

THE GAME OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

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Abstract

This paper says that language is not just a medium of communication but it is a human identity. It speaks about the relationship between a language and its speakers. This paper analyses the cultural importance of a language. It stresses that every language has its own culture from which that language blooms. It substantiates that we cannot have a language without a culture. This paper gives the historical account of how English Education and English Medium Education were introduced in India. It explains the reasons why English should be learnt in India and discusses the strategy to be adopted for the English Teaching methodology. This paper advocates for the Structural Methodology also says that Structural Methodology will ease the learning of Spoken English. This paper delineates the importance of language games in English Language Teaching and shows some samples of language games which can be adopted in English Language Teaching. It gives insight into English Grammar Teaching also.

Introduction

The Human identity is language. Language only makes man. One who is not able to speak also uses sign language. Though everyman is an individual, he is a part and parcel of this society and individuals make this society by conversing among themselves. Conversation takes place through language only. All creatures, animals, birds even plants and trees converse among themselves using their own languages. Plants and trees speak through their flowers and fruits. So language is essential to everyone to live. We can say that we live till we use language. When we don't use language, either of words or of signs, we become dead So, Language is the soul of every man.

Language of Society

Every individual has his own Language. As man lives in a society, he needs a common language to converse with everyone. Man has his own culture, civilization and way of life. All these things are possible only because of language. Language here is a tool to share his thoughts and receive others' also. Sharing, caring, receiving, generalization are involved in the making of a society with its own culture and civilization. To have such sharing, we require a common platform; that common platform is the common language. In general, a language is a tool to communicate. But language is more than a tool and it becomes our pride when we attach cultural significance. Now English language has become a pride of every one. It is resulted because of our slavery to the English rulers for more than two hundred years; we are educated and trained unknowingly and unconsciously to look at our English rulers high and ourselves low. This is the intelligence which is being played upon us.

English, the Pride

The English language has become the pride now as it plays a vital role in global communication. The whole world now has become a small village with no confinements of country, religion or continent. There is a universal dress code, a food code and a language code. The Universal language code is the English Language. As English people ruled majority of the world countries, people of different parts of the world are exposed to English language. English was the rulers' language and also official language. There is no other opportunity for the people who were under British rule other than using English for official communication and as it is a prestige to speak in English, people everywhere started using English for all their purposes. As speaking in English was necessary and prestige, it has become the pride of everyone in many parts of the world.

In India people speak many languages. These languages are resulted as they follow different cultures. Language and culture are twin born. Every culture has its own language. In a country like India with diverse culture and many languages, a common language is needed to share our ideas and to converse with each other. As many people study English out of necessity, the English language naturally becomes the common language of India. English is the unifying factor in India. We become aware of our neighbor states only with English language.

English, a Global Vehicle

Many parts of the world use English and they are exposed to this language. Anyone can ride the world with English, All scientific inventions and discoveries, medicinal findings by world organizations are published in English. Socio economic reformations, world history, universal appeals are made in English only. As invention is the mother of necessity, people unconsciously are forced towards English. What is life? Life is after all linguistic reception and giving, in Toto it is a sharing linguistically. when one language -English - is learnt, you are provided with everything, all that you need, the life; the life of education, invention, employment, discoveries, socialization, economic development, you are, not a man of village but a man of global village. You experience and enjoy the globe by riding on English, the global vehicle.

English Education in India

The English education was introduced by the British Government by the English Education Act. It was a legislative Act of the Council of India in 1835 by Lord William Bentinck, the then Governor General of India. According to this act, British parliament reallocated funds to East India Company to spend on English Education in India. This act permitted the rulers to support the institutions teaching a western curriculum with English as the medium of instruction. English was provided as the language of administration and of the higher law court. This made English as the one of the Indian languages rather than a language of foreign rulers.

Regarding this, according to this English Education Act, 1835, Lord McCauley put forth some recommendations to promote English medium education. He recommended to produce “ a class of persons Indian in blood and color, but English in taste, in morals and in intellect so that they would act as tools to transmit western learning in the vernacular languages of India, He also recommended to stop immediately the printing of Arabic and Sanskrit books by the East India Company. He, by it, established that western learning was superior and the Indians could be taught through the medium of English. This is how English Education and English Medium Education invaded India.

Importance of English in India

All materials in higher studies are printed in English as it has a global vision; Science, medicine and engineering subjects have global applications. This International Community which has several languages needs a common language to share the knowledge. Literature of one country may be available in other countries only with English as it is a global language. Modern day technology advancements like internet are available in English. English is the only ladder to rise to the global height. In country like India we have many languages with different cultures and it is our ego prevents us from accepting one of our Indian languages as official language and national language. There arises the problem of a language, common to all. We, as exposed to English, it becomes a natural choice for all Indians to converse with all our Indian brethrens and we can have a global touch also. Though this world has shrunk as a global village, it is divided as countries with different languages and cultures. But the global wisdom is printed mostly in English. To avail this wisdom, everyone in India needs English. To have scientific advancements and to compete with other countries, English is the only tool. The Role of English in India is significant not only in Science and Technology, Literature and Philosophy but in its Unity in Diversity. India is a land of Multi-Cultural and Multi- lingual one. Here one's language is Greek and Latin to the other. English is the Unifying factor for all Indians. And hence Unity in Diversity prevails in India through English Only. So English is used for scientific, commercial and philosophical purposes to fulfill the international needs in India.

