

DEVELOPING SPEAKING SKILLS THROUGH VOCABULARY

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Abstract

The main purpose of this paper is to investigate the concept that is the power of words. Strength of vocabulary enriches the speaking skill. They are uniquely valuable skills to possess. Wherever life exists speaking also exists. Students need more attention because ability to speak can be truly rewarding skills for anyone looking to improve their career situation. There are several steps to uplift the students speaking skills through vocabulary. Mastery over vocabulary usually grows, evokes and serves a useful and fundamental tool for speaking. When they develop stronger vocabulary through which they can inculcate their speaking skills and through activity oriented classes one can observe their growth which can improve and bring tremendous benefit in their life.

Keywords: Activity, Communication, Language Speaking skills, Vocabulary.

INTRODUCTION

Let us imagine for a moment a world without a language. There is no information, no exchange of views and no communication among people. There will be only signs and gestures as in the days of the ancient cave dwellers. In those days, man obviously used lot of sounds and signs to attract the attention of the people, to describe things and to get things done. That was the only means of communication. The English Language has exercised a great influence in shaping the political, social, economic, intellectual and cultural life of India “Keep the door and windows of your mind open for fresh winds to blow freely, as long as you are not blown off your feet” is a wise saying that should be remembered forever. The English Language is the window which opens up the vast prospects of human achievement and beckons us to new horizons. It is only through this language we have distilled the essence of modern knowledge in all fields of human activity. Anyone who can read English can keep in touch with the whole world without leaving his own house. It is a means of communicating thoughts and feelings. It is the only language spoken by the people all over the world and connects the people to every nook and corner. Without this language, both official and private communication between the countries will be completely cut off.

English can be regarded as the key to the store-house of knowledge. Book on all field are mostly in English. Most of the technical journals, newspaper, periodicals, etc, are also published in English.

Teaching English in India is both challenging and rewarding. If a person knows English he will find and feel better in every sphere of his life but without the knowledge of English if a person starts his career he may feel gravely handicapped to proceed further. It cannot be taught like other subjects, which is not content or knowledge based. It is skill based.

LANGUAGE AS AN ART SUBJECT

Art is something expressive, creative, and original. Likewise English language is also an art and is the vehicle of our thought, a significant medium of expression of our feelings and experience. Of all the languages, English is considered as the most important language owing to its worldwide use as a medium of communication. In the present world, one ought to have a good command of the English language if one wishes to succeed in his chosen field. Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing are four different skills through which the learner develops his language effectively.

SPEAKING SKILL

Speaking is the most used aspect of any language. Though it is considered as one of the most important skills it also has some drawbacks. When a person speaks a language which may be his second language or a foreign language he finds it difficult. He also may not be able to identify whether the spoken words are right or wrong and may not be able to correct their mistake at a time. To overcome the difficulty and to have better communication one must have good vocabulary

VOCABULARY AND SPEAKING SKILL

The beauty of any language depends mainly upon how we speak it. For better communication vocabulary forms the basic foundation. A large and rich vocabulary makes one feel more confident to handle the language and improves his/her communication to be more effective. It also helps one to speak fluently. By improving one's vocabulary, it is easy for one to acquire the speaking ability.

VOCABULARY

“One forgets words as one forgets names. One's Vocabulary needs constant fertilizing or it will die”- Evelyn Waugh (British novelist) Human world is filled with people speaking different languages. Man is a social being and he lives in a society, where he needs to communicate. Communication may be oral or written but it is done only through language. Language is an essential tool for man. Earlier man used signs and sounds to communicate but after being civilized, he used letters, words, sentences, paragraphs and essays are made. Words serve different purposes in a language.

