinking power of the students. This will enable them to give a short speech without any preparation.

### ❖ **Short Story from given Points**

In this activity, the teacher may ask the students to tell a short story from the given points. They can choose the story but it should not be repeated. It will help them to speak continuously to give a complete story. If it is a short speech, they can forget the points in between but somehow they can manage whereas in short story they have to use their own sentences to tell the complete



story using their vocabulary power. The teacher may also give jumbled sentences about a short story and encourage the students to rearrange them in the chronological way.

#### ❖ **Role Play**

English language + Body language = Role Play

This exercise will help the students to improve their body language along with the fluency of English. Two or three members may be selected to play the role of a given situation. The students need to imagine the situation given and come out with their own way of managing it. Once they are ready with the script, they need to play the role assigned to each one.

#### ❖ **Feedback**

Feedback is an effective tool of motivation. The activities need to be conducted in a very friendly environment which is very much conducive to help the students to overcome the internal fear. The activity must be observed with greater commitment followed by observer's feedback. Remarks of the feedback should be positive in such a way that the students get tremendous amount of motivation. This makes them learn the language better and faster.

The methods and tools discussed above will definitely have good impact on the young mind of learners to improve their communicative capability. In order to make the students compete in the competitive world, the teachers are expected to adopt these types of innovative methods in English teaching. Students have many books available everywhere to improve communication but practice makes man perfect.

#### **REFERENCES**

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