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ROLE OF ENGLISH CLUBS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

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ABSTRACT



This paper focuses on the challenges faced by the learners to learn the English language and the role of clubs useful to enhance their language learning process. The main obstacle for an individual in language learning process is speaking. To overcome this obstacle one needs to learn speaking. Speaking is the most challenging task in the process of language acquisition. This challenge can be overcome by learning language speaking through clubs in a group. These clubs help the learners to practice the speaking and listening. These clubs can help them to create tasks related to real life situations. The clubs also help individuals to engage in conversations on good topics of interest. The clubs can be formed among the learners like students, professionals and people from diverse backgrounds. The clubs can be planned with activities such as skits, role-plays, debates, JAM sessions etc. The duration of the clubs, atmosphere and other factors also play an important role in the language learning process. It also creates a friendly peer learning and knowledge sharing process.

Keywords: *English, Language, Clubs, Learner, Professionals, Role-Play, Skits Etc.*

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ROLE OF CLUBS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

English language has a prominent role in the society due to its global importance. The English language creates opportunities in career prospects and it also increases living standards. In order to acquire the English language speaking skills, clubs can be introduced to facilitate practice speaking. The clubs help the learners to practice the language and use it in real life situations.

To start an English clubs are used to follow these steps;

- pick club members
- Set a location for gathering
- Planning your initial meeting
- Maintaining club leadership

PICK A CLUB MEMBER

The initial step to set up an English club is to pick the club members .in other words it depends on if you are a teacher or you are a fellow student. If you are planning the club as a teacher for your student, then you can advertise the club meeting by passing a sign sheet. If you are a fellow student and you are starting a club, then send an email to your peers. You can use platforms like Facebook and other social media to host club meeting and arrange a time line.

SET A LOCATION FOR GATHERING

The location of the club is very crucial as it affects the meetings with the use of people to join it. The location must easily accessible and must be centrally located to arrive early and leave early or late.

The classroom will be an ideal location if you are a teacher. if the club is arranged outside the class better be it a café or a restaurant to accommodate ample number of students to join after school or work, where they can eat or speak and communicate in a comfort zone.

PLANNING YOUR INITIAL MEETING

It's very important to let your peers know about your club logistics in the first meeting. give them a good idea of the frequency of the club meetings and other news.

MAINTAINING CLUB LEADERSHIP

Maintaining a club leadership is also an important task as you can start with small club with single leader or large club with group leaders which makes the task easier and also enhances the team work and also the leadership skills. the leader should ensure all the time to motivate the members to be active and committed to learn.

According to Moulekha,(2013)"it is an activity where we learn English through practice of activities .in such a place, pupils entertain only English. the leaders can initiate songs, games, sketches, poems, debates etc."

Researchers identified the problem of English by learners for two different reasons.

- most of the students feel less confident to speak English in public platforms due to the guilt of errors in grammar and pronunciation.
- the students being unaware of the English prominence in terms of practice outside class.



Ewens (2014) states few guidelines for the establishment of clubs.

Principles such as

1. The English clubs should have certain strategies to provide opportunities for participants to express themselves creatively. it is participant –centered.
2. The club gives freedom to the students and they should make it fun and enjoyable.

El –Bahri (2009) speaking club is one of the ways to students to improve their ability on speaking English in which as a place for language learners who meet together regularly to use English in casual practice ,in other words, outside of classroom activities.

There are certain advantages and disadvantages in joining a clubs:

1. Galanes and Adames states the advantages of joining the speaking club 2013.
2. The club participants enjoy the companionship and fellowship.
3. The participants receive the emotional support as well as mutual support
4. They have full access to information.
5. Its pleasant experience where each on gets a turn with new vocabulary and knowledge.
6. There are disadvantages of joining a club;
7. Not all participants focus on the speaker's word.
8. At times the students may not be able to give attention to speakers.

Wetherby(2011) says that English club improves not only the speaking ability but also improves students motivation and instills confidence to shares their difficulties in speaking practice .students also benefit from the clubs by discussing topics of interest and personal topics related to it such as hobbies, ambitions ,concerns etc .As a result they develop problem –solving skills .They also learn team work by sharing ideas ,presentation skills.

- Researchers after conducting certain observations, they concluded certain points which are as follows:
- Most of the students because of their interest in language explore to practice speaking through games, short films which avoid monotony
- The clubs are more interesting as they focus on non-formal learning as it is not English based on the books .
- The teacher is also very much benefitted as she distributes material which help them to prepare and also face inter school competitions like short story telling, debate, spell bee etc .

