

Development of four language skills: Essential in ELT

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Introduction:-Any teaching –learning process has three fundamental factors. The success of English language teaching depends upon these three factors the learner, the teacher and the syllabus pattern. The role of a teacher is important in effective language teaching process. He is not just a knowledge provider. The teacher of English is not just a teacher. He has to play multiple roles to help the students learn easily and acquire the skills of language. English language teacher’s prime objective is to promote the average and below average students to a higher performance by developing their communication skills. The role of learner is also crucial in language learning. The learners must not be passive listener but should actively take part in the classroom activities. It is their duty to involve themselves in the classroom activities. They should be interactive in the class. To be neractive, it is important to have a command over four language skills. To develop Listening, speaking, reading and writing in English they must be good planner. They should plan for their studies and prepare themselves for variety of tests. Unless there is wish and will to learn, no learning takes place because the most important law of learning is the law of readiness. In teaching a second language the teacher’s primary task is to rouse in his pupil a strong desire to learn a language. Besides he should keep up this motivation from beginning to end. Once the teacher understand this, his notion of teaching a language as a subject will change and he will develop four pillars of language among his students.

Development of Four language skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and writing are called as four skills of language learning. They are regarded as four pillars on which the building of English language is erected. The job of teacher is to develop these skills among their students along with grammar and vocabulary. If the learner overcomes the problem of speaking as well as listening, it won’t be challenging for them to learn English. In fact in the school, the teacher expects their students to write correct English. But they should insist on making correct sounds and correct

speech. In modern times, speech is over emphasized as it is the need of hour. But to be able to speak correctly the child should listen correctly and attentively. As an objective of listening skill, the child should be able to recognize the sounds, stresses, intonation, respond to simple, oral instructions and commands. By training their ears to listen to English, the pupils can recognize the sounds of English. A good listening prepares the students to identify distinct sounds, to differentiate between them, to remember them and recognize them. To enhance this ability of listening the teacher should take some steps. The pupil should be trained to listen his teacher's English, other peoples' English and occasional talks on radio, television. In urban areas, new and advance teaching aids are available like language laboratory and record players. But rural area students have to follow their teacher in listening. The teacher should spare more time for listening sessions. Because every time it is not possible for the teacher to avail himself for students or avail them other facilities, but once the ways and techniques are known to them, they can develop their own listening. To enable the students to be good listener, the teacher can create chances to listen the talk in continuous flow or in fragmentation. In the development of listening skill the role of teacher is crucial. When the teacher implies new techniques, he should describe it before its use. It may be possible that the learners do not provide open response but if the teacher keeps patience the learners' response change positively. Most of the times, in rural areas, the teaching aids are not available in schools. The teacher has to take responsibility to develop his learners. He himself should develop his speech by listening to standard spoken English. The role model should always remember that unless and until their own English improves, the learners' improvement is not possible.

Speech Skill: Today people have realized that a language needs to be spoken, not just learnt. This is true regarding English language. With the increasing demand of good, correct speech, the need for effective English is on rise. In our country where English is taught as a second language, most students from rural India are not getting proper training in English. There is no fluency in their speech. Though they learn language for many years they cannot utter some simple sounds and words in English. As far as rural areas are concern they confront many problems while speaking English. It is quite difficult to find the students having good sort of

knowledge in speaking. Majority of students are shy and hesitant. This is properly because they are not getting proper exposure to speech or they are doubtful about their own knowledge in English. Majority of students face the problem of inadequate vocabulary .When they try to speak, they have to search for words. Though the words are known to them but they are unable to retrieve them while speaking. As a result they produce inappropriate word or repeat the same word, or use weak substitutes. Besides the grammar faculty is weak so they commit mistakes while constructing the sentences. They cannot place right tense in the needed situation. It also happens that they start a sentence but cannot complete it or change the utterance in middle. This problem occurs because they do not concentrate while speaking. The students cannot concentrate on their own part. This affects them mentally and they forget relevant details. Besides these problems rural students try to translate the language in English from their mother tongue. It makes more difficult to speak in target language.To enhance their speech skill, the pupil should be train at storing and using vocabulary. They should try to speak as much as possible in English and acquire the training under the guidance of their teacher. To train the students in correct speech the teacher should himself improve his/her speech. To be fluent, one should be able to speak without hesitation, applying the basic rules of grammar. Deliberately and with effort he should use English words in his speech. Besides the teacher should not correct the students every time as it will lose the confidence of child at the beginning stage rather the teacher should encourage the students to use it. If the teacher neglect his pupil's mistakes, he realize that the pupil learn by his own mistakes.

Reading Skill:Reading is related to speaking as it is the skill in spoken form. To speak about present era, it is the world of globalization which is fully depended on effective modes of communication. Reading skills pave way to speaking skill. In this regard command on reading is essential.Reading has many advantages and plays an important role in the acquisition of language. Reading can be of two types Silent reading and Reading aloud. Both types have their own advantages but for the development of four language skills reading aloud is important. If the reading aloud sessions are arranged time to time and if the activity is performed in the presence of teacher, the reading skill will be improved. If

the teacher arranges reading sessions time to time, the students will develop sense of achievement of reading a text and confidence to read unfamiliar text. It develops their speech skill, comprehension power, ability to understand and interpret the text. When students keep practicing they naturally understand the tone, punctuation and grammar of the text.

Writing skill: Learning to write a second language is the arrangements of ideas and its systematic flow. As the listening is foundation of speaking or talking so the reading is foundation of writing. Reading and writing skills depend on recognition of graphic symbols. The practice of writing is provided to students from secondary school. But the method to make them write does not fulfill the aim of writing skill. In school the teacher dictate the text and students copy it without any deliberate effort by themselves. Sometimes they are wrong in their spelling, word arrangements, or grammatical accuracy. They wrote the same text for examination without the knowledge of their own mistakes. Any composition wants both accuracy and fluency. The aim of writing course is to train the students in expressing himself effectively in good English. To write well it is important to listen, read and speak well because writing is only the expression of ideas which is developed by all other skills. All language skills are interdependent. So mastery on one skill needs mastery on other skills. The role of teacher in development of his pupil with the help of these language skills is crucial. Today English language teaching needs a new dimension in urban as well as rural areas. The teacher should run such programs so as to enable the learner love the language and everything in the process of learning in the classroom.

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