

Listening is essential for English Language Learning

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Abstract

Learning a second language has been always a challenge as we have to adopt it by continuous learning. Despite being an indispensable part of life, teaching and learning English in India need innovations and research. But we have forgotten our ancient way of learning, i.e. Listening, is also very important and plays a vital role in learning. The paper focuses on an aspect of listening as in the present scenario it is disappearing.

Keywords: - Multilingual, curriculum, practically, devices, Recording.

Introduction

India is a multilingual country having many languages, but all of them have their own Science, Grammar and technology. The great Grammarian, Panini and his contribution for language Grammar, can never be forgotten. Although nearly three fourth of people speak more than one language, but English introduced in 1759 after the introduction of the East India company in India. Now English has become the official language of India. But the present scenario of English speaking is really a sensitive one.

English Language Teaching at a Glance

On the one hand English is lingua franca of our country, we speak in English, send kids in so called English Medium Public School, read English newspapers and magazines and so on. But when it comes to the fluency or pronunciation, we nearly lack of perfection. Although many a times a curriculum is prepared and many tasks are deputed to schools, colleges, universities for upliftment of English, but it is still ailing and need a great

upheaval. There is a large group of youngsters struggling for Jobs and could not get a good one just because they could not acquire English so well as they should. The void of clear perspective, the apathy of policy makers and lack of initiative by institutes cause the malfunctioning in ELT in India.

English Language Teaching and Listening

ELT in India needs an overall change in some or another sense. One major aspect which is vanishing day by day is 'Listening'. Listening is a good exercise which always gives positive results. If we go to turn the pages of history, we find that in olden days children were sent to 'Ashram's for their early education. Their 'Gurus' teach them verbally and practically and they listen and learn the skill by heart. It makes their weaknesses away at once. When 'Guru' teach them afterwards asks them to repeat what they grasped. This not only make them learn, but at once their errors were removed. Similarly, English speaking can be easily adopted through listening. Imagine, nowadays, we emphasis on

the use of the Internet, and other electronic devices in teaching. What it actually is? Nothing but listening with the help of some or other devices. I still remember my student life when our Professor teaches us some particular pronunciations with the help of Tape recorder in which he recorded the famous speeches of famous dignitaries. At that time in late 80s internet or other facilities were not available. But even that helped a lot. Similarly, in the classroom, when students listen to their teachers, they learn a lot because they not only listen, but body movements particularly tongue twisting help a lot in pronunciation. Imagine a journey in a bus or train, when we are alone, listening to the other's conversation we learn a lot and we have many questions to ask also.

Listening is a boon

One more aspect which helps in teaching through listening is it allows a lot of time to practice. I often remember my first batch of B.A. III, who hesitates in speaking fluent English as most of them were coming from non-English medium schools with semi-rural background. When they were asked to give attention to

their classroom conversation they refused as they could not grab. But after three or four month's continuous practice of listening, then repeating in same tone same pinch, they started speaking good English. Although that too not fluent and flawless, but they progressed much more than expected. Now in present scenario, the student were given the task of listening through Net and they did all speaking with the help of listening. The student's mind can be compared to a blank box where we teachers have to put all and expect them to learn, but not necessarily every time they learn correctly or give response affirmatively. Sometimes we have to repeat again, so, teaching through listening is always good.

Language is not only a professional tool but it helps in socializing. The main aim of language is to teach students practical and social use of language. The language action involves – listening, speaking, reading, writing and lastly translating. Imagine a child always learn to speak through listening. The very first word of a child is always taught by Mother, child listen, mother speaks. When he can't follow, mother corrects him innumerable times. So, listening can

be highly useful for ELT. Mostly, teachers are fulfilling their duties just by finishing course books which actually did not give students any help in speaking. One to one lecture method is not always good. Sometimes classroom has to be interactive for effective ELT.

Some useful tips of using listening in teaching-

Ask students to listen carefully, but don't choose to speak long.

Ask two, three common questions first to boost their confidence level.

Then ask a question which they have to think before giving an answer.

Then tell them to lot and note what they find important.

Repeat your lecture again. If possible do it recording and give that to students to listen if all that is available.

Encourage students to speak, response and give answers.

Choose some areas of the student's interest other than curriculum. It will raise their interest.

Never make fun of them when they speak even if they speak incorrectly.

Last but not the least, always give them correct and useful information, howsoever they need to be corrected.

Points to ponder for Teachers

We teacher community suffers from one bad habit, i.e. our student should always answer correctly. But this habit is really bad we think that we have already given them all about a particular topic, now it's their turn to speak correctly but it is not possible always. Sometimes, even a good student grab all correctly, but even our target group wants us to explain in their mother tongue than English. They are ready to listen. In that way we as teachers should prepare them by teaching them references from daily life. When they start understanding, then we should skip on grave topics. This increases their capacity of listening. Sometime they complain about being too fast, then the teacher should slow down the speed. There are two three activities which will help a lot in this kind of teaching:-

- ✓ Recording
- ✓ Using internet and
- ✓ Using USB devices
- ✓ Teaching from grass root examples
- ✓ Always encouraging students even when they are not grasping
- ✓ Asking them to give presentations in classrooms.

The purpose of the paper is to discuss the importance of listening among

students. In present times, we have completely forgotten to importance where as one to one conversations of listening to the teacher or classmates generally increases knowledge and give an opening to your corrections. Remember a child always learn nursery rhymes just after listening to his elders especially the mother. So, we need not forget listening abilities and qualities and keep on exercising among our students and peer group.

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