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TEACHING ENGLISH THROUGH PROJECT WORKS

Dr K.V. PRASAD
Lecturer in English,
Govt. College for Men (a), Kadapa,India

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Abstract

Variety is the spice of the left. If one does anything what others do it does not have any value. So even teaching English language to the student of different levels several strategies can be employed to draw their interest learning can be possible when it is designed in an alluring and thought provoking manner. The don of science and the concept of the globalization has triggered unique methods of imparting English language to the modern learners. One among them is project work. A project work can facilitate a learner on his own to plan and improvise to come out with a suitable and understanding. The present paper enumerates assigning project works to learn the languages out of curiosity with much comprehensive. As well, the write up could enable the leaner to master English language without any fear or timirity.

        Keywords: English, through projects,works,globalizations etc

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Problem And Project Based Teaching

"What nobler employment, or more valuable to the state, than that of the man,who instructs the rising generation."

-Marcus Tullius Cicero

Teachers use different types of their objectives in different teaching-learning situations for the effective realization of their objectives which focuses to make the leaner fit to the future societal roles E.Stone and S.Morris view,"Teaching strategy is a generalized plan for a lesson which includes structure, desired learner behavior in terms of goals of instruction and an outline of planned tactics necessary to implement the strategy."

Of all the Teaching strategies project work lies on the principle of correlation as it tries to impart education to all the subjects in an integrated way by correlating them with the real life activities. According to Sir John Dewey, "What is to be taught should have a direct relationship with the actual happenings in life."-this central idea forms the basis of project method. It provides a practical and applied method of learning and student centred. It aims on the principles of 'learning by doing', in a social environment and natural setting.

The term 'project' has been defined by the renowned educationists Stevenson as "A project is a problematic act carried to completion in its most natural setting." It is that activity which is undertaken to solve an emerging or felt problem or realize some useful and purposeful objectives. Problem and project based teaching is one of the collaborative and cognitive planned strategies with organize teaching, learning and research. It is related to enquiry-based learning (also known as inquiry based learning) and problem based learning. It involves an instructional method that challenges students to 'learn to learn,' working in groups to seek solutions to real world problems.

Problem solving strategy, as a teaching strategy, may be defined as a strategy which provides opportunity to the students for analyzing and solving a problem on the basis of the previous stock of their knowledge enriched with the present means available to them, quite independently by following some systematic steps and arriving at some basic conclusion or results to be utilized in future for the solution of similar problems in identical situations.

Infact, in its form, nature, goals and objectives it is quite similar to the strategy known as heuristic or discovery strategy. The term heuristic has been derived from a Greek word 'heuristic' which means 'to discover or 'tofind out'. Defining the discovery or heuristic strategy, H.E.Armstrong, a London based professor of chemistry writes, "Heuristic strategy of teaching is that strategy which involves our placing students as far as possible in the attitude of discover or problem solver, the strategy which involves their finding out instead of merely told about things".

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In a language class, the primary objective isto foster an interactions and communication as a system of expression among students. The English teacher acts as facilitator and identifies or designs an ill structured problem or task relevant to the learner. The teacher persuades then to solve the confronted problem independently by providing all essential facilities, guidance and instructions for its solution. The students may be encouraged to discuss all the aspects of the problem and then given freedom of thought and action for finding out its solution.

For instance, in the first year Degree syllabus, 'Spoken English and broken English', a radio talk by Bernard Shaw is prescribed. The teacher designs a problem based project work on compilation of broken English words from movies or in songs in films or from real life situations. The problem they encounter in collecting data, writing spellings, presenting asa project work and reporting in front of the class are meted out under the guidance of the teacher. Another example is in the second year syllabus 'Gajar Halwa', a short story by Gita Hariharan is given. As a project work, 'Restaurants and recipes in chittoor Town' is assigned to the students. Initially they are advised to collect the preparation of any food item and the ingredients needed for it from the internet. As language class mainly centres on communicative language practice, the learners are advised to develop communication skills in the concerned specialized arena.

It aims for the development of an attitude of problem solving or discovery among the learners, make a student an active and independent inquirer and discoverer of the knowledge instead of a passive listener and recipient of the knowledge. It provides an opportunity for the students to get engaged in discovering the things or solving the encountered problems with their own in independent efforts.H.S Barrows states, such strategy as "A learning method based on the principle of using problems as a starting point for the acquisition and integration of new knowledge."

A problem may be theoretical, social, technical, symbolic-cultural or scientific. It may involve an interdisciplinary approach in both the analysis and solving phases. It requires the following systematic steps for its implementation: Confrontation of the problem, Describing and understanding the problem, Gathering relevant information or data, Analyzing the collected data or information, Formulation of hypothesis or tentative solutions, Selection and testing of a proper hypothesis and application of the accepted hypothesis or conclusion.

In the wake of present advanced technological computerized hi-fi scenario, this kind of teaching strategy is generating a great of buzz in the world of education. This strategy of teaching is student centred and builds high academic standards. Here problems form the organizing focus and stimulus for learning. Problems, themselves are a vehicle for the development of problem-solving. New information is acquired through self-directed learning and integrates real world issues and practices. It teaches students to apply what they have learned through this problem and project based teaching to life-long endeavors and makes them trouble-shooters. As Galileo

Galilei has rightly pointed out, "We cannot teach people anything, we can only help them to discover it within themselves."

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