

COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES

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Abstract

The aim of the paper is to study comprehensive approach to teaching a foreign language quoting English as a classic example.

A comprehensive approach to teaching a foreign language incorporates the following:

- immersion in the language;
- removal of language barrier;
- cross-cultural context of learning a foreign language;
- learning a foreign language through innovative technologies

The modern world requires to further develop and master foreign languages in everyday and professional life. The amount of information is growing, and the routine ways to convey, store and process the information is in most situations ineffective. The new social order broadens the goals of teaching foreign languages and calls for a qualitative approach to the learning process, creating a model of language education that integrates linguistic, cultural and social aspects in teaching foreign languages. The aim of training is to master a foreign language as a means of communication in various spheres of social and professional activities in the context of intercultural communication through socio-cultural development and familiarization with spiritual values of other peoples.

A wide-range introduction of information technologies in teaching a foreign language facilitates its optimization, creates additional opportunities for searching professionally oriented materials integrating them into the educational process. Information and computer technologies make it possible to exert control on developing skills in different types of foreign speech activities.

Keywords: cross-cultural communication, intercultural communication, means of communication, teaching a foreign language, fluency.

1 INTRODUCTION

It has been known that many teachers teach languages by doing activities based on a passage, followed by students attempting exercises. There is generally a focus on testing, assessment and marking, followed by more of these. For effective learning to take place, teachers cannot simply teach a language skill, practice it and move on to teach another skill without reference to skills taught earlier. During this workshop, participants will learn how to use and integrate the language learning skills as an on-going process for language acquisition. They will go through the practical aspects of each deliverable by putting themselves in

the place of students before crafting lesson plan to effectively deliver English Comprehension lessons to give students practice in the deliverables listed below. They will understand clearly how to teach the different skills and be able to design lessons that will keep the skills learnt foremost in students' mind, in their active conscious memory, where recall will not be an issue.

English immersion is widely considered to be the best method of learning English. Indeed, immersion is a method of learning language used by people across the world, learning a large number of languages.

English is among many languages that prove to be particularly difficult to learn, largely due to the fact that grammatical rules are inconsistent in the language. Individuals learning English might one minute think they are getting to know the language well, and then will suddenly begin to stumble across tens of exceptions to the alleged rule. Hence, immersion becomes particularly effective in providing the necessary practice on a daily basis. Individuals might have the best English teacher in the world, they might have attended the best course, and might have spent the most amount of hours studying - but at the end, it does not provide them with the communication and practice skills that they need to be able to understand dialect and colloquialisms that are used throughout the language and throughout the country.

1.1 Fluency

Whilst English immersion is a great way of learning the language, and becoming fluent in it (whilst also teaching you about dialect), individuals should ensure that the people they immerse themselves in actually speak the language well. Whilst accents do vary, if individuals surround themselves with people who speak the language incorrectly, they will struggle understanding them and they might end up thinking certain linguistic rules exist - when in fact, it's a grammatical or linguistic error made by the people that surround them every day. If individuals do not know any people who speak English as a first language, then they will be able to use English school, a teacher, and other students as a way to immerse themselves in the language. Equally, if individuals cannot go to an English speaking country then they would benefit greatly from listening to English speakers through the Internet, watching English films and even reading English books. This is a great way to get used to learning correct grammar, and correct use of words, without having to find people who speak English on a daily basis.

English immersion works wonders, and they will find that when they try it. Another thing people should remember that, even if individuals immerse themselves in English, they will need to know a wide vocabulary of words in order to sound like a native speaker. If people only have a small vocabulary then they will be prone to stopping during conversation, and thinking of other words to use when they are speaking. Individuals should focus primarily on the traditional vocabulary that they will find during their lessons, but they could also learn vocabulary from native speakers, and through aforementioned methods like watching films and reading books in English. To be a true speaker of a language, people need to start thinking in that language. When they are native speakers, they think in their native language. Individuals should try their best to start thinking in English, and make an effort to say more things in English throughout their day.

Outstanding communication skills are valuable in any employee and at any organizational level; they are even more important when dealing across cultures. Subtle differences in how people communicate, both verbally and non-verbally, can make the difference between a deal going through and an agreement falling apart. Certainly, it is helpful to speak the local language. However, with a thorough understanding of the local culture and a skilled translator, it is possible to be an effective communicator in any country. [1] Fundamentally, the authors suppose that individuals should spend a short but intensive time with people who really want to improve their English in their country. Moreover, language immersion is proving to be one of the best ways individuals can learn to speak another language.

