

Developmental Speaking as A Strategy to Enhance Communication Skills – A Cognitive Based Approach

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Abstract

Language is a particular system of communication used by human beings. It consists of development, acquisition, maintenance and use of complex systems of communication. Learning a language is not only a matter of motivation, ability and background but also it depends on the social and linguistic environment of the learners. Human beings are separated to other species in the name of communication skills. Listening skills made the people understand what another person speaks. Speaking skills are helpful to convey the wishes and idea of one person to the other in the correct way. Reading skill is essential to interpret what is given in the text. Writing is to deliver one's thoughts. Learning strategies and processes are the most effective when they are in line with the learning style preferences. So, it becomes useful to know which learning strategy is effective to help the learners acquire the knowledge quickly and effectively. Developmental speaking is the effective strategy to enhance the communicative skills based on the process of human brain. Communication skills are necessary for a person to develop the personality. Second language is the non-native language used by the people in a locality for the communication purpose. Second language can be acquired at any age with the strategy of developmental speaking. Cognitive approach is related to the psychological factors of an individual. The paper attempts to discuss a psychological approach to enhance communication skills using developmental speaking as a strategy.

Keywords: Communication skills, second language, developmental speaking, learning strategy, cognitive approach.

1. Introduction

The most remarkable achievement of human being is a language. Language is a system. It is not a random collection of items. Each language has its own structure and system. It has its own unique way of organizing its units into an internal structure. Language is a set of sounds. These sounds are vocal, that is, they are produced by human organs of speech and sounds that language employs to carry its message. Language is a set of symbols which means that language has meaning. Language does not operate in a vacuum. It is an integral part of culture, and like culture, it is learned behavior. Language is at the very core of culture itself. Many features of cultures are reflected in a language. Each language is perfectly adequate for speech community which uses it. Language as a structured system of arbitrary vocal symbols by means of which members of a speech community communicate.

2. Communication: meaning

Communication is the two-way process of conveying the planned ideas from one medium or group to another entity through the use of mutually understood symbols and signs effectively and efficiently. The persons involved in the communication process not only exchange their ideas, information, expression, and feelings but also they can create and share a meaning of the content communication is the interlinking tool to connect the people in any place communication process happened when there is a motivation or reason. The formation of commutative reason

can be composed with a message. That message should be encoded and the sender selects a medium to express his or her message to the recipient. Human communication is the unique for its large scale use of abstract language. Civilization and development in every field has been closely linked with progress in communication process also. The word 'communication' is originated from a Latin word 'communis' means 'to share'. The usual method of communication is using a language. Communication is happened not only in human beings but also in non-human beings also. Communication is a system through which people exchange their thoughts, opinions, expressions, feelings, views, desires and emotions with each other. It acts as a mediator of meaning among people.

1.1. Communication skills

The most important of all life skills is being able to communicate effectively. Communication skills can be possible through the use of voice, written communication through the use of printed or digital media such as books, magazines, websites or emails, visual communication through the use of logos, maps, charts or graphs and finally non- verbal communication through the use of body language, gestures and the pitch and tone of voice. These communication skills can be used for the information is transmitted and received in a good manner.

1.2. Basic types of communication skills

Listening skills

The word 'listening' implies that not only to hear someone but also understand the content, acknowledge all the non-verbal signals and select the matter without any confusion or difference. Effective listening is the winning tool for good communication skills. Listening skill improves the concentration of matter, steadiness of mind and a deep knowledge about the subject matter. Listening is the key to all effective and powerful communication. It is not similar to that of hearing. It means paying a deep attention to all the process of the communication. It is not a passive process. The listener must actively involved in the whole process of communication. Effective listening is a basic skill that supports all positive human relationships, solve problems, to secure understanding, find a solution to confusion and improve correctness. It builds friendships and careers. Listening skill is the basic skill function for the development of all other skills. It is so because before the development of all other skills, a child is exposed to various sounds with simultaneous exposure to vision. When the child listens to the sound and sees the sources of the sound, he/she recognizes it and the same is recorded in the mind of the child. This is the basic experience in listening, understanding and recognition. The next step of basic listening is when the sound and its meaning is recorded in the mind of the child automatically during the next stage of listening to the same sound of the child can recollect and comprehend the meaning of the sound without having any visual mode. This is called retrieval from the memory and experience and recognizing and comprehending sound. This process is taking place in all the time when the child listens to a sound.

