



TEACHING OF SECOND LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE FOR THE RURAL STUDENTS

S. MUHILAN

Guest Lecturer in English,
M.R.Government Arts College,
Mannargudi, Tiruvarur,
(TN) INDIA

ABSTRACT

Innovative technology in a big way could be put to use in the ESL classrooms of India at all levels of education. Teacher will have to be a keen performer himself in the game of communication that second language teaching basically is oriented towards. Teaching of Second language and literature is constantly felt to give to the job a face-lift in all glow and glitter and accompanied genuine promise and its fulfillment. This paper makes an attempt to see in relation to literature teaching, especially prose, poem and short story, as to how strategies could be innovatively and intelligently used at rural classes using technological aids. The methods of English Language Teaching and Literature are discussed under the main points: Textbooks and materials, Composition Classes, Assignments, Classroom Activities, Students' Seminars, Enriching the Students' Vocabulary, and Dictionary and Thesaurus Reading.

Key Words: *Second Language, Linguistic, Pragmatic, Enhancing, innovative.,*

INTRODUCTION

Critic Moody says:

The teaching of literature has faltered and students have been led busily but aimlessly through 'forest of inspired literacy gossip' or cajoled into rigid and doctrinaire interpretation".

Teaching of Second Language should bring good changes in the lives of rural students. The second language Teaching and learning to rural students is not one side affair. It should be the unified effort of both the teachers and students; both should strive for better results and outcome.

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There is no special need for innovation in Second language teaching. The normal method itself can be followed but with patience and more involvement to plug the holes here and there. If fully and properly implemented the present methods will bring amazing changes.

The second language learners are of three types: slow learners, medium paced learners and fast learners. Very many factors decide this division. Yet the students have to compensate and adjust themselves to the fast – learner's methods.

Learning a second language is a load to the below average and slow learning rural students. It is not a load to the above average and talented rural students. It becomes a load because of very many factors. i) Teachers also mainly responsible. If they take much pains and interest, even an ordinary rural student will become bright in learning English. If the teachers are careless, it may affect a rural student's future. ii) The students should be active to learn second language.

English language is being taught and studied in India for over two centuries and despite the fact that the British ruled us for two hundred years; Indians are still far away from learning to speak and listen effective English language. English is one of our official languages; it is the link language. It is the medium of teaching in most professional courses and degrees. Various experts have been giving their own suggestions about English Language Teaching in India. Prabhu (1995) enlists quite a few: classical scholastic procedures, grammar translation method, structural method, reading methods, task-based language teaching, communicative language teaching, etc. "These teaching methods have been tried and evaluated. Some of them have been praised, adopted and then rejected to try new methods that promised successful learning by learners" (Sandhya Rani Sahoo, 73).

The aims of teaching any language can be broadly indicated by using two familiar terms of 'Reception' and 'Expression.' While reception includes skills of listening and reading, expression stands for speaking and writing skills. The teaching of English in rural India has seen many ups and downs since its inception.

The following methods will develop second language teaching to rural students:

Text book and Materials

Globalization, Liberalization, Urbanization have all come. Yet English is still a foreign language to most of the students and a section of teachers in India. Regarding the prescribed textbooks, they are good ones, no doubt. Subject experts and enthusiasts take care of writing and prescribing activities. Availability of the text is also not a problem nowadays because the

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India Government has been taking the heavy job of printing in advance and sending them to various institutions. Even free supply of textbooks to students is done.

Classroom Activities

Many touch them! A few read them! Even before the text is started, the guides are there in the bookshops, written by 'experienced teachers'. The textbooks should become teachers' and students' 'Bible', but in practice the so-called 'guides' have been occupying the prominent place in their curriculum.

Composition Classes

Composition hours/classes are the bygone practice of the twentieth century. In the twenty first century no composition hour/class is allotted. In those days, two hours were earmarked every week for this work; students used to write textual essays, general essays, précis, comprehension, grammar exercises, translation, etc in the specially meant composition notebooks; the class during the session was supervised by tutors were very experienced people.

Assignments

The composition class which was once in rage is now replaced by assignments. This is done at home without the help of tutors/lecturers. They are submitted on before a prescribed date.

Students' Seminars

This is an annual ritual. Towards at the end of each semester every student has to present his seminar paper. This rarely takes place – teachers with good intention of improving the students' performance will conduct this. If a particular paper is taught by three teachers, all the three should conduct the students' seminar.

Enriching the Students' Vocabulary

A student with a rich vocabulary of English can write and speak faultless English. Enhancing their vocabulary alone will give them the confidence to write and speak better English. For this, reading the detailed textbook and non-detailed texts is a must. This is in print but has not taken place in the practical world. When the Xeroxing facilities have become easier and cheaper, still a section of students hesitate to get this (buying texts) done. They spend much for the other items but not for texts!

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Dictionary, Thesaurus Reading

Daily this practice has to be undertaken like brushing the teeth. Students have interest in recent film cassettes to be seen on the TV and song cassettes on tape recorder. Many students don't even have a dictionary but many have cell phones! English has become the "Principal medium of Education at University level and the language of administration at the centre and in many of states" (Sahoo 71). "English has a great socio-cultural environment of India" (Sahoo 72). Why, even Thesaurus reading will bring good changes in the lives of students. Every student should have a Thesaurus. How is the condition? Discouraging!

International Intelligibility

Students from reputed and matriculation schools have good command over English; pronounce words properly. By their efforts and training, they achieve the approximation to the British Standard Pronunciation. All cannot master the British RP (Right Pronunciation). Even though International intelligibility can't be achieved "approximation of the above standard can be tried out" (Jain 64). He argues that even if this is not possible at least "within India the model of GIE (General Indian English) which is the desirable model to achieve intelligibility within India would suffice" (Jain 64).

CONCLUSION

The above mentioned problems discussed and remedial measures suggested, if followed the atmosphere in the rural classroom will definitely change for the better. Students will have a new life in the annals of their higher education, especially in the learning of English language. English is no more a foreign language but part and parcel of every student who wants to have national and international acclaim, personal and societal approbation, individual and collective uplift. It is not other's hands; it is in their hands only! Self-confidence and striving will lead them to their doom. So decide what you want! Rise! Strive! Succeed!

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