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REVIEW ARTICLE

GETTING THE STUDENTS INTO LANGUAGES – SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES FOR ADULT LEARNERS

*¹Esther Arulmani, S. and ²Dr. Swaminathan, N.

¹Ministry of Education, SH. Funadhoo, Republic of Maldives, Thanjavur, India

²Department of English, Raja Serfoji Govt. College, Thanjavur, India

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ABSTRACT

Education in India has a golden past, present and future. The aim of the paper is to make the English language learning by adult learners, more active and interesting. The focus for us all, however, is the learner. Innovation should not be 'just for its own sake' but always directed to improve the quality of learning. It is the learner who do the learning, and our work as teachers is for the learners. Active learning has superseded passive learning in recent times because people today seek all-round development of the students. Active learning gives a different perspective to education. It not only helps the students to learn better but also gives the teachers an impetus to teach better. At this present scenario, an English teacher for adult learners should prepare herself/himself to cater for all types of intelligences and learning styles in order to create an enthusiastic learning environment. The paper highlights about some of the interesting language activities that can be tried out for adult students to improve the language skills.

INTRODUCTION

Students spend most of the time in college other than at home. But many students consider the college life as a "Compulsory purgatory" because they don't experience any emotional bond with the college. The bondage between the students, teachers, and authorities and among all the members in the college can be built by the care, concern, love and dedication. When any student is asked about the English Language class they don't criticize about any other thing but they all share about how the teacher teaches them. Teachers who are dedicated and make continuous efforts to tune pupil's interest and learning styles enjoy greater success. The following are some of the activities that I practice in my language classes, in which the students have actively and interestingly participated

Activity 1

All students may be familiar of playing the game song Anthakshari (ie) one person will start singing a song and when he is stopped, the next person should start singing by the ending letter or word where the first person has stopped and it goes on. If a person is unable to continue he is out of the game and he can be asked to do anything like dancing, mimicry, etc

*Corresponding author: Esther Arulmani, S.
Ministry of Education, SH. Funadhoo, Republic of Maldives,
Thanjavur, India.

according to the chit taken from the lot. The same game can be played to improve the vocabulary and sentence making in English. Similar to song the students are arranged in a circle and the teacher or a student can start a sentence. By the ending word of the sentence the next person should start another sentence and it goes on. In the beginning the game can be played by continuously asking the next person in the circle. After two rounds we can randomly select the students to tell the sentence. This makes all the students to be alert, active and ready to respond. I have tried this game in my language classes and students have participated interestingly in this game.

Example:

- God is love.

Love your parents.

- Parents do great things.
- Things should be kept in the proper place.
- Place your books on the shelf.
- ...It can be tried from simple to complex sentences in different rounds.

Activity 2

Simple, good and latest English movies of the student areas of interest can be shown to them. The movies should have subtitles because non-native speakers will find it difficult to

understand the native speakers' accent. After each scene it can be paused and the students can be asked to translate the dialogue into their mother tongue. This will make all the students to understand the scene. Translation from English to mother tongue will also help the students to search for correct words and meanings. If the movie is of their field of interest (Eg: Movies connected with machines and latest technology for Mechanical Engineering students) the students will be greatly excited and since they are going to translate into their mother tongue they will also feel ease and comfortable. This activity enhances both the listening and speaking skills of the students.

Activity 3

The activity that I suggest below has a greater impact in developing the language skills of the students. Short dramas, documentaries or clippings in their mother tongue can be shown to the students. The students should be divided into groups. After watching they can be given 5-10 minutes for their preparation. After the specified time the group can give a demo in English of what they have seen in their mother tongue. This activity develops

- The group spirit
- Increase their vocabulary level
- Makes the students to search for correct English words.
- Encourages them to use dictionary for their reference.
- Helps them to frame meaningful sentences.
- Enhances their creativity.

Activity 4

This activity can also be tried in language classrooms. Our students will always be reluctant to studies but they feel more excited in extra-curricular activities. The following activity will also be of the students interest since it is nothing connected with strict rules and confinement of textbooks. Any student who is good in drawing can be asked to draw anything of his favourite work on the board. Then one group of students can be asked to describe about the picture in few sentences. The second group can be asked to criticize positively about the picture by using some encouraging words. The third group can be asked to identify the drawbacks in the picture.

In all the group works the students should be encouraged to express their point of view in full sentences.

- Descriptions of the picture enable the students to frame simple sentences related to the picture. Some students may also try to narrate a story seeing the picture. This will also improve their imaginative power.
- By telling about the positive and negative qualities of the picture the students may learn to use many vocabularies and adjectives which will be of immense helpful in their presentation skills.

Conclusion

Much classroom misbehavior and indiscipline are caused by the inactivity of the students. When students are left idle or restless their mind always go in search of negative ways. If creative and intellectual energy is channeled through curricular or co-curricular activities, not only the problem of students restlessness will be solved to a greater extent but also learning will become a matter of joy for them instead of a daily drudgery.

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