Fluency in a foreign language is a major accomplishment. It is also a great way to increase individuals' opportunities for working and traveling. Fluency is made up of several different factors, so it is important to work on each aspect: speaking, listening, reading, cultural literacy, and writing. [2] When people are communicating with native speakers, more often than not they will feel that their response speed is considerably slower than theirs. People should not be focused on the right word or the right phrase, most likely the other person will help them to figure it out as they go. If persons spend the time to craft a perfect reply, they will have forgotten what they were talking about. Their response speed will get better with time.

Individuals should expect that all people to be understanding of the fact that they are trying to speak a foreign language. People who have never tried to speak a foreign language (and we mean really speak it, outside of the classroom setting) have no idea what they are dealing with, they have no idea how stressful it is and what it is like to feel that their brain is going to explode after a 20 min conversation. When individuals have hit their processing capacity for the day, they should get some rest and then put themselves back in the

action. The more people use the language, the easier the words are going to come out of their mouth and vice versa. They will remember the words better, learn new expressions, utterances, but most importantly they will hear themselves in the action and realize that nobody is going to eat them if they say things wrong.

1.1.1 Speaking Capacity

Foreign students should take into account that every person is a practice partner, not judge. They should have little to no concern about what other people think about their speaking capacity, how smart they are, how original they are, etc. Instead, people should be focused on how this conversation will help them to improve their language. Individuals should regularly watch movies, TV shows, documentaries in their target language. TV-watching was one of the greatest tools in helping students to overcome the language barrier. It can give them hundreds of real-life scenarios acted out by native speakers. It is important to add subtitles to that and students cannot really beat the value it provides. A lot of Russian people keep watching Russian TV in the US. The teacher who is a native speaker should keep associating with Russian people and then wonder why their English is not getting better. Foreigners who tend to improve their English should watch TV in a foreign language. They should find what they like and watch. The first year of their TV-watching they do not understand half of what was being said, the second year it got much easier, and then they understand everything with no subtitles. If you are learning a new language while living in a country where it is spoken, find people who have interests similar to yours. People should not be concentrated on their own culture too much. Being around like-minded people can greatly speed up the learning process. Finally, they should get out of their comfort zone immediately, to avoid the risk of being stuck there permanently! They feel like there are so many things that can be added to the list.

Cross-cultural communication will be effective when communicators have sufficient knowledge and skills in all aspects of the culture. We are living in modern society with latest technological development which includes computers and electronic devices as a main part of our life. There are different business opportunities where we have to deal with different kinds of people from different culture.

So it is necessary to develop a better and successful cross-cultural communication skill in the modern period. For making a good cross-cultural communication, individuals must have a good knowledge about all types of cultures and cultural background of different people in different parts of the world. Language is one of the important part of cross-cultural communication where individuals have to talk in a language where both communicators understand each other.

2 CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

1) Flexibility in character is an important strategy to make effective cross-cultural communication. As you have to deal with different people of different cultures, you should not stick on your normal character and talk and you have to change and join according to their culture to make the communication more effective. You should be flexible while communicating, which means you should change your talk and behaviour according to the character of other party, and make him join with you. This will also help you to create a cool and friendly atmosphere between you and the communicator. If you are flexible, you can change according to the situation.

2) Honesty is very much needed in a cross - cultural communication. Being honest will make the communication better and success. If one person is honest and other party is not, the communication will not go in a smooth manner. Honest communication will also strengthen the relationship between the parties of different cultures. While making a cross-cultural communication both parties should be honest in what they are saying. Otherwise you will not get the right result. This can result in a perfect deal with both parties of the communication. If you are discussing an important business matter honestly, both parties will result in making some important and successful decisions and deals.

3) Listening skill is an important part of cross-cultural communication. A person who has less concentration and listening skill of other's talk, will not make cross-cultural communication effective. You have to deal with different types of people in cross-cultural communication where you have to give more importance only to the communication process without engaging in any other activities. You should be calm and quiet while listening to other's talk to for smooth communication process. You will be communicating to persons having different culture and background, so you should listen to their talk actively without engaging in other activities, which will make cross-cultural communication effective.

4) Respecting each other is an important strategy to make cross-cultural communication effective. Respect should be given on all talks and forms in cross-cultural communication. Both parties should give equal respect in all talks and opinions of each other. There will be different opinion for the other communicator; in

that situation you should give some respect to his suggestions. You should not fix on your opinion and suggestion, you should also give equal preference to other party and if he agrees to your decision, communication will be affective between the parties of different backgrounds.

5) As you are communicating with different people having different cultures, understanding each other is an important skill to make cross-cultural communication effective. Asking questions helps you to get a better idea and understand about the communicator. A better understanding about the party and situation will give more confidence in solving the problem and more solutions for the problem. Both communicating parties should have skills in recognizing complexity of the decisions and talks, which will help for a better settlement of the matter, discussed without any conflicts.