Speaking skills

Speaking or verbal communication is an art of making vocal sounds. It is perhaps the most frequently used way to get a message all over the world. It is a direct method. It costs nothing and it is instant. It is the most effective communication skill because it allows the listener to pick up on the direct facial expression, tone pitch and body language of the speaker. The specialty of this skill is that the speaker who wants to say something should control the following: identify the situation, decide the point to be spoken, select the words and the sentence structure of the language, recollect from the experience already gained in that language speaking environment and finally, make an utterance by following the phonic and structural norms of the language. These activities should take place within a fraction of second. This is the reason why, there will be hesitation among the people to speak. This initial hesitation, if uncared, will develop into a severe impediment in developing this skill at all. Moreover speaking is not mere oral production of the written language. It is the result of mastery over many other sub skills. This skill has different components like speaking and pronunciation, speaking and meaning, speaking and completeness, speaking and interference, speaking and style, speaking and voice modulation, speaking and gestures and speaking and coherence.

Reading skills

The ability to understand the written text is known as reading skill. A person needs to concentrate on the matters being read. Reading skill involves different activities like identifying the symbols, recognizing the correlating sound for symbols, internalizing the variations of sound if any in the sound sequence and comprehending the full meaning of the word read. Reading is the activity which is meant to comprehend and interpret the ideas which are symbolized and written down. There are many stages of eye movements during the process of reading like fixation on each

line, the order of fixation on each word, the duration of each fixation, regressive movements of the eye, the return sweep of the eye. During the initial stages of reading, the eyes will wander over the pages in search of familiar words. The duration of each fixation will be long. There will be many fixations in a single line. There will be many regressive movements of the eye. When tolerable reading level is achieved, one can observe the normal and regular eye movement, rhythmical series of fixation and minimum number of fixation. These are the symptoms for improved reading.

Writing skills

Writing skill is similar to speaking skill which is also a productive skill or active skill. Similar to the development of other skills, writing also needs systematic care. The act of writing takes place in isolation. Hence, the writer has plenty of time available for thinking, modification and being more creative in his or her production. The careful choice of words that convey a message convincingly and accurately is the requirement of an effective writing. It simply explains the complex ideas and used to issue instructions. It is also creates a document for future references.

1.3. Importance of good communication skills

The development of good communication skills can help in all aspects of life, the life in between professional and social gathering. The capability to convey information clearly, accurately and as meant to the content is a vital life skill and something that should not be overlooked. The development of communication skills is possible at each and every step of life and it can improve the quality of life. In the professional life, good communication skills need to demonstrate the current ability of a person. Communication skills are needed to speak or deliver the ideas appropriately with a vast number of people or a wide variety of people. For good communication skills a person has to listen effectively, present or expose the ideas appropriately, write clearly and briefly and finally work well to deliver the matter. These are some of the main skills needed for day to day competitive world. The ability to speak, listen, questioning and write to convey the messages concisely are essential for the career progress of a person. A good communication skill is used to establish and modify relationships and it can help to achieve the language development and goals in life.

1.4. Need of communication skills

Modern trends

In a short period of time knowledge base increased at a high pace. To deal with the trend, people have to use modern technologies to develop the communication skills. By using these modern technologies, varied intelligence and multiple abilities replace the old methods of communication skills.

In the multi-cultured society, the four basic skills are imparted with a variety and newness. Hence, they are enthusiastic in learning the language and develop the communication skills. Language can be learnt by imitation. One should hear more to develop the listening skill. Naturally, people speak the style and tone of mother tongue for the English language. The usage of internet has brought a tremendous change in the field of developing communication skills and enhancing the English language learning.

1.5. Use of modern technologies to develop the communication skills and english language

Video tapes

Telecasting video tape is a useful method to grasp the vocabulary with pronunciation, access, it's rhythm and word usage in English language. Constant usage of this method will be helpful to the people to develop the English language fluency and to communicate in that language without any hesitation.

Language lab

To develop LSRW skills, there is an availability of much software. By including suitable software through computers, the learners will play it again and again with their own interest and try to improve their LSRW skills, which are more essential in this modernized IT world. The usage of headphones in the lab makes the learners to have interest over English language and induces them to repeat again and again instead of feeling boredom.

