

LANGUAGE IN INDIA

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Innovations in English Language Teaching: Voices from Indian Classroom.

Ed. Z N Patil. Hyderabad: Orient BlackSwan, 2012. 156 pp.

A Review by T. Anantha Vijayah, Ph.D.



Scope of the Book

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12 : 5 May 2012

T. Anantha Vijayah, Ph.D.

A Review of *Innovations in English Language Teaching: Voices from Indian Classroom*

720

With the introduction of English in the mainstream of Indian curriculum, emphasis is now focused on skill based learning. These days job requirements also include competence in English language skills.

Considering the limitations of traditional pedagogical practices, the editor of the book has compiled articles presenting innovative experiments executed by teachers from various parts of the country.

“The Contents” in the book shows that the Editor has collected essays on the core subject **English Language and Literature Teaching** from teachers, trainers as well as from research scholars in order to make the book realistic and meaningful for the learners. Also the book is expected to be of immense value to all practicing teachers of English at the primary, secondary, higher secondary and tertiary levels.

A Bottom Up Approach

The book demands serious attention for serious teachers as well as researchers in ELT as it foregrounds a bottom up approach that could be replicated and tailored to meet local needs. The suggestions for the use of simple techniques and locally available materials for imparting skills provides space for teachers of rural areas also to experiment and to raise the standard of English in their region. The suggestive samples in the book provide space to sincere teachers - who have first-hand knowledge about their students - to choose their materials for language skill development.

Emphasis on Unified Teaching of Skills

For the teachers of English language, the articles suggest unified teaching of skills rather than compartmentalising skills-learning process. The book attempts to influence teachers to bring life and participatory teaching methods into the otherwise drab language teaching. It also provides them with methodology and material preparation in detail which could be applied to various situations.

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12 : 5 May 2012

T. Anantha Vijayah, Ph.D.

A Review of *Innovations in English Language Teaching: Voices from Indian Classroom* 721

Task-based Learning – Theory and Practice

For innovative teachers, a sample task-based learning helps them to understand how they can further innovate, experiment and explore possibility of furthering the students' English skills using the local materials.

The book furthers both theory and practice in English Language Teaching on the lines of critical thinking and critical actions that fine-tune the skills that are required in consonance with the emerging demands of the country.

Researchers in ELT will find it useful to check the references provided at the end of each article to read further and sharpen their specialization. Addition of sample worksheets will make the book more useful and will help teachers sample materials for immediate use.

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Language in India www.languageinindia.com

12 : 5 May 2012

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A Review of *Innovations in English Language Teaching: Voices from Indian Classroom* 722