
Teaching School Children to Become Fluent and Accurate Speakers

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Annotation: In this globalization era, there have been drastic changes taking place all over the world. These tremendous vicissitudes occur when people have a strong desire to achieve something. People's desires are fulfilled when they clearly express their ideas and opinions with others. Thus, they need to learn communication skills in order to fulfill their ambitions, desires, and goals. In this modern world, communication skills play a vital role and one must have mastery over these skills to get success in their respective fields. So, speaking is the most important skill among all the four language skills in order to communicate well in this global world.

Keywords: activities; communication; English classrooms; ELLs; speaking skills; strategies.

INTRODUCTION

In these modern days, the whole world has become a global village and people communicate with each other in a common language, i.e. English. The English language is spoken all over the world and it has attained the status of the global language¹. English is the language widely used in the field of scientific research, education, business, the internet, travel and tourism, media and newspapers, software, medicine, engineering, information and technology, entertainment, banking and so on. English is the language that is used mostly for business correspondence and internet purposes. It is the only major language used in writing scientific research articles as more than 85% of the research publications are in English. It is the international language used for trade and commerce. Even in the IT field also, most of the programmes are written in English and even they communicate with their colleagues or other software professionals those who work around the world in English. Furthermore, most of the books related to higher education are published in English. Due to several advantages of English, many people are learning the English language to attain fruitful results in their respective fields.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As English serves the purpose of international communication, most of the foreign language learners try to learn it. In this process, they have to acquire all the four basic skills of the language, viz. listening, speaking, reading and writing. Listening and reading are passive skills or receptive skills, whereas, speaking and writing are active skills or productive skills.

¹ Brown, H. D. Language Assessment Principles and Classroom Practices. London: Pearson Edition, 2004. Print.

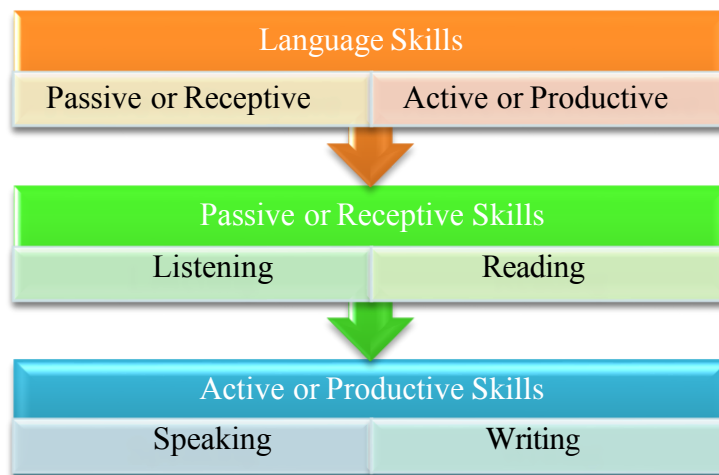


Fig: The Basic Language Skills of English²

Speaking skill is the most important skill to acquire foreign or second language learning. Among the four key language skills, speaking is deemed to be the most important skill in learning a foreign or second language. Brown and Yuke (1983) say, “Speaking is the skill that the pupils will be judged upon most in real life situations”. Regardless of its importance, teaching speaking skills have been undervalued and most of the EFL/ESL teachers have been continuing their teaching of speaking skills just as memorization of dialogues or repetition of drills. Nevertheless, the modern world demands for the requirement of communication skills for the learners and the English teachers have to teach the ELLs the needed skills so that they will improve their abilities in speaking and perform well in real-life situations³. In the present EFL/ESL teaching environment, oral skills are completely neglected whereas employability depends more on communication than technology. As very less priority has been given to the important elements of language such as phonological, morphological, semantic and syntactic aspects, it has become a major impediment for the ELLs to acquire the speaking skills among the learners of English. So far, more concentration has been given to reading and writing skills. After realizing the importance of oral communication skills, more emphasis is now laid on developing the speaking skills of the learners to pursue their studies successfully and excel in their fields once they finish their education. Moreover, English is the language of getting opportunities for employment and getting success to achieve the desired goals in life⁴.

Three Kinds of Speaking Situations

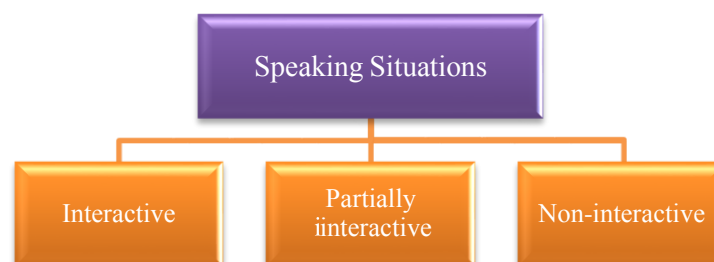


Fig: Three Kinds of Speaking Situations

² Bueno, A., D. Madrid and N. McLaren (eds.). TEFL in Secondary Education. Granada: Editorial Universidad de Granada, 2006. Print.

³ Harmer, J. The Practice of English Language Teaching. 4th ed. London: Longman, 2007. Print.

⁴ Iqbal, J. Four language skills. Retrieved from <http://writing.colostate.edu/guides/teaching/es>, 2012. Online.

The main advantages of speaking skills are:

- To participate actively in pair or group activities in the classrooms.
- To give a maiden and impressive speech on different occasions.
- To participate actively in debates and group discussions.
- To develop critical thinking among the learners.
- To pursue higher studies in foreign countries.
- To interact with people all around the globe.

Another technique to improve the speaking skills of the ELLs is to make them listen to music in English and sing along. Music is considered one of the best tools for learning intonation and pronunciation.

CONCLUSION

Speaking skills are the most important skills for ELLs as they are very useful for them in exhibiting their communication skills for various purposes. Hence, the teachers have to take a special interest in improving the speaking skills of the ELLs. For this purpose, the teachers have to refer to the latest material related to and try to adopt several techniques and approaches to develop the speaking skills of the learners in the English classrooms. The teachers should also choose appropriate material suitable for the level of the learners.

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