Words are to be mastered to get a good stock of vocabulary. Now that the Industrial era has been transformed into an Informational era and it is important that each and every one should acquire a sound. The stock of words or the vocabulary that a man possesses gives him more confidence to communicate effectively. Without lexicon, i.e., vocabulary, one cannot communicate effectively or express ideas. We are saying that vocabulary is crucial and the basic foundation for any language and without it one cannot communicate completely. Vocabulary is

the knowledge of words and word meanings. It consists of individual words which we understand or know the meaning for, either in the spoken form or in the written form

The vitality of a language lies in vocabulary. One can better understand grammatically incorrect utterances with accurate vocabulary as he does something with an accurate grammar and in accurate vocabulary. In other words, without accurate syntax, meaning might be hindered for foreign language speakers, but without vocabulary, meaning is impossible. Speakers can better understand grammatically incorrect utterances with accurate vocabulary than those with accurate grammar and inaccurate vocabulary. In other words, without accurate syntax, meaning might be hindered for foreign language speakers, but without vocabulary, meaning is impossible. For e.g. Telegrams often consists of more than a sequence of lexical items with no grammatical order of words, and yet we have no difficulty in understanding the meaning

GOOD VOCABULARY CAN OPEN THE DOOR

When we increase our vocabulary, we will impress the people. Depending on who we impress, a number of doors can open- that is by the appearance and the way we carry ourselves, people can judge us based on the words that come out of our mouth. So if we have poor vocabulary, it will automatically close our doors of opportunity. There are certain ways to expand our vocabulary. Our passive vocabulary is larger than our active vocabulary. As we grow up, our language experience grows. We tend to transfer words from our passive vocabulary to active vocabulary. We are always adding to our stock of words. F.G. French has made a very useful classification of the words of a language in relation to the users and compared to human relations. To begin with we have few friends who are with us throughout of our life. Our active vocabulary is compared with that few numbers of friends. Then there are people who we meet casually in our travels and visit to places. Gradually some of them become our friends. Our passive vocabulary is compared to those acquaintances. Then there is another thing, which is the widest and which contains total strangers, that is the vast number of remaining words in the language that we do not know.

The pivotal rule about a happy human life is that more and more strangers get into the inner circle of acquaintances and more acquaintances become our friends. The more friends we have the happier we are. And friendship can be strengthened only through the choice of words we use in communication.

HOW TO DEVELOP A POWERFUL VOCABULARY

Learning is difficult, but forgetting is easy. It is a real challenge to learn the methods to develop words and not to forget them.

Not only do people judge us based on the words we choose to express ourselves but our ability to use effectively. Developing the good vocabulary will help us to reach full potential in our career, education, relationships and life in general. Words change their nuance according to the context.

ROLE OF WORDS IN COMMUNICATION

Communication is important, not only in organization but also in our daily life. To make the communication effective and it can be made possible only with the help of words it can be achieved. So only through words one can communicate their ideas in a meaningful way. It is not an easy task to know a word. Knowing a word by sight and its dictionary definition are not the same as knowing how to use the word correctly and when it is spoken or written.

There are various dimensions that describe the complexity of what it means to know. First, word knowledge is incremental, which means that writers need to have many exposures to a word. So that they can use more words in their writings and even make their readers to read. So through that the readers who also gain more words and they can even use that word in their conversation. Secondly, the word knowledge is Multi-dimensional. This is because many words have multiple meaning, and serve different functions in different sentences, texts and even conversations. Finally, Words are interrelated, because the knowledge of one word connects with the knowledge of another word.

Words are the most powerful tool, for both writing and speaking. So one should use that powerful tool which provides an opportunity for interaction with others and encourage communication. Words are like the basement if the basement is strong, automatically one's speaking and writing will be strong and everlasting. Words do not just exist on one's own. They live together and they depend upon each other. If one builds word and through that stock of words one can express himself to others and make his communication effective. Most of the people struggle to express well their thought because of the inability to recall the right word.

EMPOWERING SPEAKING

Speaking is a natural skill and considered as the heart of any language. Language is primarily a speech. There are a number of languages spoken in the world. It is a known fact that spoken language came first in the history of the human race. It is difficult to conceive of a human society without speech. Writing is a later historical development. Similarly speech comes first for individual even in the language communities with a long tradition of literacy. Almost all children first learn to talk and only later they need to learn and write. Moreover speech is learned spontaneously without any explicit and structured teaching by parents or others.

