

Importance of Speaking Skills in ELT

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➤ Importance of English Language

English being an international language among nations, it serves as a lingua franca. It is spoken, learnt and understood even in the countries where it's not their own language. English is playing a main role in many areas including medicine, Education, Engineering, Advanced studies, Business, Technology, Banking, Computing, Tourism etc. All over software development today, the communication facilities available to each one through browser, our access to various websites, are all being carried out in English. Most of the research works are conducted and formed in English. Anything written and recorded in this language is read and listened to, in wider circles. Overall among all the other languages it is being taught and learned around the world as a succeeding language today.

➤ The Importance of Speaking Skills.

Language is a tool for communication. We communicate with others, to express our ideas, thoughts and to know others' ideas too. Communication takes place, where there is speech. Without speech one can not communicate with one another. The importance of speaking skills is enormous for any learner of the language. Without speech, a language is condensed to a simple script. The usage of language is an activity which takes place within the confines of our community. We use it in various situations. People at their work places, researchers working either in a medical laboratory or in a language laboratory, are supposed to speak correctly and effectively in order to interact with one another. Any gap in communication results in misunderstandings and troubles. The speakers of a language need to be especially and purposefully trained in the skill of speaking, for a smooth running of any system. One needs to be excellent in the four language skills viz., listening, speaking, reading and writing in order to be a well rounded communicator but the capacity of speaking skillfully provides the speaker with different advantages. The joy of sharing one's ideas or thoughts with others is vast. An effective speaker can increase the attention of the listeners and hold it till the finishing point of his/her message. Speaking skills are essential for career success, but certainly not limited to one's professional aspirations. Speaking skills can also amplify one's personal life.

There are many aspects of Effective Speaking. It has nothing to do with the outdated concept of 'elocution' where everyone was encouraged to speak in the same 'correct manner. Rather, effective speaking concerns being able to speak in a public context with confidence and clarity, whilst at the same time reflecting on your own personality.

Few aspects of Effective Speaking:

- ❖ Accents
- ❖ Finding your voice
- ❖ The effect of breath on voice and speech
- ❖ Vocal production

Accents: Regional and ethnic accents are positive; they are part of individual personality. Slowly over the years through the exile of people and experience to the media, accents are being out of order and neutralized. In some ways this is a shame because accents can add a dimension and distinctiveness to voice and emphasize individuality. It is essential to get used to the sound of your own voice. Most people are more stress-free in a private situation, particularly at home, where there are no pressures to conform to any other social rules and expectations. This is not the case in public situations when there are all sorts of influences exerted upon the way people speak. Thus one needs to have good accent over speech in communication skills.

➤ **Problems faced in a class-room**

Why should we teach speaking skills in our classrooms?

Motivation

Many students compare being able to speak a language as the well-known language and hence in view of learning the language and even learning how to speak the language perfectly, or as Nunan (1991) wrote that, "success is measured in terms of the ability to carry out a conversation in the (target) language." Consequently, if students do not acquire the skill of speaking or not getting any possibility to speak in the English language in their own classroom they may soon get de-motivated and lose their interest in learning it. On an other hand, if there are the right activities which are taught in the right way, speaking in a class-room can be with a huge fun, raising broad learner motivating and making their English language classroom as a fun and even dynamic place to be their.

1.SPEAKING IS THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE TO HUMAN COMMUNICATION

Just think about the different conversations that you have had in one day and then compare that with how much the written communication skills you do in a day, Which do you do more often? In our daily lives most of us will speak more than we write something, yet many of the English teachers are still spending the majority of their class time on the reading and even for the writing practice where almost they are ignoring speaking and listening skills. And do you think that is a good balance? If the main goal of your language course is true and to enable your students to communicate only in English, and now speaking skills should be taught and experienced in the language classrooms.

Dealing with the common arguments which is against in teaching the speaking skills in their own classrooms. And there is one way to tackle this problem which is to find the base of the problem and to start from there. If the problem is only cultural, that is in your culture where it is unusual for students to talk out loud in the classes,

or if any of the students feel really shy about speaking in front of all the students and the one way to go about breaking these cultural barriers and to create and to constitute your own classroom culture where speaking out loud in the English language is the norm. One way to do this is that to distinguish your classroom situations from other classrooms in your school by the composition of the classroom desks differently, in the groups instead of the lines etc. and by decorating the walls in English language and the cultural posters. From the day where one teach all your students in the classroom language(English) and keep on teaching it and it is essential to encourage your students to ask them for things and to ask at least few questions in English. Giving positive feedback also helps to encourage and even to get relaxed all the shy students to speak more. Another way is that to get all the students motivated and involved to speak more is just to allocate a percentage of their final grade in the exams for the speaking skills and let the students know for what they are being assessed and continually focus on their speaking practices in the class throughout the term.

A totally different reason for the student silence may be simply is that all the class room activities are being boring or are inclined at the wrong level. Very often all the interesting communicative speaking activities are not quite as fascinating or as communicatory as we think that they are and all the students are really required to do is that to answer 'yes' or 'no' only which they do it very quickly and then just they sit in a silence or worse talking and being so noisy in their first language. So maybe all that you need to take is that being closer look to all the type of the speaking activities that you are using and then see if they are really capturing the students curiosity and whether it creates a real need for developing communication skills.

There is an another way to encourage your students to speak only in English language which makes others to made it possible to get habituated in speaking in the If you are the one feeling shy about speaking in English, then how can you anticipate your students to overcome their fears about speaking in English? Now do not worry that if you are not perfectly fluent or do not have that the elusive perfect native accent, as some of the major personalities like Swain (1985) wrote "We learn to speak by speaking" and that goes well for the teachers as well as the students. The more you practice speaking the more you can improve your own oral skills as well as it even helps your students to improve their skills.

II.CONCLUSION

These are just few of the problems that the teachers with the large classes face when teaching all the speaking activities in their own classrooms. These problems are not the new ones nor the solutions given above. Teachers where ever in the world cthey ontinue to face the same hurdles everywhere, but any of the teacher who has overcome all these difficulties and now who has a large class with fully energetic students talking and working in the English in the groups together and it will tell you that it is worthy with all the trials and errors and effort at the outset. And now if you believe in the grandness of teaching speaking skills to the students in the classrooms but who ever are having difficulties in making the speaking activities work in your classrooms, those, why not contacting your local teaching associations or the branch of TESOL. Maybe just because they run the workshops for teaching the speaking skills, or maybe they can put you all in contact with other teachers who are in the similar situations and then the one with more experience in teaching the speaking skills for them who will be willing to share all their teaching experiences with you.

REFERENCES

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