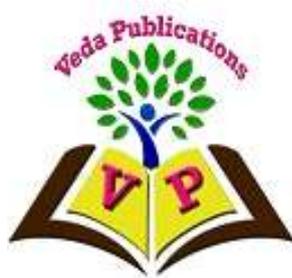


A CRITICAL ASPECTS IN TEACHING ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT



Language is an unquestionable prerequisite for human communications. It is an indispensable and universal component of the cultural system of all societies. English is an international language in that it is the most widespread medium of international communication, both because of the number and geographical spread of its speakers, and because of the large number of non-native speakers who use it for part at least of their international contact.

The present paper strongly focuses on how the teaching aids are playing a focal role in teaching English. Some of the modern teaching aids are highlighted and how they are useful both to teach and learn a language effectively.

Keywords: *English, Teaching, Audio – Visual Aids.*



Teaching aids are a boon for a teacher in making his or her task easy in making students to understand a concept. Teaching aids involve in the use of the senses of hearing and sight. Scientists through their research estimated 86% of the learning process of an individual depends on the senses in learning process. A baby after birth at the beginning tries to learn things by his or her senses. First through the sense of sight he or she is able to identify mother and other family members. Slowly the baby is able to hear sounds and learn to respond them which finally help the baby to speak small words. After that, the senses coupled with mind leading to perception of the child. Learning through senses is more permanent than mechanical learning. At the same time, one has to keep in mind that teaching aids have to be used as aids to supplement teaching but should not be used to replace the teacher itself which otherwise will have a detrimental affect on the learning process of students.

Audio – Visual aids used for this purpose will make use of the senses of hearing and sight of the student. This will ensure quick and effective learning. For example, a social teacher if he uses a globe model in his teaching the students feel the lesson will be more real and interesting. They can learn things like shape of the earth, the various aspects of the earth like latitudes, longitudes, poles etc. more effectively.

It saves the time of the teacher in teaching his or her lesson as well as it makes the learning process of the students more solid and durable. A biology teacher who is teaching about the digestive system of man may do it by drawing the diagram of the same on the board. But this consume much of this time of his period for drawing the diagram with no time left for the teacher to explain. but using a chart for this purpose saves his time as well as it makes the teaching more interesting.

Using aids will remove the barrier of the class room walls by bringing vivid reality into the class room. For example, the specimens of various animals and plants stored in sealed bottles were shown to the students for teaching a biology lesson will arouse interest and enthusiasm as well as the scope of their learning.

Using visual aids will help slow learners or those who lack power of concentration to learn things by way of

doing practically. It provides a firsthand experience to see a demonstration handle the apparatus and perform the experiments by themselves, prepare charts, models etc. Audio – Visual aids provide variety to teaching. They save time and energy of the teacher.

ROLE OF AUDIO – VISUAL AIDS

The following are the advantages of teaching through audio-visual aids.

- They bring pupil in direct contact with object and make classroom environment lively.
- They reduce over dependence on another tongue.
- They help to avoid excessive, empty and meaningless verbalization in teaching English.
- They help to strengthen the pupil's memory by evoking all his senses.
- They clarify the subject matter.
- They stimulate interest in learning new things.

Kinds of new things:

Teaching aids are of three types, they are:

- Visual aids
- Audio aids.
- Audio-visual aids.

The different types of visual aids are:

- Black Board /Chalk Board
- Charts
- Models
- Flash cards
- Bulletin board
- Flannel board
- Pictures.

Black Board:

The black board is the oldest method and most widely used teaching aid. It is also the best friend and is used in a variety of ways. Its uses are innumerable and increase with the imagination of the teacher. The richer the imagination, the greater the use of the Black board. Almost everything can be written on the blackboard-words, word groups, sentences, substitution tables, grammar items comprehension questions etc. on the blackboard everything should be written with care.

**Effective use of black board:**

We find that black board is the most common teaching aid used by the teacher for writing important points, drawing illustrations, solving problems, etc. The English teacher should keep some points in mind to use the black board effectively. One must write in a clear and legible handwriting, the important points on the blackboard and overcrowding of information on the blackboard must be avoided.

Bulletin board:

It is a display board on which learning material on some topic is displaying. It is generally of the size of a blackboard but sometimes even smaller depending on the wall space available. It is generally in the form of a framed soft board or straw board or corkboard or rubber sheets. Such bulletin boards can be specified for individual branches or even for some specified topics and such a board can also be used for displaying the best work of students.

How to use a bulletin board:

A bulletin board as an important teaching aid should be used for creating interest among students on specific topics. For effective use of bulletin board as a teaching aid following points must be kept in mind. Effort must be made jointly by the teacher and the students to procure material from various sources on a given subject or topic. Before displaying the material on the board the teacher must sort out the material relevant to a specific subject or topic.