Speech is a biologically pertinent behaviour of human beings. It is true in a sense, that babies spontaneously babble and they later imitate the sounds of the language they hear around them, even the totally deaf babies babble initially and then only fall silent. It is true that the human vocal tract has become automatically adopted to facilitate speech. An important thing of conversation is using a style of speaking that is appropriate to particular circumstances. Different styles of speaking reflect the roles, age and the status of participants in interaction and also reflect the expression of politeness.

TEACHING SPEAKING SKILLS

Teaching speaking skills in English language classes has been more strongly influenced by fads and fashions. Many teachers worldwide have to teach mainly grammar and vocabulary because these areas are tested. This means that speaking is a neglected language skill in many classrooms and also finds it more difficult to speak outside the classroom. More and more educators, governments, ministries of education and employers need people who can speak English well. Companies and organizations want staff who can speak English in order to communicate within the international market place. Students who can speak English well may have a greater chance of further education, of finding employment and gaining promotion.

Speaking well also helps students to access up-to-date information in all fields. Good English speakers will be in a strong position to help their country's economic and social development.

Many language learners regard speaking ability as the measure of knowing a language and define fluency as the ability to read, write or comprehend oral language. They regard

speaking as the most important skill they can acquire, and they assess their progress in terms of their accomplishments in spoken communication.

There are three areas of knowledge involves in speaking through which the learner recognize the language.

GOAL AND TECHNIQUES FOR TEACHING SPEAKING SKILLS

Teaching speaking is a crucial part in a second language classroom. In the present world the main goal should be finding out techniques in teaching speaking in an effective manner. Because only through that students can express themselves and learn how to follow the social and cultural rules appropriate in each communicative situation. Language input comes in the form of teacher talk, listening activities, reading passages, and the language heard and read outside the classroom.

ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE SPEAKING SKILL

Practicing speech often takes the form of drills in which one person asks a question and another gives an answer. The question and the answers are structured and predictable and often there is only one correct, predetermined answer. The purpose of answering the question is to demonstrate the ability to ask and answer the question.

In contrast, the purpose of real communication is to accomplish a task, such as conveying a telephone message, obtaining information or expressing an opinion. To create classroom speaking activities that will develop communicative competence teachers need to incorporate a purpose and an information gap and allow for multiple forms of expression.

Before the discussion, it is very important that the purpose of the discussion activity is set by the teacher. For example, students can become involved in agree/disagree discussions, the teacher can form group of students, there should be four or five in each group, and provide controversial topic like “people learn best when they read vs. people learn best when they travel”. Then each group works on their topic for a given time and presents their view point for a given time and presents their views point to the class. It is important that the speaking should be equally shared among the group members. Finally the class should decide on the winning group, who presented the ideas in the best way. Through this the students critical thinking and quick decision making, and students learn how to express and justify themselves in polite ways while against the point of others. For efficient group discussions, it is always better not to form large groups.

Role play, Simulations, Information gap, Brain storming, Storytelling, Interviews, Story completion, Reporting, Narrating the picture, Find the difference are some of the activities through which the student can promote their speaking skill.

ACTIVITY FOR ACTIVE SPEAKING

In the traditional classroom environment the Reading and Writing skills are given much importance compared to Speaking and Listening skills. But due to changing scenario the requirements or expectations of the industries or job providers have also changed. Due to this, now we need to focus much on the listening and speaking skills to cater to the needs of the Industries. So, for the welfare of the students the teacher should concentrate more on speaking skill. To promote the speaking skill among the students, the teacher should aim at minimum participation of himself/ herself and maximum participation of students in communication classes.

