

Innovations In Teaching English Language

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Abstract:

English is accepted as the second language in India. In the words of Gandhiji, “English is a language of international commerce, it is the language of diplomacy and it contains many a rich literary treasures”. It gives us an introduction that English has occupied an important place in Indian Education.

English is known, spoken and read by all educated people everywhere in the world. Children in different parts of the world speak this language in their school either as a mother tongue or as a foreign language. Most of the countries of the world whose mother tongue is not English learn this as a second language for its cultural and utilitarian values. The people of India are no exception to it.

The study of English language is necessary to introduce us into the fast developing world. If India has to keep pace with the developed nations in the present scenario of globalization and liberalization we must give due importance to the learning of English language.

This Research paper presents the innovations in teaching English that have been used practically in recent times in the entire world with specific reference to the trends prevalent during the previous decades. Education should be an empowering process that guides students to develop their passions, critical thinking, compassion and wisdom for timely action.

Introduction:

The National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education (2009) in India posits: ‘Any system, in order to be forward looking, must be bold in encouraging experimentation and innovation and also be involved with [a] constant review of the outcomes of such efforts. The field of teacher education should be no exception’

English language with its great literary heritage has to play a vastly constructive role in the great task of the build-up of free India. It is no longer a language of particular people or country. English can aptly be called Global ‘lingua Franca’. We must get ourselves rightly benefitted by this universal language, which is a medium for the establishment of an international mutual contact among the nations all the world over.

English can be taught through structural approach way. Structural approach is the product of natural evolution of the working of the different methods of the teaching English. It is based on sound principle of language learning. The structural approach means the arrangement of the words in such a way as to form a suitable pattern. Any language has its own structure or skeleton, which gives a decent appearance. A structure is a pattern, a particular arrangement of words to indicate grammatical meanings. It may be a word, a phrase or a sentence.

The English language is a powerful force not just for economics, business, and trade, but for mutual respect and progress. It is also becoming the common future of human commerce and communication. English is the best tool to provide good opportunity for the learner to learn. This is also the language of instruction in all the Universities and colleges across the country. According to Dr. S. Radha Krishnan Commission on Education “English is the only means of preventing our isolation from the world and we will act unwisely if we allow ourselves to be enveloped in the folds of a dark curtain of ignorance”.

Innovations:

Innovations can cover a very broad range of areas – some of which may include methods for systematic assessment of student learning, improved teacher training, innovative pedagogies in the classroom including those that leverage technology in the classroom, supplemental instruction for first-generation learners, methods for improving teacher motivation and effectiveness, and methods for leveraging resources from third parties for improving education

But innovation is not always centred on technology. As a teacher and teacher educator, I firmly believe that every lesson and every training session has the potential to be innovative as each lesson or session is unique. Each lesson builds on previous knowledge and introduces something new. Here are few innovations in teaching English.

Socrative

works on phones, tablets, computers and laptops. The app is for classroom use, it is for free and available for teachers and students. The teacher uses his account to create a public room for a maximum of 50 pupils per session. He makes a list of the students in one group or he can divide them into smaller groups. The teacher creates a quiz, gives a time limit, checks the results and gets the students' feedback and experience. It is a good and entertaining way of testing the knowledge while you do not need any online connection, just a charged battery and a phone that offers Google Play shop.

Wordable

is a social English vocabulary game powered by Cambridge dictionary that supports learning by playing fun word games, while the children are able to learn about 3000 most useful general English words from different word packs like newspaper, school, sport, work, travel, etc. There are also 1500 essential work words that cover business, construction, food, housekeeping, retail, etc. The application fulfils the social function because it enables to compete with friends and learners all over the world; it is fun because it tests the English vocabulary in mini games; it accelerates the learning with wordable's memory technology.

