Creative Thinking of English Language Teaching to the Secondary Language Learners

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Abstract

Traditionally, giving lecture was the most widely used method of teaching. Teaching through chalk and talk method seems boredom and vague for the students. To teach English to the EFL/ESL students, Language teachers adapt novel and innovative ideas to create passion and to enhance the language skills of their wards. Creative teaching means using creative ways to encourage and motivate slow learners. Creative teaching helps for active participation of the students in the classroom. The implementation of creative classroom activities makes learning language an easy one for second language learners. Creative activities such as teaching through blogs, podcasting, and games provide an opportunity to the students to use their imagination and draw their interest in English. This paper proposes to analyze the various creative methods available and how to use it to the maximum in an English Classroom.

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1. Introduction

Creative thinking is the natural outcome of effective teaching. A good base in the content of the subject alone will not impress the student. The effectiveness and success of a teacher lie in the hands of the teacher by the way how he takes the subject to the students. Every person has the quality of creativity in his mind. The instructor must find it out and exhibit it in a sensible manner. Creative teaching is a complex skill, which can be acquired by adopting the following steps:

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1. Realizing the nature of creativity
2. Regular practice of our own creativity without imitation.
3. Using of teaching strategies that nurture creativity in our students.

Creativity is defined as the spontaneous expressions and original thinking of a person. Downing observes:
Learning and teaching involve a high level of interpersonal interaction building a rapport, sensing the student's feelings about a lesson or assignment and solving discipline problems without leaving a residue of bitter feeling are valuable skills some people naturally have in abundance.

2. Research Methods
The Creative Teaching Process
The process of teaching a subject effectively is the success of a teacher. There are various factors that involve in creative teaching. A person with creativity or a person with subject knowledge alone is not enough in the process of creative teaching. Creative teaching is the blend of creativity and subject knowledge, which makes the students grasp it easily. The processes that involve in creative teaching are:
1. Preparation
2. Incubation
3. Illumination
4. Elaboration
5. Verification.

3. Results and Analysis
Technology in Language Teaching
The use of powerpoint and whiteboard are capturing the attention of the students in the classroom. The Audience Response Test allows immediate feedback tests and classroom discussions. This article brings out the characteristic feature of educational technology and its impact on teaching and learning. It is natural for students to get tired after listening for a particular period of time. But machines would not get tired. This article throws light on the emerging need for the smart classroom.

The integration of technology was started in the early 1960s and 1970s. In the preliminary stage, people used tape recorders as a technological device to instruct the students, which later evolved as communication laboratory. Every day people are getting access to some new technologies, which they use for English teaching. As the conventional teaching methods such as the chalk and talk method are outdated, these new technologies can be used as supplements to the classroom teaching to have a lively atmosphere in the classroom. It is the need of the hour to integrate modern technologies to upgrade the level of English teaching. The modern technologies relax the mind of the students to get into the subject with full involvement. Indumathi observes:

New technologies in language learning by multiple intelligence and mixed abilities replace with old methods of teaching. In the multi-cultured community, the four basic skills are imparted in the teaching with a variety and novelty. Hence they are enthusiastic about learning the language. Language can be learned by imitation. So one should hear more to develop his/her listening skills. Naturally, they try to speak in the same styles as we learned our mother tongue.

The usage of Internet has brought tremendous change in the field of teaching and enhancing English learning. It is believed that people tend to forget everything within three days after they hear. Repetitive exercises are given to the students so that they retain the language skills.

How to Use these Technologies
Video Tapes
Scenes from popular English films can be screened first without any running script on the screen. Then the students are asked to identify the words, script etc., Again the scene will be repeated with the scripts on the screen. This kind of telecasting videotapes with and without script makes the students get familiar with the pronunciation, accent and word usage of English with interest. This method will make the students to repeat it again in their homes voluntarily.

Communication Labs

Softwares are available to develop LSRW skills. By incorporating suitable software through computers, the students will play it again and again with interest and try to improve their LSRW skills, which are essential in this modernized world. Listening skills make one to understand what another person speaks. Speaking skill is essential to convey the desire and idea of a person in the right way to the other. Reading skill is important to interpret what is given in the text. Writing is used to express our thoughts.

The usage of headphones in the lab makes the students have interest in the subject and induces them to repeat again and again instead of feeling bored. The communication lab provides freedom to the students so that the students need not depend on the teachers to enhance their skills. The students can have their own pace of learning and they can structure the learning process according to their needs. New software can be added and the students can view the technical developments instantly.

