



Developing LSRW Skills of Students Learning English as a Foreign or Second Language

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Abstract:

English having one of the prominent world language without it has played a bigger role in bringing humans closer economically, politically and socially. Only some of the students who has tried hard and learnt in English medium schools can express themselves in listening, speaking, reading and writing. It is hard to say that majority of people who had studied English as a second language in schools or colleges are not able to understand even basic structures of English. Even those who have studied English literature are not capable to express their views in four skills. So, the current position of English language teaching in India is not so strong that till today peoples and students are facing the problem of speaking English language fluently. The factors for such a poor condition of English language teaching learning process is that the teachers are not well aware of teaching foreign language and linguistics. In addition, it has been found that the oldest translation method of teaching English is still followed in majority of Gujarati medium schools and in English medium schools also which has been proved ineffective for teaching. Moreover, English language testing system is not well developed for listening, speaking, reading, and writing. In service training programmes are organized for teachers to develop their competence but it has been proved ineffective. As a result, effective and efficient actions need to be taken to overcome the present dismal situation and hence this study becomes inevitable. The present paper discusses about the how LSRW can be developed.

Keywords: listening, speaking, reading, writing, language acquisition

1. Introduction

Language is an important aspect for human beings and we human beings are using it for the presentation of our views, thoughts, feelings and ideas as without it we cannot imagine a civilized society. There are many languages in the world but English has become prominent all over the world. Now it has not been the language of British but it is the global language. The schools and colleges teach English as one of the subjects. English plays an important role in the domains of education, administration, business and political relations, judiciary, industry, etc. and is therefore a passport to social mobility, higher education, and better job opportunities. It holds an indisputable position in the field of education and it is essential for passing out competitive examinations, to follow instructions at higher level of learning, such as in technology, medical science, management studies, etc. English is the language in which abundant resources are available and to enrich ourselves we need to learn English.

Millions of Indians love English language but teaching and learning English is beast with number of problems. In most of the schools and colleges students face problems in coping with the communicative competence in English. A number of ways have been tried so far to improve linguistic and communicative competence but satisfactory results have not been yielded yet. Thousands of teachers, policy makers and educationists are trying to improve the speaking, listening, reading and writing abilities of the students but somehow, they are not getting the required success. Moreover, thousands of Indian students at present applying for the foreign studies but they could not get at least

6.0 band even after making 3-4 attempts in each and due to those thousands of students' vision of studying in foreign universities is spoiled. What can be done to improve the level of English of students. Some of the basic strategies has been discussed and if these are done at earlier stage of schooling definitely the level of English will improve.

2. There are some ways that can be applied to make the learning of English effective

2.1 Listening

It is natural that a child speaks any language which his /her parents or family speaks. The first skill that the child learns is listening skill. It is psychologically proved that a person who has never been sent to school and he doesn't know the shape of the letter of that language. However, he /she is can speak the language which his family is speaking very easily and naturally. On the contrary, one cannot speak the language which is not spoken by his /her family members are not speaking. It means if any one tries to learn all the grammatical structures of second language even up to the college, he/she are not capable to speak the target language. The same thing happens where the mother language is learnt very easily, but the second language becomes difficult even after making a lot of efforts. So, the first step for improving language skills is listening.

- Ask students to listen as much as from the early age.
- Listening makes students aware about the sounds, pronunciation, omitting of some sounds when speaking, the rising and falling tone, intonation of the native speaker.
- Try to provide listening of native speakers at a slow pace in the early stage.
- Ask the students to imitate the sound of that native speakers and try to speak or practice after that.
- If possible, provide concrete examples to make it more sound. For example, try to provide videos.
- Try to listen English songs and try to sing that makes learning effective.
- Listen the same audio and topic must be interesting. So, this makes the learning of listening powerful.
- At school or college level, the teacher must take listening test which are graded as per the ability of students to check their progress.
- Ask them to make habit of listening BBC news or any other news which he feels interesting.
- Make the habit of listening podcast that is considered to be the most powerful media to develop listening as it is based on the real-life situations.
- This listening technique will definitely make the students success in IELTS / TOEFL / PTE exam.
- Moreover, this is how the student's confidence in English will improve.

2.2 Speaking

As we have discussed about the listening, so the same way speaking can be developed, keep the following criteria in mind while teaching speaking:

- As the listening ask for many efforts so the speaking.
- One must put himself in the situation to speak the target language.
- It is more important to note that no skill develops at one time, all the skills develop simultaneously.
- Speaking develops with the listening.
- Try to speak whatever you listen and try to imitate in the same manner as you are listening.
- First of all, try to speak about the things which are more familiar. For example, family, friends, city, hospital, school etc.
- Try to communicate with your friends, colleagues. Make online friends who also wish to learn language.
- Let the students provide time to communicate in the classroom and ask them to discuss in group.

2.3 Reading

- First of all, provide simple story books which the students feel easy to understand and if possible first-hand experienced stories.

- They should be provided stories where most of the words the students must be familiar. So, the students must not feel boring.
- Motivate them to tell the stories to the familiar one so that he/she feels comfortable.
- Give graded books from easy to hard.
- Ask them to refer only authentic dictionaries like Cambridge, oxford, Collins to make the meaning clearer in context.
- Don't ask for referring to English to Gujarati dictionary.
- Motivate them for developing reading habit because as the time will pass, the students will start getting interest.
- If the reading has an audio version, that makes the reading and listening more meaningful.

2.4 Writing

- First of all, ask them to write whatever stories they have read in their own language without worrying whether they are writing correct or incorrect language.
- Ask them don't focus on the grammatical errors which they make.
- Teacher should not make students aware about their grammatical mistakes as it makes psychologically disturb and it will affect negatively. It is a natural process that as and when the time will go, the students will decrease the mistakes in grammar and spelling.
- Some of the teachers ask students to cram the meaning of the words, this doesn't lead to learning because language is learnt in context. Moreover, lexical resource, idioms and cohesive devices can only be learnt in context.

3. Conclusion

LSRW is the best way to learn any language naturally without providing grammatical rules. They are regularly gained by listening first followed by speaking, reading and writing. Teaching in this way will definitely develop four skills of language and will sharpen their capabilities to learn effectively. Make learning all the skills a habit and provided material must be graded. Don't translate the language in mother tongue as it will not be effective.

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