

Skills of Teaching

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When we discuss teaching and learning in education, we are discussing the essence of our life, the generations which we direct for the future which we are looking at, the relations between people in different countries, the prosperity of peoples' lives, living peacefully on this global.

Any time we mention the words teaching and learning immediately comes up to our minds the teachers and the learners. The teacher is the center of the teaching process. He is the generator of the teaching process. Anyone can enter the classroom and play the role of a teacher, but not anyone can be a teacher. Who is the teacher whom we are looking for then?

The teacher is the one who has the ability to change lives and develop well-educated and respectable students; who can help with not only his students' knowledge growth but personal improvement, too. Good educators are high in demand, but to be an effective teacher, you need to have a diverse set of professional skills to complete your work.

Teachers influence the lives of students much more significantly than we imagine. A teacher with the right skills inspires and influences entire student lives. They are instruments who can ignite powerful thoughts in students, helping them unleash their true potential. To be an effective teacher, you should be able to motivate and support students, so that they are well-equipped to deal with any challenges life throws at them both academically and otherwise.

For the teaching to be effective:

1-The teacher must maintain a good appearance because he will be looked at as an example and surveyed from head to foot by scores of students' examining eyes.

2-The teacher's voice must be clear and loud enough to be easily heard by all students in the classroom..

3-The teacher should prepare his lesson very well in respect of what and how he is going to teach.

4-He/she should master his subject matter and know more than his students do and more than what textbooks offer.

5- He/she should encourage his students through praise, rewards, and the likes.

6- He/she should notice individual differences among students.

7- He/she should be kind with his students.

8- Kindness should not mean weakness since the teacher needs to be kind and strict at the same time.

9- The teacher should be fair to all his students.

10- He/she should like his work because his students can easily tell whether he really likes his profession or not and their attitude may largely depend on their conclusion.

11- He/she should give his students the maximal chance to participate in class activities.

12- He/she should know not only what to teach, but also the different methods of teaching.

What are the characteristics of good teachers?

1. Good teachers see as their most important task to help students learn.

2. Good teachers display enthusiasm for their subject, and a desire to share it with their students.

3. Good teachers draw on their knowledge of their

subject.

4. Good teachers encourage learning for understanding and are concerned with developing their students' critical-thinking skills, problem-solving skills.

5. Good teachers show respect for their students; encourage their independence, and sustain high expectations of them.

6. Good teachers set clear goals, use valid and appropriate assessment methods.

7. Good teachers show flexibility.

8. Good teachers are prepared to develop their teaching through cooperation with others.

9. Good teachers are also good learners.

10. Good student grades may also be a result of good teaching!

Teaching skills

Teaching skills are related to the way in which the teacher has carried out the activities and what results have been achieved.

Teaching skills can be demonstrated by creating good conditions for student learning.

The following are some teaching skills

1. Enthusiasm
2. Leadership
3. Organization
4. Respectfulness
5. Teamwork
6. Ability to teach
7. Communication
8. Creativity
9. Self-evaluation
10. Patience
11. Critical thinking
12. Confidence
13. Sense of humor
14. Imaginative thinking
15. Time management

16. Computer skills

To have a successful teaching process, there should be some basic classroom techniques to be applied by the teacher in the classroom, here are some of them:

- 1- Look at all the students in the class.
- 2- Vary your techniques for asking questions.
- 3- Don't go around the class.
- 4- Include everyone.
- 5- Make sure the class is seated in the best possible way.
- 6- Limit teacher talking time.
- 7- Write clearly.
- 8- Encourage your students.
- 9- Be careful with the use of grammatical terms.
- 10- Encourage your students to practice the language outside the classroom.
- 11- Take account of different levels within the class.
- 12- Deal with individual problems.
- 13- Correct your students systematically.
- 14- Use their names correctly.
- 15- Engage all learners in the lesson.
- 16- Make learners, and not the teacher, the focus of the lesson.
- 17- Provide maximum opportunities for students' participation.
- 18- Develop learner's responsibility.
- 19- Be tolerant of learners' mistakes.
- 20- Develop learners' confidence.
- 21- Respond to learners' difficulties and build on them.
- 22- Use a maximum amount of student-to-student activities.
- 23- Promote cooperation among learners.
- 24- Practice both accuracy and fluency.

The Language Teacher

The language teacher is considered as the most important factor in making the study of the language successful. In spite of the new trends of introduction of teaching machines, and of child-centered education, the teacher occupies a pivotal position in helping children to develop knowledge in the language. There are three important things, which makes one a good language teacher: 1) He should know his students; ii) He should have perfect knowledge of the language; and iii) He

should know the art of teaching the language, knowing the students involves a knowledge of students' needs, their characteristics, interests, aptitudes on one hand, and their problems, their individual difficulties, their specific requirements, and a systematic understanding and dealing with individual child on the other. This is the pre-requisite to make a good teacher.

Problems face the foreign language Teacher
Some teachers are born teachers, they have the ability and the wish to transfer knowledge or skills from themselves to others, and they have the sympathy and patience to do this in ways that the students can really understand and learn from.

Each teacher has his own problem; no two teachers may have exactly the same number of problems though in some respects they may have similar problems. Under any situation, a teacher is the best judge to take stock of all his problems and to find solutions thereof.

