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Recent Trends in English Language Teaching

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Abstract:

This paper deals with the recent trends in language teaching. A trend is the general tendency or direction towards change. English language teaching has undergone tremendous changes over the years, especially the last ten years. Students are burdened with studying, learning and grasping the materials. The use of mother tongue in learning English as a foreign language has always been the subject of debate. While advocates of the monolingual approach suggest that English should be the only language used in the classroom, but teachers and learners see a role for L1 and support its use as a communication strategy and as an instructional tool. Process of English language has to undergo a transition for the betterment. Seasons change, fashion changes, attitudes of human beings change but it is disheartening to note that in the last century English curriculum has hardly undergone any change. In this paper, an attempt is made to review the new trends in this area of language teaching within the last years. Use of ICT is also a step forward for English Language Teaching and it has to be implemented without fail.

Keywords: Trends, language, networking, teaching and learning.

Introduction:

The experience of teaching English to the students over decades has made language teachers to try several approaches, methods, and techniques and it is clear that they have to learn from their strengths and weaknesses. From the Grammar-Translation Method, the Structural Approach, and the Communicative Approach, we have gained insights how to assist our students to obtain and use the target language. The long journey of language teaching and learning seems to approach its destination. Communicative Language Teaching may help our students to be able to use the target language for communicative purposes. The course of language is changing at an ever-increasing rate. Traditional notions of education are giving much to newer more innovative of thinking about how to learn, teach and acquire language.

New trends technologies have supplemented English teaching in authenticity and literacy such as reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills of students. English is the only suitable language that can be understood by everyone all around the world. Students learn faster and easier than before because of the use of technology in the schools. If they are trained during their school days, they have the chance of becoming experts in technology. It is proved by the researches that have been done; early beginnings are always beneficial. Learning English through the web using new trends in education in schools make students willing to learn the language. It is understood that English has become a requirement today. We need it in different fields of life.

Recent trends of teaching English:

There is nothing eternal except change. A trend is the general inclination or a way towards change. Recent trends, methodologies and developments depict the vital role of education sector. The field of language education is changing at an ever-increasing rate. Traditional concepts of education have given a way to newer, more innovative ways of thinking about how we learn, teach and acquire knowledge. As a global language, its various areas have been largely investigated, especially that of EFL teaching and learning. So English language teaching plays a significant role in language learning and gaining its objectives. English teacher has to give up traditional methods and has to adopt innovative methods to teach English language. English teachers have to play various roles like facilitators, communicators, motivators, mentors, guides and build bridge between theory and practice. So the teaching is challenging to the teacher in modern era. The innovative methods are helpful to face the challenge and how these innovative methods make the teachers efficient and how these are helpful to students to learn English in effective manner.

This is very much crucial for the language teachers as well as learners to have the basic awareness of the followings:

1. How to use language for a range of different purposes and functions.
2. How to vary our use of language according to the setting and the participants (e.g., knowing when to use formal and informal speech or when to use language appropriately for written as opposed to spoken communication)
3. How to produce and understand different types of texts (e.g., narratives, reports, interviews, conversations)
4. How to maintain communication despite having limitations in one's language knowledge (e.g., through using different kinds of communication strategies).

Innovations in English Language Teaching

1.E-communication

Development of networking, social networking sites, groups and chat rooms have changed the use of English Language. Now we can access across the borders and turn into an experts in any particular area we want. If we need information related to some particular custom tradition, we can access all through these.

2.Learning Practices

Now the teachers can also make the best use of their teaching plans. They can prepare interactive lectures, work sheets and questionnaire with the help of devices to make teaching and learning innovative.

3. Computer Software Mobile Applications

At present much software is available in the market that will help a lot in learning and teaching English language. Even latest mobile applications of language provide us latest Dictionaries, words, and related knowledge of the language.

4. Change in Teaching

Teachers have to focus on the characteristics of target group for teaching. If students want to explain the content firstly in MT, then in English, they have to do it as per convenience and adaptation ratio of their students.

1. Objectives of Teaching English