LANGUAGE LEARNERS AND OBSTACLES IN SPEAKING:

The learners in the process of communication face certain issues such as inhibition as most of the learners feel scared of the criticism and it results in inhibition.second issue is with ambiguity of the speaker where they don't have anything to say .third issue is low number of participants and fourth issue is with the mother tongue use which is much frequent.



To focus on the language one should be good at speaking speaking is broadly classified into few types:

- Imitative
- Intensive
- Responsive
- Interactive
- Extensive

In imitative speaking it focuses on listening and repeat like a parrot verbally whereas intensive speaking includes pair reading, dialogue reading etc. The third type of speaking is responsive speaking which involves follow ups etc. The fourth type of speaking is interactive speaking and it helps in improving the social relations finally the last type of speaking is extensive speaking which includes oral reports, short speeches etc.

Malu and smedley (2016) discussed about the English clubs in many countries. They state that in a regular class the students learn EFL classes included few hours in a week. Students try to compare the differences of a club from that of a regular class.

There are case studies done by few researchers to identify and focus on the importance of language clubs .In the first case study done by Selvia fitix anggraeni (2016) on the abilities of speaking in the students who joined the club and who didn't join the club .At the end of the case study they conducted a speaking test and they found out that the students who joined the language club have the ability to speak and the students who didn't join couldn't speak that effectively compared to those who joined clubs.

The teachers can follow few strategies in

classroom setting by asking the students to speak about their ideas and issues by repeating the sentences. The teacher can use speaking practice by using questions framing with where, when, why, whom etc.

THE ROLE OF INTERVIEWS IN CLUBS

Mayasris (2013) study states that the English club has lot of positive effects on the speaker. Interview helps in improving the vocabulary and also the fluency as well as intonation and grammar.

As cited by Patton in Creswell (2012) few parameters are to be fulfilled about the club activities -One need to understand the policy of club activities.

- He or she must indulge as in charge of the club.
- one need to be aware of the course content of the club.
- He or she should take part in the club along with the students.

Few examples provided for grammar clubs are as follows:

-Here the students are practiced with the concepts through some activities like:

unscrambling the words which are jumbled.

picking verbs from the sentences.

-proverbs completion.

-answering the plural forms etc.

-reinforcing speaking skills through tongue twisters and quizzes.

-To improve confidence in them they can be assigned role plays to enact and deliver dialogues before



audience in the club.

-few more activities can be planned like word building by replacing letters, they can also be involved in word matching with meanings.

-They can be motivated in story telling in chunks by helping them frame sentences etc.

BOOK CLUBS:

Book clubs help readers to have a deviation from regular grammar and practice of academic writings etc. It gives them scope to explore the books and read them to discuss in the clubs about the characters of the book and themes.

In the process of English language teaching the role of communicative language teaching plays an important role. According to Richards (2005:2) the communicative language teaching initiates the communicative competence.

Richards (2005:24-25) states few course assumptions of CLT they are as follows:

-language can be acquired when the learners are facilitated to learn via interaction.

- These interactive communications create opportunities for them to negotiate the meaning and process the content in purposeful way.

-The role of a teacher will be a facilitator in this process. She has to determine and respond to the needs of the learners (Richards: 2001:167)

To enhance the speaking skills, the learners should develop phonological skills, interaction skills, discourse skills and organization skills.

In phonological skills they pronounce with accurate sounds and in interactive skills they try to initiate and

close conversations by taking turns.

CLUB MEMBER ROLES

In a club there are troubles where they can be overcome by assigning roles as per the needs of the clubs.

The roles can be assigned as –

Group director, who takes care of every speaking and listening activity by all individuals.

-note taker who is responsible to make a report of the conversation.

-Time keeper ,who is responsible to take care of the time frame to make sure that all of them get enough and equal time for speaking.

-vocabulary collector –He collects the questions from vocabulary and finds answers from the participants.

-Grammarians who keeps track of the questions and answers in grammar part.

Mobin in Pereira (2013) says that academic clubs can be successful if they are organized in a correct manner to promote communication.

CONCLUSION

So, English language clubs create opportunities for the learner to practice English in a comfort friendly zone in informal setting where they can find new people and give them freedom to express .The teacher plays a role of a facilitator in a club for the pairs and they work in team to analyze discuss and negotiate the issues.

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