The Implementation of Innovative Pedagogical Technologies in "Reading" Courses to the Students of Tertiary Education

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Abstract

The article deals with the position of innovative pedagogical technologies in language classroom of higher educational places. In addition, they assist foreign language teachers in the perspective of conducting the lessons regarding to "reading" courses. In order to enhance university students' curiosity toward language learning and to advance current teaching methods, the innovative pedagogical technology such as "Skim, Scan and Run" and "Mysterious box" are suggested.

Key words: innovative pedagogical technology, pedagogical knowledge, technological knowledge, foreign language teacher, reading, "Skim, Scan and Run" and "Mysterious box", characteristics,

As education is an integral part of human being, it has significance for further development of the country. Nowadays, special attention is being given to learning foreign language in nearly all aspects of the life. For this reason, teaching foreign language fluently and effectively is imperative task of foreign language teachers. Nowadays, the process of conducting class is being enriched with new approaches and methods in the perspective of communicative approach toward learning and teaching language.

Therefore, the implication of innovative pedagogical technologies on the procedure of the lesson should be mentioned that they are characteristic to teaching language interactively and purposefully. Currently, different changes have been being implemented in teaching foreign language which is applicable to modern requirements. Implementing pedagogical technologies which are innovative are distinguishing for fruitful classroom management. The usage of innovative pedagogical technologies is of great importance for enhancing the system of teaching of foreign language. Besides, they are superb ways of boosting the students' zeal toward language learning.

This aspect has special traits for reaching achievement. It should be stated that pedagogical aspect is considered to be the most crucial in the perspective of teaching in general, and teaching foreign language in particular. Paying attention to pedagogies in teaching the language is

characteristic for enhancing students' knowledge. When the teachers of foreign language are well aware of pedagogical knowledge, they have priority over other teachers.

Pedagogical knowledge is a skill referring to deep knowledge about the methods and processes of the procedure of conducting class. The instructor, who is the master at pedagogical knowledge, has the ability to encompass educational values, aims and objectives. The skills consisting in pedagogical knowledge are the followings such as being able to understand students' behavior at learning language, to conduct the lessons on the basis of classroom management skill and well-designed lesson plan, to evaluate students appropriately with the perspective of standards of assessment.

Additionally, the foreign language teacher who obtains pedagogical knowledge is also required to have an understanding on different aspects of learning and teaching including cognitive, social and pragmatic feature sand ability to the appliances of abovementioned aspects in the language classrooms. As Shulman (1986) states, mastering pedagogical knowledge also requires the whole interpretation of the subject matter and finding multidimensional ways to act it out and

adapt, connecting the new material with prior knowledge of students[1].

Besides, the educator of foreign language should have basic understanding on technological knowledge. As the technology is intensely developing in every spheres of the life, it cannot be isolated in the process of teaching. The reason is that this the requirement of today's life that applying technology in teaching is one of superior responsibilities of modern foreign language teachers who aim at increasing students' motivation and conducting interesting and beneficial lessons. As today's age is digital era, implementing modes of technology such as computer, overhead projectors, power point presentations, headphones, touch boards and others enrich the quality of the lessons by raising students' curiosity and interest.

What is more, the word "innovative" is a term regarding to featuring new methods, introducing new ideas with creativity in thinking. As today's young generation is fond of latest, recent and original objects and things, foreign language teacher is supposed to have the usage of innovative methods and approaches in the procedure of lesson.

It is expedient to mention that combining pedagogical and technological

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[1] Educational Researcher, Vol.15, No.2 (Feb., 1986), p.4

knowledge and making them innovative serve for advantageous results. The teacher of foreign language is deemed as the master who utilizes up-to-date methods and who has great performance in the classroom. The instructor who encourages students with pedagogical skills is always praised and appreciated. Actually, students are able to distinguish with traditional teacher and modern teacher having unique methods and characteristics in teaching.

The students of higher educational places demand special attention on what they learn. As myriad of them are already adults and have special preferences, they are able to distinguish what is necessary and what is not. This leads to some challenges for teachers of tertiary levels to negotiate with. The main task of university teachers is to tackle those problems and move forward. In this sphere, innovative pedagogical technologies are ready to lend a hand.

The teacher of foreign language should also be aware of the nature of the target language. To illustrate, the English language has 4 basic skills including listening, reading, speaking and writing. Among them, listening and reading skills are receptive skills and speaking and writing are deemed as productive ones. Each skill requires certain characteristics for teaching them and reading is no exception.

Reading skill is one of challenging aspects of teaching English as foreign language. The students are supposed to have understanding on different texts, articles of newspapers and scientific magazines, news reports, English novels and others. This skill may not be preferred by all students, as not all students are keen on reading.

For this reason, teachers of foreign language often think of reading activities as silent and boring. Therefore, the innovative pedagogical technology "Skim, Scan and Run" is of high importance. According to this technology, students fulfill tasks such as skimming (recognizing common ideas) and scanning (investigating precise information) by reading several texts and running.