Tri Pro

English application works exclusively for tablets and mobiles. It brings English exams in three levels – easy, intermediate and advanced. The exercises offer wide range of listening activities for B1, B2 and C2 learners. Each listening part has its reading comprehension questions, the listened text and answer to check the correctness. A big advantage is that learners can study anywhere, anytime and without the need of an internet connection. It is available at App Store in mobiles and tablets. The exercises can be done individually or within a lesson with a teacher.

Fluent U

is a unique app that takes real-word-videos including news, cartoon, music videos, commercials and inspiring talks. We can say this is an untraditional way of learning experience in which students learn English as it is spoken in real life. Fluent U contains lots of authentic English materials, so the children are excited while watching their favourite videos pop up in the classroom. All the videos are sorted by skill level and come with built-in language lessons. This type of app is not only used by teachers when writing curriculum but they are also fantastic for students during classroom activities or unstructured classroom time. It is recommended for teachers who want to teach with fun content and whose learners are more likely audio-visual. It is not only great for in-class activities but also for group projects and solo homework assignments. The good news is that the app is also for free available in the App Store.

Google Translate

is definitely the app that everyone who learns or teach foreign languages should have on their phone. It can translate almost all the languages, not just English, and can be used in many activities. It has wide usage – either when being abroad, travelling or working on a project outside the classroom. This program also brings a disadvantage which comes with translating whole sentences.

Whiteboard

Interactive whiteboard have become more and more prevalent in the classroom over the years. And it is no wonder – the benefits are vast and offer teachers new, inventive ways to demonstrate core and supplemental concepts. As children become more familiar with smart technology at home, the classroom is catching up and teachers are using the benefits of technology to their advantage. Even more exciting are the advantages this technology offers students”

A podcast

is an audio or video file which is produced in a series and could be broadcast via internet or downloaded to a computer or mobile device (Müllner, 2009, p. 3). In terms of language teaching, students can listen to existing podcasts and to improve listening comprehension or to create their own podcasts and to practice speaking skills. Both options are much more engaging than traditional listening and speaking tasks included in the course books mainly because of students' independence in the choice of topics. It is recommended to encourage them to find a podcast that takes their attention and to listen regularly.

Blogging

While podcasts can serve as a great toll for improving learners' listening and speaking skills, blogging mainly focuses on the area of reading and writing. A blog is a frequently updated website that often resembles an online journal. In terms of English language teaching, class blog could be used as a shared space, in which teacher and students can actively participate on building its content. According to Stanley (2006), it is a way of opening up the classroom walls and showing the wider world what is happening and creating a small language learning community.

Blended Learning

Blended learning is an education program (formal or non-formal) that combines online digital media with traditional classroom methods. It requires the physical presence of both teacher and student, with some elements of student control over time, place, path, or pace.

Virtual Learning Environment

A virtual learning environment (VLE) in educational technology is a web-based platform for the digital aspects of courses of study, usually within educational institutions. VLEs typically allow participants to be organized into cohorts, groups, and roles and present resources, activities, and interactions within a course structure. It also provide for the different stages of assessment and report on participation, and have some level of integration with other institutional systems.

Conclusion:

Over the past three decades there have been many changes in the way English language education is designed and delivered around the world. In English language teaching and learning, innovation can be seen as a new teaching methodology, pedagogical theory, methodological approach, teaching or assessment technique, learning or instructional tool. When these are implemented, they can lead to better student learning and engagement. This is a way to learning in which teachers can use cross cultural analysis and students can learn English as well as its substance. Diversity of English language has sometimes made it under review. But the need of the hour is understand its necessity and accept the undergoing changes; English language is marking day by day.

Today's learners and young people belong to ICT generation who are able to serve a phone, computer or The research showed that a whiteboard and online games are frequently used within English lessons either at primary or secondary schools. Teachers find the whiteboard helpful, easy to control, and although it has been in use for years, it is still more interesting than using a traditional blackboard. Blogging and podcasts are rarely used for teaching English which need to be triggered.

The world needs dreamers and the world needs doers. But above all, what the world needs most are dreamers that do

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