

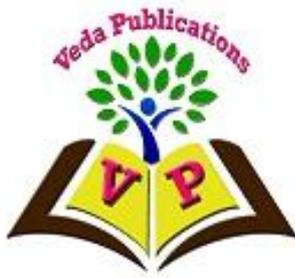


USE OF LITERATURE IN A LANGUAGE CLASSROOM ENHANCE THE CRITICAL THINKING ABILITY AND BASIC SKILLS

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ABSTRACT



Literature in a language classroom motivates and inspires the learners to interpret the emotions, thoughts and introspect within themselves. It has much impact on their minds and encourages the learner to develop on their own experiences and make them to think critically. Literature and language go hand in hand, develop three basic skills reading, writing and speaking with the help of a literary text which is a rich source of class room activity. This paper focuses on how the literature in a language classroom enhances the critical thinking ability and basic skills.

Keywords: *Motivates, Critical Thinking, Basic Skills*

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According to Boas " Literature is the record of experience interpreted by personality that behind every book which the race has preserved is a human being's eager effort to give life meaning, to create beauty, to express vivid emotions and ideas, to make men aware of themselves and the life they lead".

Language is used in communication, the best way to learn a language is through communicative and conversational activities in a class room. The inclusion of literature in a language class may provide opportunities to improve experience and use the language more creatively and to develop awareness of the language and the learner start to analyse it critically.

The purpose of using literature in a language class is to make the class interactive and improve communicative ability of the learners. The foremost thing that should be happened in a classroom is the learner should involve in a language class emotionally or creatively, respond and react whether it is with the text or the materials used.

Literature has been widely used teaching tool in different language teaching methods. Brumfit and Carter said the role of literature as "an ally of language". The use of literature in a language classroom is to increase the skill of critical thinking ability of the learners. With the help of literary texts the critical ability of the learner is opened, encompasses every

human dilemma, conflict. It is proved to be rich source and motivating learners to a classroom activity. Critical thinking involves analyzing, drawing inferences, synthesizing and evaluating concepts and information in the texts. The literature class gives an opportunity to the learner to engage in discussions, to express their own ideas about life, relationships, values, beliefs, interests, dislikes and the style of writing – humorous or tragic. The learner learn how to analyse text based on logical reasoning.

Language teaching is incomplete without literature. The earlier generations had solid foundation in language, because they learnt classics written by literary writers like Shakespeare, Wordsworth etc. Unfortunately, the modern generation does not have any exposure to classics. This severely hampers not only their intellectual growth but also emotional growth.

Duff and Maley (2007) also propose easy tasks to stimulate the interest of students. One should proceed gradually from easy tasks to difficult tasks. Duff and Maley (2007) also emphasize the importance of varying task difficulty as well as text difficulty:

- Level 1 Simple text + low level task
- Level 2 Simple text + more demanding task
- Level 3 Difficult text + low level task
- Level 4 Difficult text + more demanding task



Various genres of literature like short stories, poems, novels, plays etc can be used effectively in the ELT classroom to make learning a joyful experience for students. Literary texts enrich the learners language in the classroom and stimulate language acquisition by providing meaningful and memorable contexts for processing and interpreting new language (Lazar,1993: 17) Literary texts can be studied in their original forms or in simplified or abridged versions. An increasing number of stories in English are written specifically for learners of other languages. The types of literary texts that can be studied inside and outside the ELT classroom include: short stories, novels, plays, song lyrics. The basic skills like reading, speaking and writing is developed by all these to the learner in a class room.

CONCLUSION

Literature is inspiring, beautiful, eloquent, and memorable. It deals with the big universal experiences of human life: love, death, sexuality, sickness, religion, childhood, friendship, and so forth. Critical thinking and basic skills are developed by only literature in a language classroom.

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