Video conferencing

People can access the speeches of other persons through the method of video conferencing, by being in any part of the world. Through videoconferencing a person can involve in the relay programmes. It is very much helpful for the language learners to clarify their doubts at once through the voice of experts in all parts of the world. By this method, the learner can raise questions and can get the immediate answers.

Video Library

In the modernized world, the video libraries play a vital role because it allows the learners to get the recorded files and make it available in every time. It is helpful for the learners who miss some interesting speeches or events. The learners can view the recorded files in their leisure hours. It has the facility of replay and review.

Blogging

Blogging is useful to develop the communication skills. The learners can follow their teachers through the blogs, when the teachers are off to the campus. The teacher can post his articles or the instruction to the learners, where are allowed to post their comments and replies. Blogging is used widely.

Messages through mobile phones

Vocabulary skills can be enriched and to be utilized through mobile phones by receiving new words daily. It is possible through certain websites. The mobile number has to be registered in that particular websites and the learner is easily available with new words daily.

Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL)

Language learning and communication skills development is possible through the computers. The learning of second language and the role of the CALL are significant in recent days. The CALL makes the learner active instead of passive learning. The CALL is assisted for the search and study of applications of computers in language learning and teaching.

Educational satellites

World Wide satellites programs are recorded and the learners are given access to the recording either through big screen or small monitor by using educational satellites.

Internet

It is the abbreviated term for international network. Modern classrooms are invalid without internet. Online classrooms seem to be intersecting and make the learners actively participated in the learning program. Through internet, people can access any data or information in all aspects.

The Web

In the modern world, the learning strategy is totally different from that of ancient one. The websites allow the learners for self-study or self-exercises. Websites for communication skills are also available. Discussion forums, course management are available in the websites.

Podcasting

The integration of audio files where people can feed their own materials and play it inside and outside of the classroom is known as podcasting. Learners use their i-pods to hear the learning files and lectures. It allows entertainment programmes also.

Quick link pen

Copy and save the printed text and internet links are allowed by Quick Link Pen. It is helpful to transfer the data to computers and enables the reader to get the meaning of the word from a built-in dictionary. It is an easy method for the learners to know the meaning.

Quicktionary

Quicktionary is a pen-like device. It allows the readers to scan the word and gets its meaning and translation on its own LCD screen.

Mobile apps

Mobile apps play a vital role in the technological development and it is essential in the fast modernized world. The modern tools are in addition to the inputs given by teachers in the classrooms. Through mobile apps, teacher and students can create a group by themselves. By using this, learning process is simple and effective. It is like a technological classroom, and the participants are in various parts of the land and they are connected through these apps. The comments and ideas are shared by the person in that group and are viewed by all persons in that group. It allows immediate comments and clarifications over doubts. It has a benefit that the person can view the message later also. Using these modern trends second language can be improved and developed for communication. Employers always appoint people who effectively communicate with people inside and outside the organization.

Second language acquisition

Second Language is a language which is not the mother tongue of a person but it is used at the locality for public communication, trade, higher education and administration. It is a non-native language practiced in a multilingual country for communication purpose. People use and adopt a language which is other than their first language or native language is known as the Second Language or L2. English is the international language and it is considered to be the Second Language in India. A Second Language is one which is acquired second after the native

language. The term 'Second Language' refers to the level of language command compared with a primary or first language. A person learned a language after his mother tongue or native language is the Second language which is commonly used outside the resident in general.

Learning a language without being taught in the classroom is known as language acquisition. The new language acquisition needs a commitment of effort and time. Acquisition is an unconscious process of learning. Learning a language is called second language acquisition. Children begin to acquire a second language at an early age so that they will find it easier to improve fluency. They are ready to speak without any accent. The first language acquired by a baby is known as mother tongue. It is the language being listened from the birth itself. Any language learned other than mother tongue is known as the Second Language. There is a difference between learning a language and language acquisition. The formal training of a language in the classroom is known as language learning. On the other hand, acquiring the second language without formal training is known as language acquisition. A second language can be acquired at any time after the child has developed language skills. It is often called as the target language. Every language has its own rules for speaking and writing the language accurately. The new language users sometimes lack the expertness in speaking and writing with those rules. Second language learners also face a certain amount of fear or nervous in handling the new language. There are five stages by which second language can be acquired.