Speaking can be mastered only through activity. Teaching, drawing, painting, reading, speaking and writing are all activities. It makes everyone cheerful, happy and enthusiastic. Applying activity in teaching makes the students active and interested. It supports the students to gain knowledge energetically and makes the atmosphere lively and enhanced interaction is possible.

Activities are a great motivating force for the students. As it is based on their natural way, they gladly undertake to learn and involve themselves. It kills the drudgery and boredom and may lead to original creative work. The Students easily come out of their shell and begin to express themselves. Activity weeds out fear from their minds. When the mind is without fear, students can express themselves freely. An activity elicits the wholehearted response from the students and incidentally makes the students serious in their work. Mind is attuned to the work and craves for its completion and mastery.

Mere chatting and talking will not help to make the classroom realistic and vivid before the students. A school or college day must be a succession of activities and experiences of great variety and stimulation, designed to develop students to a maximum time available. So the students learn the skill of speaking lively and interestingly.

CONCLUSION

Language exercises a great influence in making a man good and noble. The English language lays the foundation for the progress of society and it has penetrated deeply into the global domains of political life, diplomacy, business, safety, communication, entertainment, the media and education. It is also the language of maritime communication of information and news and three quarters of all telex messages and telegrams are sent in English. The developments in the field of satellite communication also play a major role with many of the television channels, advertisements, signboards and hoarding being in English. It provides a carrier opportunity that unifies our nation. Language paves the way of all the special human abilities such as self-awareness, higher emotion and personal memories.

Learning to speak a language is always by far the shortest road to learn to read it and write it. By using the language as speech, people will cover something like twenty times as much ground in a given time as he would, by doing written exercises. The acquiring of a language is the acquiring of an art, the art of expressing oneself in that language, this art is like every other art, which must be acquired by practice. The most satisfactory manner of using the language from the practical point of economy of time and effort is speech, and it is speech, and it is also theoretically, the most natural. Languages should be taught as a living speech, that is, they should be taught orally.

Effective communication is made possible with the help of language. Only through words we can communicate our ideas in a meaningful way. It includes, placing our thoughts putting thoughts into words and sharing in groups and also taking opportunities to speak at some length to explain ideas in different situation. It involves direct interaction between the speaker and the listener. So the speaker should select words, use the style so as to reach the listener more directly and make the listening understandable.

Speaking seems to be the handiest, immediate and most obvious form of communication. Success lies in the way we present ourselves before the world. Speaking along with our other skills plays a major role. That too, English as a Global language has its own place in this competitive world.

In the new millennium, with rapid knowledge explosion and keen competition in every field, it cannot be denied that one would find it very difficult to survive, if one cannot communicate and to do so a good command of vocabulary is of paramount importance. Extensive vocabulary would be the ultimate yardstick for success.

The stock of words, give everybody confidence to express his feelings, ideas, etc emphatically. Many a time people struggle to express well, because of their inability to recall the right word. Students might have an idea in mind but not be able to recall the appropriate word.

By trying to implement the activity based teaching, the power of vocabulary creates the learning level of the students in a heterogeneous class more or less equal. The skills of the language i.e., listening, speaking, reading and writing are given enough practice due to various contexts, the interest level of the student increases. The clarity of thought is reflected in the way of speaking and choosing the right words for the right occasion to express in the right place and with right people will help to master the art of speaking. This is a very strong communicative approach where most of the time the students are engaged in communicating in the target language.

Above all, the activities will make the classes more enjoyable and motivating than monotonous teacher-cantered ones. It also creates a friendly, positive atmosphere and encourages them to learn and speak in the target language. It also generates focused attention and makes the students to remember the words clearly, easily and accurately. And when students use such words to communicate in the class, the purpose is achieved or proved. As such the students acquire a natural language in a non-stressed situation, which is the target or goal of any teacher. Finally, the students are put in an artificially created atmosphere to learn the language realistically.

In short, activity oriented teaching improves the vocabulary and the power of vocabulary influences the confidence level in students in a bigger way to speak the language powerfully

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