



LEARNING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT

Learning of any language can be considered as learning a new skill. In this regard learning English language plays a vital role, especially in developing countries like India, since English has become a globalized language. The techniques and procedures involved in mastering English language have been researched into and many suggestions have been made by linguists and grammarians with an intention to help the non-native speaker of English. Accordingly this piece discusses the dimension of certain procedures.

Key

Influence and Importance of the language, Achieving the desired goal with the help of certain principles.

INTRODUCTION

At present English has become global language. Thus it has a universal impact and wide-spread application. Consequently, every one under the sun is forced to meet this inevitability. In countries like India, it has become a tool for their very survival. In the circumstances, we Indians learn English as a second language.

Content: Importance of the English Language

Existence of any language depends on its usage. As such, the English language has evolved widely and its importance has also become enormous. Even then, learning English as a second language is not an easy task. Only the consistent practice of it can help the non-native speaker be at ease. To achieve the flow and the mastery of English there are a number of methods and approaches.

Methods to be adopted

There are two methods like Direct Method and the Structural Approach. The former is related to Grammar-Translation Method which is seemed to be effective in the Indian scenario, whereas the latter aims at a communicative perceptive at a wide range. This communicative approach demands from the learners the development of LSRW. Hence it reminds the reader of the essayist Francis Bacon, who says, “Reading maketh a full man; Conference a ready man; and writing an exact man.”

Skills to be focused:

Reading

Undoubtedly Teachers and Learners of English need to have an eye on the evolution of the English language to update them selves. As a stepping stone, the skill of reading plays a major role in helping master English as a second language. It serves as an input for extensive reading. The learner should be encouraged to read beyond his prescribed texts. This skill definitely enhances his comprehension. To get confirmed, games like word building, passing through the maze, puzzles, synonyms and antonyms can be provided to the learner. Post testing will help the learner to assess his strengths and weaknesses. If satisfied, the learner can switch over to the next skill. The learner should be allowed to read, to express his emotion since these will help him develop his intonation, stress and proper pronunciation. When the learner is convinced of his reading skill, he moves on to the next skill, that is writing.

Writing

At the outset, the learner has to analyze critically the poem or the play, or the novel he has read. His analysis at any cost need not resemble the original interpretation of the author other than the context. The gradual reading and enjoying of these genres will motivate him to write small but single poems or stories by himself. Automatically he will be inspired to create many write-ups of his own. He can further be motivated by gifts, and being guided to write articles and reports to magazines and newspapers.

In order to fine-tune his writing, he must learn certain basic patterns under which sentences are framed in English. They are as follows:

- i) S-V
- ii) S-V-O
- iii) S-V-C
- iv) S-V-IO-DO
- v) S-V-O-C

These patterns can be tabulated as such:

SUBJECT	VERB
She	smiled
They	praised

SUBJECT	VERB	OBJECT
He	played	the piano
She	drew	a picture

SUBJECT	VERB	COMPLIMENT
She	is	a dancer
The weather	is	nice

SUBJECT	VERB	INDIRECT OBJECT	DIRECT OBJECT
The teacher	gifted	him	a book
The President	awarded	the winner	a medal

SUBJECT	VERB	OBJECT	OBJECTCOMPLIMENT
Parliament	elected	Rajiv Gandhi	P.M.
The Principal	declared	Monday	a holiday

CONCLUSION

By practicing these simple methods and procedures, a non-native speaker can easily learn English. Further, the learner should shed his fear, must crack the barriers, should be finely facilitated by efficient teachers and above all he has to plunge into his stream of hardship.

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