

THE PROMOTION OF WRITING SKILLS IN ESL CLASSROOM

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ABSTRACT

Language is a tool of communication to express one's ideas, thoughts, feelings and emotions. Hence, language, communication and speech are the three main important and essential tools that are useful in sharing our ideas with others. Humans have to acquire the skills of a particular language in order to communicate well with their fellow human beings. In the case of English also, humans should learn all the four language skills, i.e., listening, speaking, reading and writing. Once the learners of English get a good command over these skills, they can communicate well in English.

Key words: activities; classrooms; EFL/ESL learners; ELT; English; needs and interests; strategies; teachers; writing skills.

In the world of globalization, there is a great demand for communication skills. Language highly influences the everyday lives of humans of all castes, communities, races, creeds, regions and nations around the globe. Language is useful in expressing humans' thoughts, feeling, ideas, desires, ambitions and queries to the people all around the world. Human beings are entirely different from the rest of other animal kingdom because of their reasoning and communication skills. It has become a mandatory for all human beings to possess good oral as well as written communication skills in order to sustain in this modern world. Language plays a vital role in developing their relationships with the people all around the globe. In order to keep contact with the people of various parts, regions and countries of the world, humans have to learn the basic skills of language. Learning language skills is the need of the hour because everything depends on how we communicate. As people's real success is based on their way of communication, they realize the importance of these communication skills and try to acquire them. It is possible for the learners to acquire these skills with an

ounce of practice. So the learners of a language have to think of developing these skills to improve their communication skills.

As there is a need for a common language to communicate internationally, people opt for English as it is spoken widely all over the world. English has been recognized as an official language of many countries and a lot of official and business correspondence is also done in English. Hence, the people of the twenty-first century recognize the need of leaning English language communication skills and try to learn the basic skills of English. In order to learn the English language in a systematic way, first of all, the learners need to learn the basic skills of the language.

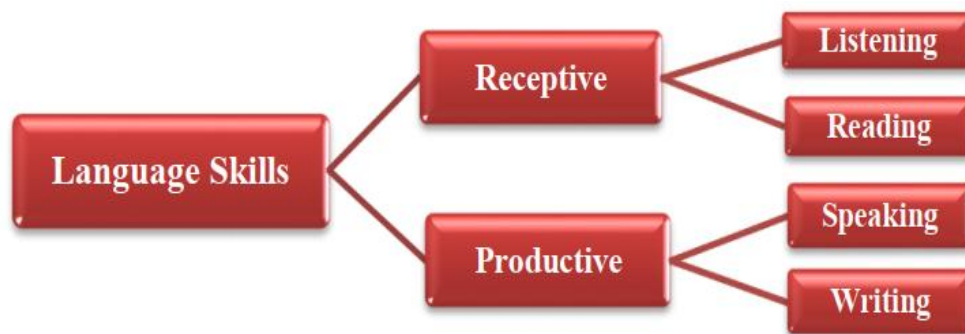


Fig: The Four English Language Skills

The definition of Writing.

In simple terms, writing is the representation of graphic symbols which are known as letters. Writing becomes so complex when it involves generating meaningful and clear message in any language. In this context, Widdowson (2001: 62) states, “Writing is the use of visual medium to manifest the graphological and grammatical system of the language”. In the process of writing, learners must have mastery over the graphic system, selection of relevant vocabulary and the grammatical structure of the language. Accordingly, writing is not producing or making list of words, as inventories of items of a shopping list. Even though this shopping list does not provide an example of sophisticated writing, it states something about the writing process. The final achievement of writing should

be linked with the unity of words or sentences that are arranged in a logical order and joined together to give appropriate meaning. In this regard, Bailey (2003: 1) states, “Learners at schools (and universities) must master the academic writing which was needed in writing essays and paragraphs or other assignment.

What does Writing Involve?

According to Richards and Renandya (2002), “Writing is the most difficult skill for L2 learners, since they need to generate ideas, organize them and translate these ideas into readable text which can be very difficult for students”. Even though most of the written communication takes place electronically, the learners have to write their language exams by hand only. In addition, spelling also plays a dominant role in both literacy and writing. The main reason that the EFL/ESL learners have the difficulty in spelling is that the relation between the spelling of the word and its pronunciation. There is no correspondence between the sound and spelling. In English, a single sound has got various spellings, whereas the same spelling has various sounds. That is the greatness of the English language and the EFL/ESL learners find it very difficult to get mastery over the spelling and pronunciation.



Therefore, the English teachers have to understand the intelligence level of the EFL/ESL

learners and try to adopt the latest techniques in ELT in order to improve their writing skills. As writing is the most difficult skill to acquire for the EFL/ESL learners, the teachers should concentrate more on their learners' writing skills by involving them in a variety of activities. Therefore, the teachers are supposed take the EFL/ESL learners' interests and needs in consideration so that the learners' involvement in the given writing task increases. Moreover, the EFL/ESL learners participate in the tasks very actively and they will produce qualitative and productive results in their English writing skills.

Conclusion

This paper has focused on the importance of writing skills and it has also brought out various ways of developing writing skills among the EFL/ESL learners. This paper has thoroughly discussed why writing is considered the most difficult skill for the EFL/ESL learners among the four language skills. This paper has also investigated that writing involves many things so it has become quite difficult for the EFL/ESL learners to get good command over writing skills. Furthermore, the nature of writing and the things involved in writing have been profoundly highlighted. As most of the EFL/ESL learners find it difficult to write in English, this paper has emphasized on various strategies of developing the learners' writing skills. Finally, this paper has also concentrated on giving some useful tips for both the EFL/ESL teachers as well as learners to improve their teaching and learning of writing skills.

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