6) Building self-awareness and confidence is one of the important strategies for effective cross-cultural communication. Both parties should be aware for making successful cross cultural communication. This can be developed only by dealing with different kinds of people having different cultures and backgrounds. Foreigners should be aware before making a talk or decision and think twice for effective and successful deal. Self-awareness can be developed by asking questions about yourself and finding answers to the questions and foreigners will get a better idea about themselves. Self-awareness also improves confidence in making a smooth cross-cultural communication. Communication is perhaps the biggest challenge facing leaders in the international business environment. Outstanding communication skills are valuable in any employee and at any organizational level; they are even more important when dealing across cultures. Subtle differences in how people communicate, both verbally and non-verbally, can make the difference between a deal going through and an agreement falling apart.

Certainly, it is helpful to speak the local language. However, with a thorough understanding of the local culture and a skilled translator, it's possible to be an effective communicator in any country. Observation and sensitivity: There are several ways to become more culturally aware. Studying up on the target market is an obvious first step. Still, the most reliable tools could be foreigners' level of sensitivity and their powers of observation. When students are in a foreign country, they should learn how those around they conduct themselves and their business. Foreign students should also listen more than they talk and chances are they will learn more, faster.

2.1 Patterns

Remember flexibility: when doing business internationally, you may face situations in which you are not in control or do not have all the answers. You will have to deal with uncertainty, especially in cultures where communication may be subtler and nuanced than in the United States. Be patient with yourself as well as with business partners or potential customers. Keep the focus on the big picture.

Self-awareness: It is not easy to absorb and understand everything that is happening around you in cross-cultural business settings. At such times, it can be beneficial to tap into your self-awareness skills. Ask yourself, "Why do I think this?" and "Why am I feeling this way?" and then adjust your responses or actions as necessary.

With these considerations in mind, there are strategies that business leaders can adopt in order to nurture and strengthen their cultural awareness. Appreciate differences: A culture is built on more than just food, music, art and clothing. Its foundation includes stories, values and beliefs passed down through generations. Learn to value a culture's contributions to the greater human story.

When in doubt, ask. Do not be afraid to ask questions. You will not be perceived as less intelligent, as people generally appreciate the interest, and enjoy sharing information about their nation and culture. By being humble and acknowledging that you are still learning you may be more likely to gain acceptance in a new culture.

Smile: Students may have heard the saying, "A smile is the same in every language." Indeed, a smile can be a great ice-breaker and stress reliever. Have a smile ready when facing unexpected challenges and look for humour in a predicament. Companies with culturally aware leaders at the helm may be better positioned to reap more of those benefits. Nowadays it is especially important to know foreign languages. Some people learn languages because they need them for their work, others travel abroad, for the third studying foreign languages is a hobby. Everyone, who knows foreign languages can speak to people from other countries, read foreign authors in the original, which makes your outlook wider. The great German poet Goethe once said, "He, who knows no foreign language, does not know his own one". There are more than 2700 languages in the world, not to mention the many dialects and sub-languages spoken on every continent. About 328 million people speak English as their mother tongue, plus at least 375 million people use it as a

second language.

CONCLUSION

English language is one of the most beautiful and interesting languages in the world. It is the language of the great literature. It is the language of William Shakespeare, Charles Dickens and others. Half of the world's scientific literature is in English. It is the language of computers technology. Knowledge of English helps to train our memory, to make a person educated, well-bred and wise. [3] This is because you get to know different cultures, different national, social and historical facts. Learning languages stretches our minds. It is a good exercise for our intellect. It gives us a chance to get a better job and to visit different countries. It is a long and slow process that takes a lot of time and efforts. But do not be afraid and do not trust anyone who says that to learn and to know English is not realistic. Reading books, listening to the radio, watching movies in English, and most importantly, speaking is more than possible. The authors suppose that to know English today is absolutely necessary for every educated person, for every good specialist Computers are getting deeper and deeper into our life. The basic job of computer is processing information. Computers accept information in the form of instruction called a program and characters called data to perform mathematical and logical operations, and then give the results. [4] The data is raw material while information is organized, processed, refined and useful for decision making. Computer is used to convert data into information. They are indispensable in space research, communication, medicine, metallurgy, light industry, information, technology and many other branches of industry. Many countries have introduced computers into agriculture, education, transport and many other spheres. [5] Computers provide security and safety of various processes, diagnose numerous cases and do a lot of in monitoring different developments. In short they help to carry out increasingly complex tasks and their application sometimes helps to prevent disasters, tragedies and accidents.

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