Video Conferencing

Videoconferencing is the method in which one person can access to the speeches of other persons in some other parts of the world. It is the live relay of a programme, which is mostly used to view the lecture of a professor who resides in a foreign country. In short, it is very helpful for the students to understand what is going on in this world and to hear the speech of the topmost personalities in a lively manner. The most notable point in video conferencing is that the students can post questions immediately and get their answers at once.

Video Library

Video Libraries are essential in our fast and modernized world. This is helpful for those students who miss some interesting sessions. In this process, the teaching of the faculty will be recorded and made available to the students. The students can view the tapes in their leisure hours. The advantage of this method is that students can replay it when there is a necessity.

Blogging

The Internet provides immense opportunities to the learners of English. The words 'web' and 'log' are combined to form the portmanteau word "Blog". The blog allows the viewers to post their queries and comments. The blog is especially useful for first-time users as it is easier for them to become members. The learners can become the members of a particular blogging community. In some blogs, the viewers can put videos and MP3. Spoken word entries can be made in blogs, which are audio friendly. This audio blogging may be linked to other blogs. Basically, a blog is an online journal because the student's thoughts, ideas, and opinions can be entered.

Blogging can be used for instructing the candidates when the teacher is off campus. The teacher can post his article or the instruction to the students, where the students are allowed to post their comments and queries. The teacher can answer the question through his blog. Blogging seems to be widely in use.

Messages through Mobile Phones

Mobile phones can also be utilized to enrich vocabulary skills by receiving new words daily. There are certain websites and services to provide new words every day. The only thing we have to do is that we should register our mobile number on the particular websites. This makes
the students get access to certain new words daily.

Call

The educational role of Computers in learning a second language and the role of CALL
(Computer Assisted Language Learning) are significant. The teacher can use the latest technologies, which have the potential to transform the students from passive recipients of information into active participants. CALL is defined as the search for and study of applications of the Computer in language teaching and learning. Rakesh Damir observes:

The linguistic ability of the students can be enhanced by employing powerful innovative technological resources. The Computer Assisted Language Teaching (CALT), Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) are a few methods, which utilize modern technical facilities to the fullest use of teaching in teaching system (84).

Tell

TELL is the use of computer technology including hardware, software and the Internet to enhance teaching and learning of languages. It allows the students to get access to all the technologies available for the enhancement of English learning. Students are allowed to use online dictionaries, chat, and to view the various happenings around the world.

Educational Satellites

In the colleges, Educational Satellite labs must be established, whereby satellite programs of educational value like UGC's countrywide classrooms, Anna University programmes and other worldwide programmes are recorded and students are given access to the recording either through a big screen or a small monitor.

Internet

The Internet is a commonly acknowledged term and widely used by people throughout the world. Students now use the Internet in the class to learn English. Online teaching inside the classroom seems to be interesting and makes the students find out the suitable materials for them. Students are instructed to do the grammar exercises which are available online. Through Internet, we can collect data from various sources for any instruction.

Podcasting

Podcasting is the integration of audio files where we can feed our own materials and ply it inside and outside of the classroom. Students use i-pods to hear their favorite music files. In the same way, they have their education in the form of entertainment. Vijayalakshmi observes:

Podcasting allows students to use their tech-based entertainment systems for educational purposes. With it, we are able to move away from the traditional face-to-face training without losing the student-to-trainer relationship that is so effective in any learning process. Podcasts enable students and teachers to share information with anyone at any time. An absent student can download the podcast of the recorded lesson and is able to access the missed lectures. They could also access lectures of experts which may not otherwise be available because of geographical distance and other reasons.

Websites for English Materials

We cannot depend on books only. When we need a particular piece of information, we have to go through all the textbooks we have. In this present age, everything seems to be simple and available at our fingertips.

The websites such as www.onestopenglish.com and www.nonstopenglish.com provide information regarding English. Pushp Lata and Sanjay Kumar observe:

It has become mandatory for the teachers of language and communication to adapt to the changed environment. In this direction, the appropriate use of OHP, LCD, Language laboratory and computer technology in communication courses, will help to enhance learners autonomy, develop fluency in speaking and improve proficiency in writing among students. Technology in teaching not only helps to store information but also allows students to monitor their own learning and continually evaluate their own performance (33).

4. Conclusion

Technology cannot take the place of the teacher completely in a classroom-learning situation. The modern tools are in addition to the inputs given by the teachers in the classrooms. The magic is real in that it helps the students to enhance their language learning in a fruitful way. Even the secondary language learners will acquire the knowledge and the comprehension mostly based upon their own creative thinking rather compare with recent technological tools.

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