

New Teaching Trends of English Language in the Class Room

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Abstract:

A trend is the general tendency or direction towards change. With a number of educational options available before the present generation learners, the newer trends seem to have emerged in the field of education that have entirely changed the face of traditional system of education. Recent trends, methodologies and developments portray the vital role of education sector in general with its internalization of the education process, stress on quality above quantity, increase in the adoption of technologies, necessity for professional talent etc. The theories and methods are constantly evolving in the field of English Language Teaching also. This paper presents the famous trends in the ELT that have been used practically in recent times in the entire world with specific reference to the trends prevalent during the previous decades.

Keywords: *Trends, Methods, new devices, ICT, pedagogy, learning process.*

I. INTRODUCTION

In the last two decades, so many books have been published in English about English language in general and English Language Teaching in particular. These books view the subject differently by presenting a plethora of voices trying to liberalize themselves from the clutches of traditional methods of teaching. The innovation that the researcher talks in the paper pertains both to methodology and materials used in language teaching. Moreover, this article brings out the subtle distinction between the scholarly perception of language as treated in research and pedagogy. The argument advances as the paper proceeds with trends of education with the present trend, new teaching design, new devices, the need for change, the ICT and English language.

GENERAL TREND

English language teaching has undergone tremendous changes over the years, especially the last ten years. Students are burdened with studying, learning and grasping the materials, and of course, lectures with the collection of relevant information from prescribed texts. Many career alternatives once regarded insignificant are gaining importance at present such as communication skills, soft skills, technical skills, interpersonal skills, ICT literacy etc. The need for the graduates to merge successfully in the tough competition of survival in the global market is in great demand nowadays. For this, a change in the trend especially the teaching learning process of English language has to undergo a transition for the betterment. Seasons change, fashion changes, attitudes of human beings change but it is disheartening to note that in the last century English curriculum has hardly undergone any change.

MODERN TRENDS OF TEACHING ENGLISH

Deena Boraie highlights that there are eight trends in teaching of English as discussed further. “Change is the Goal of Teaching English” says Boraie “In my opinion there are two key changes in the purpose of teaching English. Firstly, as Penny Ur (2009) noted, the goal is to produce fully competent English knowing bilinguals rather than imitation of native speakers. The purpose is not to aspire to become native speakers of English because we are already native speakers of our own but to focus on English as a means of communication. Secondly, English is not viewed as an end in itself but as a means to learn content such as science and mathematics”.

THE PRESENT TREND:

All over the world, the student centered English language teachers seem to have realized that gone are the days when teachers reigned their class with all monopoly where the students remained as passive. There is rethinking regarding the growing interest of implementing the basic educational goals. Having realized the need of the hour; the English teachers convene different types of conferences and seminars to create a platform and to get to know the upcoming ideologies in the ELT and also to upgrade themselves professionally. Larsen Freeman

(2007) asserts that it is the fifth skill of language that enables the efficiency to use grammatical structures with accuracy. Academic qualification alone may not help teachers to grow professionally, on the other hand, they need to be equipped themselves with the current practices. The teaching materials that are being used in our country are almost made available all over the world. There had been too many methodologies of teaching English language. One method is embraced as a development of the other. Still, no method has been a panacea for the solution of the ELT problems. At present, the era of method is over and the ELT as of the current scenario is in „post method thinking“.

TEACHERS AS LIFELONG LEARNERS:

In a knowledge based society and to remain competitive and employable, teachers are expected to engage in a continuous professional development or the professional learning activities from the beginning to the end of their careers. As with any other profession, teachers are also expected to assume a greater responsibility for their own professional learning, continually developing their knowledge and skills. Apart from the abovementioned items, Andrian under Hill lists out the following as the recent trend which are very much prevalent in English language teaching. They are

1. Networking, interest and support groups.
2. Learner centeredness and learners needs.
3. Reflective practice and teacher learning.
4. Portfolio development for teachers.
5. Syllabus design /materials development.
6. Criticism of published materials.
7. English as an International language.
8. Corpora.

WEB BASED LEARNING:

A web based learning also called technology based learning/distance learning/on line education/e learning is one of the fastest developing areas. It provides opportunities to create well–designed, learner–centered, affordable, interactive, officiate, flexible e-learning environment (khan, 2005). There are thousands of English web based classes that offer trainings for a variety of basic language skills such as Learning, Speaking, Reading and Writing and are made interactive in a variety of ways. Some of the common technologies available for promotion of education are as follows:

E-mail:

The students can correspond with native speakers of the target language using e mail by creating a personal email account (g-mail, yahoo, hotmail, etc) which is free. The students can mail their home work to the teachers concerned and get it corrected in turn. The teacher can also provide revisions, feedback, suggestions for the betterment of every work and send them back.

Skype :

Every internet service has audio functions, and technological instruments like laptops with cameras. The students could communicate with their teachers and friends who are far away. Likewise, they could very well communicate with the speakers of native language and get their pronunciation checked so as to improve their speaking.

Mobile Phone:

Learners can search for new words using dictionary option in the mobile phones and enrich their vocabulary. They may verify the spelling, pronunciation and usage of the specific word they searched for. Moreover, they can use Short Message Service (SMS) to send queries to their instructors and get their doubts cleared.

Ipods:

Ipods, one of the multimedia devices, enhance the users to generate, deliver, exchange texts, image, audio and video scripts as per the requirement. The teachers send text messages and the students can read and answer to them. In addition to this, the students can record and listen to their speeches, poems, news, short stories etc. Thus, ipods give a chance to the learners of English to improve their listening, pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar and also writing.

II. CONCLUSION:

The traditional method lays more emphasis on a teacher himself and is teacher centered. Repetitive practice, mechanical drills and memorization are the hallmarks of the traditional methods. Wilkins (1976,2) calls a synthetic in which different parts of the language are taught separately and step by step so that acquisition is a process of gradual accumulation of parts until the whole structure of language has been built up. The autocratic or the authoritative role of the teacher which pertains to the long cherished traditional notion that pedagogic principles depend on how articulately a teacher teaches. It is imperative to understand the current trends and evaluative methods of the ELT. The theories and methods are constantly evolving in the ELT. The teachers of the ELT are aware of the best practices in teaching and learning English and how they can be made beneficial to the students. It is possible for every student to learn English in the most enjoyable manner if it is supplied with the right kind of materials and pedagogy produced by one's own native wisdom. A beautiful combination of art and science, with a fine tune of as many tools as possible to the repertoire can help an ELT to excel in his/her field.

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