A good teacher spends as little time as possible talking, and as much as possible encouraging his students to talk, read and write. To encourage them he tries to make their work as relevant to real-life needs, and as closer to interesting communication as he can; and he shows that he is interested to what his students say and write.

Effective Language Teaching

The main aim of training teachers is to familiarize them with effective methods of teaching through the following:

- 1-Teachers are guided to teach the pronunciation of the foreign language.
- 2-They are guided how to teach the grammatical structures of the foreign language.
- 3-They are instructed on how to teach foreign language vocabulary..
- 4-They are also instructed on how to teach foreign language reading.
- 5-They are advised on how to teach writing.
- 6- They are also advised how to teach, and how to test each language skill.
- 7- They are advised on what teaching aids they use in teaching the skills.

8-The teacher must maintain a good appearance because he will be looked at as an example and surveyed from head to foot by scores of students' examining eyes.

9-The teacher's voice must be clear and loud enough to be easily heard by all students in the classroom. Otherwise, students will find it difficult to follow what he says.

10-The teacher should prepare his lesson very well in respect of what and how he is going to teach.

11-He should master his subject matter and know more than his students do and more than what textbooks offer.

12- He should encourage his students through praise, rewards, and the likes.

13- He should notice individual differences among students.

14- He should be kind with his students.

15- Kindness should not mean weakness since the teacher needs to be kind and strict at the same time.

16- The teacher should be fair to all his students. He has to treat them equally without any prejudice for or against any of them.

17- He should like his work because his students can easily tell whether he really likes his profession or not and their attitude may largely depend on their conclusion.

18- He should give his students the maximal chance to participate in class activities.

19- He should know not only what to teach, but also the different methods of teaching.

Teaching Integrated Skills

Different people may have different perceptions towards the way language should be learned. Some people may argue that language should be learned by mastering its grammatical rules first while some others believe that mastering grammar will not help students to acquire communicative competence of the language. Some believe that language should be acquired by learning the four language skills in an integrative way. Still, some others may support the idea that language should be learned through a segregated-skill instruction, the mastery of discrete language skills.

Teaching language in an integrative way involves the integration of components of language with

language skills. Integrative teaching may also refer to how to relate language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing in learning process. The skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing should reinforce one another. Consequently, language teacher has to consider these four skills, with the language materials. Language teacher is supposed to deal with all of the four skills when working on each linguistic objective.

Changes in language teaching methods throughout history have reflected recognition of changes in the kind of proficiency learners need, such as a move toward oral proficiency rather than reading comprehension as the goal of language study; they have also reflected changes in theories of the nature of language and of language learning.

There are many language teaching methods, I will mention the following:

The Grammar Translation Method

The Grammar Translation Method is sometimes referred to in some books of teaching methods as the old method, the classical method, or the traditional method. The main features of this method are:

- 1- This method emphasizes reading, writing, and translation rather than speech.
- 2- It uses the native language as a major means to explain the words and structures of the foreign language i.e. the target language.
- 3- It teaches grammatical rules or generalizations to control students' correct usage of the FL i.e., the foreign language.
- 4- It employs some kind of grammatical analysis of the foreign language sentences.

Direct Method

The direct method is an extreme reaction to the traditional method. The main features of the direct method are these:

- 1-The direct approach gives priority to speech.
- 2- It considers translation to be a useless or even harmful activity in teaching foreign languages.
- 3- The native language has no place in foreign language test.
- 4- Words and patterns of the foreign language are

best taught through direct association with objects or situations.

- 5- No grammatical rules are used.
- 6- It uses the mim-mem method. i.e. mimicry and memorization, by which students memorize selected foreign language sentences, dialogues, and songs after imitation.

The AURAL-ORAL Method

The aural-oral method is another reaction to the old method and a modification of the direct method. The aural-oral method is sometimes called the oral method, the linguistic method, the audio-lingual method, or the army method.

The assumptions underlying the aural-oral method are the following:

- 1-Language is mainly speech and writing is only a representation of speech.
- 2-Speech is the foreign language skill that has to be emphasized more than reading or writing.
- 3- Teaching of foreign language should follow the order of listening, speaking, reading and writing. The sequence implies that learners speak what they have listened to, read what they have spoken, and write what or about what they have read.
- 4-Acquiring the foreign language is similar to acquiring the native language.
- 5- The foreign language is best acquired through habit formation achieved by means of pattern practice.
- 6- Teaching about the foreign language is of no use.
- 7- Each language is unique.
- 8- Translation is harmful in teaching the foreign language.
- 9- The best foreign language teacher is a trained native speaker of that foreign language.

Eclectic Method

The eclectic method is a reaction to the previous methods. The assumptions underlying this eclectic method are the following:

- 1-Each one of the three methods has something to offer to the process of teaching foreign languages.
- 2-No method is completely right or completely wrong since each method has arguments for it and

arguments against it.

3-The previous methods may supplement one another instead of contradicting or competing with one another.

4-No method suits all goals, all students, all teachers, or all FL programs.

5-The important thing should be students and not loyalty to a certain approach.

6- The teacher should feel free to use the methods and techniques in any approach according to students' needs and the teaching-learning situation.

So we can see from the discussion above that teaching skills are the essence of the educational process , which should be dealt with in the classroom by all successful educators.

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“The 21st Century is all about the management of all the knowledge and information we have generated and the value addition that we can bring to it.”

-Dr.A P J Abdul Kalam