COMMUNICATIVE LANGUAGE TEACHING IS ONE OF SIGNIFICANT APPROACHES IN DEVELOPING LANGUAGE SKILLS

Jumayeva Shahlo Shokirovna

Teacher, Department of Uzbek language and literature, Bukhara Institute of Natural Resources Management of the National Research University of Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers

Abstract: *The ever-growing need for good communication skills in English has created a huge demand for English teaching around the world. Millions of people today want to improve their command of English or to ensure that their children achieve a good command of English. There are a number of teaching methods in the literature and articles on new pedagogical technologies. These methods are presented as innovative methods. Here are some of the methods that can be used in foreign and even native language lessons.*

Key words: *English teaching, communicative competence, teaching ways and methods, interactive, education, pedagogy.*

The use of learning methods plays an important role and receives special attentions for a learner's life. We live in digital era, where everyone wants something efficient, effective, dynamic, fast and interactive [1]. The term 'interactive' appears in two distinct strands of educational research discourse: one concerning pedagogy and the other concerning new technologies in education. Teaching learners with traditional method where there is only one way of communication is no longer effective. The word 'interactive' is the key to have an effective [2] and efficient teaching and learning process where the teacher can grab learners' attention and learners can learn more in comparison to that of the traditional method.

Traditionally, most of the learners have been acquiring information and knowledge through less involvement of learners whereby learners only sit and listen to the unfaltering lectures. In addition, learners will copy down the endless indescribable notes that have been written on the whiteboard. Based on a research conducted by Atiyah, El Sherbing and Guirguis [3] results showed that the teacher is the most dominant person in a classroom and the teacher is responsible for all learners. Furthermore, learners only acquire the knowledge but do not know how to apply it in real-life situations as they are not indulged in inquiry-based education and problem solving. Thus, learners have less opportunity to contribute in the lesson which is leading to unsupportive classroom environment and passive learners.

Moreover, English language acts as second language learnt in school after native language. Many of these learners faced difficulty communicating in the target language and eventually gave up speaking in English language. Learners tend to shy away from using the target language when they find it hard to relay their points in English and they continue to express their ideas by using native language [4].

Consequently, it affects their level of confidence to communicate in English language. If situation to the like of the above persisted, learners' self-confidence will deteriorate, and many will shy away from communicating in English language [5]. In addition, the limitation of learners' vocabulary is one of the many factors that affect the learners' confidence level [6]. When learning and teaching take place, wide vocabularies are used in order to deliver the knowledge. Both teachers and learners need to have similarities in words so that they have the same understanding of a conversation. Learners hesitated to involve themselves in the learning and teaching process as they are not confident to share their ideas due to the lack of vocabulary [7]. Due to this, lessons will be affected and limited exchange of productive communication to take place between learners and teachers.

In overcoming the unsupportive classroom environment and passive learners, Interactive Language Learning Activities (ILLA) is implemented in current language teaching as it helps to improve learners' English-speaking ability. Speaking skills need to be enhanced with language activities through interactive learning as interactive learning activities provide opportunities for improvement are highly importance [8]. In addition, interactive language learning activities encourage learners to speak their thoughts and ideas in many ways. Learners have the chance to learn from their teachers and peers, enhance their language, process of acquiring knowledge as well as gather their thoughts and creating logical thoughts [9]. Therefore, teachers need to implement the best way to enhance the learners' English-speaking ability. Specifically, teachers need to fully use the interactive learning environment as it encourages learners' engagements and participation in the lesson that lead to active learners and effective learning. Putting in mind that interactive classrooms are not limited to technology-based teaching spaces alone.

Education today has changed over time. With the ever growing of Generation Z, born between 1995 and 2012, are more Internet savvy compared to their Generation Y counterparts. Thus, there has been a dire need for new teaching and learning model that suit this "Digital Natives" yet penury generation to explore.

The most important skill in self-expression and gaining knowledge is learners' speaking ability [10]. To emphasize the importance of speaking among the learners, teachers implement a series of methods that help to engage the learners and encouraging them to speak better. As a human being, communication plays a vital role in our lives. We communicate to deliver messages, convey and changing information as well as reporting things that are happening in our lives. To communicate, it is not necessarily to speak but you can have it in easier by sending messages through the usage of technology. However, people need to master speaking skills in order to communicate effectively and speaking is highlighted as the major component in fulfilling the target in communication [7]. In addition, speaking is said to be significant language skill in education and personal life [10]. Speaking is defined as a process that involves the thoughts and expressing it verbally. It means, the thoughts will first appear in our brain then only we articulate what we think [9].

It is seen that there are a number of learners from primary schools, secondary school and tertiary level who are not proficient in speaking regardless the language [11]. When the learners cannot grasp the basic skills of speaking at early age, it affects their performance in many ways. In relation to the statement stated, foreign language learners have to acquire the fundamental language skills due to its importance usage in communication [7]. The ability to use and speak a world-wide language gives them nothing but benefits as they can indirectly enhance their knowledge and skills as well as assists them in terms of job- wise; having said that, speaking skills need to be improved among the learners. As learners spend most of their times in school acquiring knowledge and enhance their skills, teachers and their effective teaching and learning method play a vital role. A vary learner-

centered and interactive method of teaching need to be implemented in order to improve the learners' speaking skills [9]. Besides, he mentioned that speaking is a learner-centered activity due to the language production activities implementation and had, thus, proposed the enforcement of interactive teaching strategy in improving learners' speaking skills which the focus is on enhancing the second language. Compared to other language skills, speaking is emphasized as the important component in achieving the purpose of communication [8, 12-15]. With the implementation of interactive teaching method, teachers eventually will conduct interactive language learning activities to complement their method of teaching.

What Is Communicative Language Teaching?

Perhaps the majority of language teachers today, when asked to identify the methodology they employ in their classrooms, mention "communicative" as the methodology of choice. However, when pressed to give a detailed account of what they mean by "communicative," explanations vary widely. Does communicative language teaching, or CLT, mean teaching conversation, an absence of grammar in a course, or an emphasis on open-ended discussion activities as the main features of a course? What do you understand by communicative language teaching?

Communicative language teaching can be understood as a set of principles about the goals of language teaching, how learners learn a language, the kinds of classroom activities that best facilitate learning, and the roles of teachers and learners in the classroom. Let us examine each of these issues in turn.

Communicative language teaching sets as its goal the teaching of communicative competence. What does this term mean? Perhaps we can clarify this term by first comparing it with the concept of grammatical competence. Grammatical competence refers to the knowledge we have of a language that accounts for our ability to produce sentences in a language. It refers to knowledge of the building blocks of sentences (e.g., parts of speech, tenses, phrases, clauses, sentence patterns) and how sentences are formed. Grammatical competence is the focus of many grammar practice books, which typically present a rule of grammar on one page, and provide exercises to practice using the rule on the other page. The unit of analysis and practice is typically the sentence. While grammatical competence is an important dimension of language learning, it is clearly not all that is involved in learning a language since one can master the rules of sentence formation in a language and still not be very successful at being able to use the language for meaningful communication. It is the latter capacity which is understood by the term communicative competence.

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