Flannel board:

It is also sometimes referred to as flannel graph or felt board. It is made of wood, cardboard or straw board covered with colored flannel or woolen cloth. It is one of the latest devices effectively used for science and language teaching. Displaying materials like cutouts, pictures, drawings and light objects backed with rough surfaces like sand paper strips, flannel strips etc. will stick to flannel board temporarily.

Advantages of flannel board:

It is quite economical and easy to handle and operate. The pictures or cuttings can be easily fixed and removed when required without spoiling the material. Thus same material can be used for display many a time. Any display material on the

board holds the interest of the students and arrests their attention. Such boards enable a teacher to talk along with changing illustrations to develop a lesson.

Flash Cards:

Flash cards as the name suggests, are meant for flashing the cards before the students for various purposes. Flash cards are thick cards on which pictures are printed or drawn. The picture may have its name below it. Whether to write the name of the picture or not depends on the purpose for which the flash card is going to be used. Flash cards may also contain words phrases, sentences and vocabulary items. The teacher must flash the cards before the students for a very short duration and students must read the words on the cards with great speed. These cards add to the student's motivation and interest in learning the language.

Charts, Pictures and Models:

Charts, pictures and models are also important teaching aids. They can be made quickly and have a better appeal.

THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF AUDIO-AIDS

1. Radio
2. Gramophone
3. Tape recorder

Radio:

All India Radio has in its regular feature some programmes meant for school children. In such a programme generally talks on educational matters or on English topics are broadcasted. Such a talk is quite useful for students also for English teacher.

Gramophone:

Another teaching aid available to an English teacher is records of short talks on interesting topics by eminent poets, writers etc. These talks provide the inspiration to the students and such a talk once recorded can be used again and again.

Tape Recorder:

A tape recorder is a source of good pronunciation for students to listen and to imitate. Audiocassettes are also available for this purpose. The teacher of English can recite rhymes, poems, important materials recorded at home and play them in the classroom. To improve the speed of students reading a passage, the teacher should read it at the desired speed and record it on a cassette tape bring it to the classroom and ask the students to read the passage



along with the cassette player. They also learn where to pause while reading.

THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS

1. Television.
2. Film –Projector
3. Over Head Projector.
4. LCD Projector.

Television:

This is a multisensory audio visual teaching aid. The State institute of educational technology, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad and Doordarshan Kendra Hyderabad has been telecasting programs for teachers and students of primary schools. If a Video Cassette recorder is available in the schools, the TV Programme can be recorded and watched once again for the benefit of slow learners in the class.

Film-Projector:

This machine is used for showing films, some good films are available and they can be had on loan sometimes even free of charge from the sources like central film library, NCERT, New Delhi.

Over Head Projector:

OHP is a small machine designed to project an image into a small screen or whiteboard. If you have a screen, which can be placed above the whiteboard and pulled down accordingly, it will stop the glare. The materials we normally use with it are pens, which can either be permanent, or cleanable. In addition to these there are transparencies (OHP) which you can write or draw on, and a special type of transparency which a text or image can be photocopied into. Over Head Projector are used in the classroom teaching to show some important materials on the screen. Transparent sheets are used to show some diagrams, pictures or other information. Now they are replaced by LCD Projectors.

LCD Projector. :

Computers have become an integral part of the classroom teaching environment in 21st Century offering new opportunities and challenges to students. Certain methods of teaching with computers in the classroom can provide students with maximum benefits. So, the LCD projector will be the useful tool in the classroom. This classroom projector will get the most reluctant learner that is

involved with a lesson. We can able to use it for various purposes, across all the curricula, and also with all the group. While it was the expensive tool when it first came out, nowadays LCD is much affordable. LCD projectors are widely used in the classroom teaching almost in every educational institution. it is the best Audio-Visual aid.

LIMITATIONS FOR THE USE OF AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS:

- Some aids are costly and cannot be afforded by many schools.
- The teachers are required to know the technical skills required to handle them.
- Some teacher over use them.
- They give an impersonal effect, which is less effective.

CONCLUSION

According to Willis (1993), effective teaching at a distance is “more the result of preparation than innovation.” The development on of distance instruction uses the core content of the class which remains unchanged. The presentation of that material becomes the focus of planning.

Since distance education via interactive video is a relatively new phenomenon, instructors have been forced to adapt quickly to the technology and instructional changes. A secondary concern for many has been considering personal- instructional strategies for effective teaching and presentation. Although relatively parse, literature is now appearing which addresses this issue for instructors. Following are suggestions from several distance educators which can guide and provide assistance to the novice distance instructor.

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