Teaching Methodology of English Language

In India, English is taught for two purposes. One is to acquire global Knowledge of various subjects and the second is for communication globally. So, our teaching strategy should adopt these two purposes. Learning of mother tongue does not require this classification as communication skill in mother tongue is embedded naturally with the society. But English as an alien one, it needs special effort to acquire communication skill in it. English teaching strategy should aim at wiping out the alienness of English; it should be as natural as our mother tongue. Spontaneity should be created with the methodology of English Teaching in Indian Schools.

Structural Method

This is used to develop communication skills in English. To communicate in English, we may develop some structures which are used in conversations. All structures don't need grammar application to learn. English conversational structures should be introduced as how mother tongue is introduced to an infant. Everyone learns his/her mother tongue without learning any grammatical theory. It is a spontaneous learning. The beginners of English learning may be introduced with the following structures:

1. What is your name? / father name / mother name?
2. What are you?
3. What is your father? / Mother? /
4. How many brothers and sisters are there in our family?
5. What is your ambition in your life?
6. Who is your class teacher?
7. Where are you studying?
8. How many teachers are working in your school?
9. Who is the Headmaster of your school?

These examples are some samples and more such sentences may be suggested to make the students familiar with conversation of different situations. The students may be involved in imaginary conversations as performing role play. This is to develop communication skills.

Games in English Language Teaching

To make English Language Teaching an interesting one, we can include games in our teaching. The games should involve the students physically and mentally also; they should go around the class to fulfill their gaming activity. These games may be used either to introduce a concept or for evaluating the Understanding of the student of what the teacher has thought. It should create a healthy competition among the students to find out the answers for the game. To achieve this, some of the following games may be introduced:

Word Disorder Run

This is a wonderful game which involves everyone in a healthy competition to run for a right answer. This can be played by all age groups. It may be used for practicing tenses, word order, reading and writing skills and to introduce sentence structures.

How to play? :

1. The class Students may be divided into five groups.
2. Write ten Sentences on charts and cut them out into words.
3. Split words into four groups randomly in equal numbers and keep them in bowls and place each bowl at each corner of the class.
4. Members of each team go to all corners and search for words to make complete sentence.
5. This game warrants team co ordination and inculcates team spirit.
6. The team which find more sentences will be declared winning team.

Identifying White Sheep

This great game will encourage reading practice and sentence structure. Tense and voice of a sentence will be identified. This game will be useful in practicing all types of grammar exercises. This game is applicable to young learners.

How to Play?:

1. A particular sentence from the text book should be written on a chart for ten times.
2. All ten sentences may be cut out as words and mixed in a big bucket.
3. These will be equally divided into five groups and place in five boxes on a long bench.
4. All students may try to find out the sentence.
5. The student who finds the sentence first is the winner.

I am an Actor

This game is used to test the knowledge of preposition after teaching the preposition. This game is applicable to the learners of all ages. As this involves body movement, this will be attractive to all students.

How to Play:

1. The whole class may be grouped in fives.
2. Choose one student from each group.
3. The selected student should imagine that he has a ball in his hand.
4. He should act as if he is doing many actions with the ball like throwing it out of the class, let it fall down, pushing it towards a student and like that.
5. The other members of his group should describe these actions using prepositions.
6. The group which says maximum sentences right is the winner.
7. The members of the winner group may be rewarded with balls.

Made for Each Other

This is a beautiful game. This can be played by dividing the whole class into two groups. Each group may consist of at least ten members. This can be played to kindle competitive sense among students and will induce interest to know more and more phrasal verbs and it is a language part which makes our speech and writing beautiful.

How to play? :

1. Write a handful of phrasal verbs and split them into two parts.
2. Keep them in two big square boxes separately, first part in first box and second part in second box
3. The class students may be divided into two groups consisting of ten members each and be named as Team A and Team B.
4. One member from Team A Should select a word from the box A.
5. One member from Team B should pick up another word so that we can have a phrasal verb.
6. One of the remaining Team A member should give the meaning for the chosen phrasal verb. If they said the right meaning, Team A will be the winner. If not, Team B will be allowed to say the meaning. If they said the right meaning, Team B will be the winner.
7. The Team which scores more will be the winner.
8. This will develop team spirit and also competitive sense.

May be but it is not

This game can be played to develop spoken English. The whole class will be considered as one unit and one student will play the lead. Every student will be motivated to play the lead and by that way questioning and answering skills will be developed. This game will be played on grammar. All age students may be preferred to this game. How to play? :

1. This is a game between one and the other all.
2. One student of the class will be chosen.
3. The single student is one party and the remaining all will be the other party.
4. The student who plays the lead should ask a question relating to grammar.
5. The question may be as follows:
 - What do you mean by voice in the voice grammar?
 - What is a part of speech?
 - How will you connect all nouns with each other?
 - Can you explain why a noun is a proper noun and a noun is a common noun?

6. The leader should say to each answer as this may be but it is not.
 7. By saying like this, more responses will be elucidated from students.
 8. The one who elucidates more responses will be the winner.
 9. The player should choose question such that it will attract more responses.
- This game will be useful for vocabulary enrichment and comprehension skills.

Conclusion

With scientific advancement, we have a number of teaching methodologies. Though we have a number of such methods, nothing can be equal to the teaching of English Language through language games. Playing games makes everyone young and energetic and the players never get tired. They always grow young and beautiful. So, inclusion of games in English language teaching will also make learners happy and enthusiastic. English teaching should be a game and hence it is the Game of English Language Teaching.

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