Looking back at the history of this pedagogical technology, a portable, reliable and easy-to-use way was to be used as a tool to increase reading speed by the end of the 1950s. The researcher and English teacher Evelyn Wood forced himself to read intensely looking at others who read very fast naturally. In 1958, when he shook the pages of the book, he was so hopeless and began to work out the techniques regarding to reading strategies. Later, he taught this method at Utah University and in Washington in 1959 and his approach

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was brought to the public as the reading dynamics of Evelyn Wood.

Later, Kevin Mackey introduced this method as innovative pedagogical technology. His article "Try this: Skim, Scan and Run"[2] was published in the 56th issue of the English Language Teaching Forum (2017) aiming at the usage of the idea of finding, learning and running. The importance of this innovative pedagogical technology is high so that Skim, Scan and Run can be used not only in language classes, but also in other disciplines.

For this innovative pedagogical technology, the following materials are necessary: five small pieces of the texts which are applicable to the level of students, scatter, board and markers, as well as paper to attach them to the wall. In order to utilize this innovative pedagogical technology effectively, the foreign language teacher should be ready to the lesson with well organized preparation.

For teacher's preparation to the lesson, five texts should be selected. It should be stated that these extracts of the texts may not be relevant to the course-book or material intended to the target students, they can also be obtained from different sources. Then, the teacher should attach five different examples of texts on

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[2] americanenglish.state.gov/English-teaching-forum

different sides of the room as far as possible so that student should have distance for running. The attached texts should be numerical, for example: A, B, C, D, E. Prior to lesson, the teacher has to design 10 questions concerning to five extracts of the texts. When 10 questions are presented on the board or in the format of Power Point Presentation, the students are divided into five equal groups and the task is explained.

The task is as follows:

- Each group takes one white paper per group and writes down the presented questions.
- Teacher informs that there are texts on every side of the room. The groups are given 3 minutes to read each text.
- While reading, students of the groups should simultaneously find answers. Then, students should immediately move to Text B after reading Text A.
- The teacher should check the duration of time and regulate the activity.

When the assignment is finished, groups experience peer-evaluation on the basis of the answer key presented on the board.

In addition, the following modifications can be made to the usage of this innovative pedagogical technology in classroom tutorials:

- ✓ The number of texts might be different
- ✓ The usage of another method can be chosen in distributing the questions
- ✓ The texts of advertisements might be selected instead of common texts
- ✓ The questions can be presented in the format of diagrams and flaw charts
- ✓ Audio and Video texts can also be used instead of paper texts.

This innovative pedagogical technology is remarkable with its novelty, excitement and usefulness. As everything has two aspects, both negative and positive features exist regarding to this technology. From the one side, this innovative pedagogical technology might be useless for some students. The reason is connected with learning behavior that some students have preferences on acquiring information through listening, they are auditory learners of the language. In such circumstances, students are unwilling to read and practice tasks. The superiority of the technology becomes lower.

From the other side, however, innovative pedagogical technology "Skim, Scan and Run" is very beneficial in teaching the skill of reading and attracts students' attention through enhancing their curiosity and motivation toward reading exercises and tasks. The key point of this technology is students do not get bored because this is a very interactive way of introducing innovative teaching technology in the language classrooms. What is more, this particular innovative technology can also be used in other subjects as it has the quality of pliability and adaptability.

The next useful innovative technology which is called "Mysterious box" might also be useful for conducting reading courses. It is also characteristic with encouraging students to move and act. In this process, the following materials such as handouts of reading passage and the box together with questions are necessary. Here, the teacher explains the instruction that students should read the text with attention within ten minutes.

They should read in order to reply the questions later, so they have to memorize all the facts. When students finish reading, the instructor tells the students to come to the center of the class and stand in circle. When the circle is created, the foreign language teacher tells students that she puts the music and simultaneously, the students should pass the "Mysterious box" to each other one by one. When the music is down, students should also stop passing. Here, the student who hands the box, opens it and take one sheet including the

question. If the student cannot answer correctly, he leaves the group with no point.

Suffice it to mention that innovative pedagogical technology "Mysterious box" is specific that help foreign language teachers enabling their students participate actively in reading classes. Additionally, it depends on the teacher's creativity how to organize and conduct. What is more, this innovative pedagogical technology has the character of flexibility that "Mysterious box" can be used advantageously in teaching other subjects as well, such as history, biology, geography and others.

In conclusion, it is worth to mention that the importance of innovative pedagogical technologies is so high that they are accommodating for enhancing the zeal and curiosity of students toward language learning and advancing the quality of the lesson on the basis of modern requirements. The instructor of the foreign language can reach to mastery of the profession if the combination of pedagogical and technological skills that are new is

obtained. As teaching foreign language has quite distinctive features, unlike other disciplines, teaching "reading" course might be monotonous and tedious. For this reason, precious examples of innovative pedagogical technologies such as "Skim, Scan and Run" and "Mysterious box" are presented aiming at enhancing the modern methods of teaching and learning language. Both technologies, presented above can be applicable to teaching students of higher educational places.

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