FOSTER INTEREST IN TEACHING ENGLISH

Ms.S.Thangam
Assistant Professor
S.S.S.Jain College, Chennai

"If the child is not learning the way you are teaching, then you must teach in the way the child learns" - Rita Dunn

Innovative ideas are quite essential to meet the challenges in the present scenario. The prime objective of this paper is to provide an insight in to the innovative methods to sustain interest in   teaching as well as learning English. The innovative methods, inspiring activities and play-way methods will be an effective tool in teaching English.

In teaching English, most of the teachers are using different methods. Though they use different methods, the goal is same. Teachers want their students to catch and comprehend the lesson. Therefore, the most appropriate method that is used will work and get the main goal, which will be reached by students. By the development of the technology, the methods of teaching and learning have been developed much. The English language teaching tradition has been subjected to a tremendous change and there are various methods of teaching.

Learning is one of the primary activities of students in the classroom. Good learning atmosphere and methods can guide the students to learn more and meaningful. To accomplish such condition, teachers must create various and attractive methods for the class. It is true that teachers are able to drive the students to learn the language and to sustain interest in language learning if they can provide activities that are:

- pleasant
- enthusiastic
- group-based
- non-threatening
- challenging

The activities in the classroom will be a welcome break from the usual routine of the language class. They are motivating and challenging and they help the students to make and sustain the effort of learning. This will create a platform for language practice in the various skills - speaking, writing, listening and reading and also encourage the learners to interact and communicate, thereby results in creating a meaningful context for language use. Some of the activities to promote language learning are:

Role Play

One other way of getting students to speak is role-playing. Students pretend they are in various social contexts and have a variety of social roles. In role-play activities, the teacher gives information to the learners such as who they are and what they think or feel.

Simulations

Simulations are very similar to role-plays but what makes simulations different than role plays is that they are more elaborate. In simulations, students can bring items to the class to create a realistic environment. For instance, if a student is acting as a singer, she brings a microphone to sing and so on. Role plays and simulations have many advantages as they are entertaining and motivate the students

Information Gap

In this activity, students are supposed to be working in pairs. One student will have the information that other partner does not have and the partners will share their information. Information gap activities serve many purposes such as solving a problem or collecting information. Also, each partner plays an important role because the task cannot be completed if the partners do not provide the information the others need. These activities are effective because everybody has the opportunity to talk extensively in the target language.

Brainstorming

On a given topic, students can produce ideas in a limited time. Depending on the context, either individual or group brainstorming is effective and learners generate ideas quickly and freely. The good characteristic of brainstorming is that the students are not criticized for their ideas so students will be open to sharing new ideas.

Storytelling

Students can briefly summarize a tale or story they heard from somebody beforehand, or they may create their own stories to tell their classmates. Story telling fosters creative thinking. It also helps students express ideas in the format of beginning, development, and ending, including the characters.

Story Completion

This is a very enjoyable, whole-class, free-speaking activity for which students sits in a circle. For this activity, a teacher starts to tell a story, but after a few sentences stops narrating. Then, each student starts to narrate from the point where the previous one stopped. Each student is supposed to add from four to ten sentences. Students can add new characters, events, descriptions and so on.

Reporting

Before coming to class, students are asked to read a newspaper or magazine and, in class, they report to their friends what they find as the most interesting news. Students can also talk about whether they have experienced anything worth telling their friends in their daily lives before class.

Picture Narrating

This activity is based on several sequential pictures. Students are asked to tell the story taking place in the sequential pictures given to them.

Picture Describing

Another way to make use of pictures in a speaking activity is to give students just one picture and ask them to describe what it is in the picture. For this activity students can form groups and each group is given a different picture. Students discuss the picture with their groups and then a spokesperson for each group describes the picture to the whole class. This activity fosters the creativity and imagination of the learners as well as their public speaking skills.

These activities help to promote:

- Self-confidence

- Experiences of success
- Learning satisfaction
- Good relationship between teacher and students
- foster whole class participation
- Promotes healthy competition

Learning language through play-way methods

Language learning is hard work. Effort is required at every moment and must be maintained over a long period. Play-way methods   help and encourage many learners to sustain their interest and work. They also help the teacher to create contexts in which the language is useful and meaningful. The learners want to take part and in order to do so must understand what others are saying   and they must speak or write in order to express their own point of view. The learner will enjoy learning rather than doing it out of coercion. This method is effective and   guaranteed to obtain better results than traditional teaching methods. The teacher has to adopt new methods to make students interested in learning a language. It is based on the attitude of the learners   that they are curious and often look for something that the teacher notices them and appreciates for what they are doing. So, to motivate them, teacher needs something new that can stimulate their curiosity. The students really appreciate any kind of activities which provide excitement and fun. It will be easy to understand the language. Some of them are

- Hangman
- 20 Questions
- Guess the adverb
- Word Building
- Jumbled Sentences
- Match with meanings

Play-way method as a tool for teaching language

1. Play-way methods make learning fun and thereby the learners will be the willing participants.
2. Playing a game has a purpose to it and in order to play the students have to say things – they have a reason to communicate.
3. They involve a lot of repetition, and repetition is the mother of skill, it can be boring, but thanks to these games, it is fun
4. The games lend themselves perfectly to quick bursts of revision. Using some of the games, you can revise a massive amount of vocabulary and grammar in a few minutes.
5. Introduction of lively games into the classes to practice the language will keep the learners enjoy their learning process.
6. The philosophy of encouragement incorporated into these games allows all students to gain confidence.

CONCLUSION:

Learning English as a second or foreign language can be difficult for some students. There are several different ways to learn, and many people benefit from a wider approach than the traditional methods employed in most classrooms. Adding games and activities in our teaching methods will make both the teaching process and the learning process more effective and productive for all. Incorporating games into the classroom can build interest in the class, put language in an interesting and meaningful context and also give the students a break from the pressures of learning a new language   and   also enhance the student--teacher bond.

To conclude, I am sure that introducing innovative methods in teaching English which sustain interest in the learning process will be effective and interesting.

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