

Acquisition of English by Teaching LSRW Skills

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English is a global language. In the Indian educational scenario, English is considered as a second language. Teaching English as a foreign language is one of the important subjects in all the educational environments. English is an art in which imagination and creativity is more important and it is also a skill subject rather than a knowledge subject. Skill is an ability to do something in an effective way. For example, learning the accurate spelling of a word is really a skill. Acquisition of a language is possible by getting the basic skills. In the sense English can be attained by LSRW skills. By teaching the four skills effectively, a student could be a master in it.

Listening Skill

Listening is an important component of language teaching. A teacher plays a vital in the listening process. A teacher should create the interest and confidence to listen.

Sub -Skills of Listening

The sub -skills that can be emphasized in listening exercises include:

1. Listening for specific information
2. Following topic shifts
3. Predicting
4. Recognizing transitions and sequence
5. Recognizing word boundaries
6. Identifying keyword

Listening is more essential for two reasons: listening for comprehension and listening for perception.

Listening for Comprehension

The learner is given practice in developing listening for understanding by giving listening materials and conducting listening activities. Listening for comprehension is more relevant at the middle and secondary school level. In this the listening material is based on particular context and the learner is given practice in specific areas of listening, which are related to their needs.

Listening for Perception

Listening for perception is practiced more at the primary level to get introduced to the language. In this practice, the learners are given many exercises by identifying the speech sounds and intonation patterns of spoken English. The listening activity is based on perception. Listening exercises do not use visuals so that the listeners concentrate more on the sounds of words.

Listening Activities

The following listening activities can be done by a teacher in teaching English language.

1. Dictation
2. Listening to a telephone call and writing the message
3. Listening to a sports commentary

Speaking Skill

Speaking is an act of conversing or expressing one's thoughts and feelings through the spoken language. Speaking a new language is an art. The second important skill in teaching LSRW skill is Speaking. A child, gradually speaks a language through a thorough listening by observing each and every word keenly. It is the vital role of the English teacher to teach the following speaking activities to the students to become a good speaker in English.

Speaking Activities

1. Role Play
2. Narrating a story
3. Simulations
4. Describing Information
5. Information Gap

Role Play

Role Play is one of the important practices in teaching speaking skill. The students should be given a role and asked to enact in English. The teacher, should provide the information to the learners such as, Who they are? and What they think or feel? The teacher has to monitor the students and rectify the errors by correcting them.

Narrating a Story

By this activity, a student could possibly convey the story in a sequential manner. It is a good activity for the students to remember about the story and narrating in an effective way. It also helps the students to know more vocabularies and to frame the sentence structure.

Simulations

Simulations are very similar to roleplay but, what makes simulation different than roleplay is, more elaborate. In simulations student can bring the items to the classroom to create a realistic environment. For instance, if a student is willing to prepare coffee he/she would bring the necessary things to the class room to make the class lively. This practice makes the speaker to get rid of their hesitation.

Describing a Picture

This activity can be done in groups. Each individual will be given a picture and asked them to describe what is in the picture? This activity fosters the imagination and creative skill among the students.

Information Gap

This activity is done by making pair among the students. The information will be given to one student whereas the partner does not have. By sharing the information, the gap can be filled. It is one of the important activities to make all the participants to speak confidently.

Reading Skill

Reading a language is a skill. Reading a language with appropriate speed is an art. Reading is a cognitive process. For instance, if a reader reads a content, he should have the ability to understand what he reads. The reading skill can be divided into:

1. Basic Reading
2. Mastering the Basic Reading

Basic Reading

It includes Vocabulary Acquisition and Textual Comprehension

Vocabulary Acquisition

A reader, who learns to read a foreign language will be struck by words in the beginning stage. If the learner, is given continuous practice in reading English books he/she will receive the vocabulary acquisition.

Textual Comprehension

It is not a easy process to grasp the ideas and understanding the text in the initial stage itself. Since reading is a cognitive process, the reader should have continuous practice to comprehend the text. After taking continuous reading with strenuous effort the reader can grasp the content and understand the text.

Mastering the Basic Reading

It includes skimming and scanning. By practising these two activities, one can master the basic reading.

Skimming

Skimming is used to get the important information rather than reading the whole thing. By practising this skill, the learner learns to select the words, phrases and sentences and knows to discard the unwanted things.

Scanning

Scanning is typically reading through quickly in search of specific key terms and phrases.

Writing Skill

Developing the skill of writing is an important factor in teaching English. It is a creative process. Writing is putting the speech in the form of letters. It is a formal skill. The learners should equip themselves with the components of different forms of writing.

Writing skill can be developed by working on the following:

1. Basic skills of short composition
2. Writing sentences by own
3. Using appropriate vocabularies in a sentence
4. Description
5. Note Making / Note Taking
6. Editing a passage
7. Formal and Informal Letter Writing

Learning a language is a tough process. Getting mastery over a language is a skill. By equipping with basic skills, one could be a master. LSRW plays a vital role in the acquisition of English Language.

Colophon:

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