The first stage of second language acquisition is silent stage or receptive stage. This stage may last for several hours or several months. It depends on the learners' language ability and an individual perception. In the initial stage, the learner may learn the vocabulary and pronunciation of new words. The learner tries to speak sentences with real understanding of words used by them. At the beginning level, the learner is silent and receptive with the language.

The second stage of second language acquisition is early production. This stage the learner learns around thousand words with its meaning. They try to frame phrases and small sentences using these vocabularies.

The third stage is the speech emergence stage. Here, the learner acquires almost three thousand words and to communicate with those languages. They can frame sentences, questions without any grammatical errors. During this stage, the learner may comprehend and begin to read and write in their second language.

The fourth stage of second language acquisition is Intermediate fluency. The learner may have the vocabulary around six thousand words and achieve the mastery over the second language. This stage may last for over a year. It is an important stage that the learner started to think of the second language and started to speak in their second language with a great fluency.

The last stage of second language acquisition is continued language development or the advanced fluency stage. The learner may take two years to reach this stage and mastery over the language. Second learners can get opportunities to establish their abilities and engage in discussion to expose themselves in their new language. By this way, the learners have to attain the advanced fluency level in the second language. Consistency and practice are the key to learning a new language and developing fluency in speaking and writing that language.

3. Developmental speaking

The brain of a person is developing and maturing in the first three years of life. It is the pivotal period for human beings to speech and language development. The period of language development is the crucial period for speech and language development. The developing brain is able to acquire a language as a second language. When the critical period of language development is allowed to pass without any exposure to a language at an early

stage. The ability to absorb a language is difficult that too with less efficiency or effectiveness. During the first few days of life, the beginning sign of communication occurs. The new born baby knows that a cry will bring him or her food, and the comfort and begins to recognize important sounds in the environment. The voice of parent is recognized by the infant, and noted that it is the most important sound around him. When they grow, they can identify the speech sounds compose their own words and build sentences also. At the age of six months, a baby can identify the speech sounds of native language

Communication skills and language are very crucial to the development of a child. Good communication skills are developed when the person is engaged in socialization and to learn from their environment out of formal classrooms. In the early stage of language development, the brain is programmed to listen to the sounds and begin to imitate them. Then, the child attempts to repeat the sounds from the environment.

From the birth, the human beings are programmed to develop speech and language. The first few years are crucial to get the development of language continues throughout the life time. The stimulation of language development is pivotal as the brain is developing new nerve cells and having multiple connections among nerve cells to serve the language function both receptive and productive. The slower process of language development is because of lack of stimulation. Language development is possible in any age with the stimulation and from the environment.

4. Cognitive approach

Cognitive approach addresses the mental processes such as memory and problem solving. The word cognition implies the mental activities like thinking, remembering, learning, using a language and problem solving methods. The application of cognitive approach in learning, it relates to the understanding of information and concepts.

Human behavior is understood by scientific processes and it is a series of external stimuli connected by the thoughts, perceptions, moods and desires. The cognitive approach specializes the role of learning in behavior. Cognitive approach focuses on individual characteristics related to motivation. This motivation leads a person to develop the language ability and communication skills in their second language. Cognitive Learning is a process of the brain to learn. It describes how the brain perceives its surrounding, nature develops problem solving skills and stores memories. It all happens through subconsciously and consciously, and collecting information to improve the learning process and knowledge of the learner.

Cognitive learning theories can be differentiated into two specific theories. They are Social Cognitive Theory and Cognitive Behavioural Theory. Social cognitive theory describes the environmental and personal factors of learning. Cognitive behavioural theory describes the self, the environment and the future in learning.

4.1. Second language acquisition strategies

Learning English as a second language is provided with certain strategies which help to enhance the language ability and improve communication skills through cognitive approach. These strategies help to develop the ability of learners to learn the second language. Developmental speaking is considered to be a strategy to enhance the communication skills of a person. Silent preparation is also mentioned as private talk or sub vocal rehearsal is the effective strategy to develop the speech ability in the target language. Silent preparation is a cognitive approach to language development. The mind consciously involves in the rehearsal of new words and to increase the vocabulary of a second language. A person who is willing to develop English as a second language, has to read the favorite books in English language. Reading the

favorite book in second language is a strategy to develop the language ability. Second Language learner may find a tutor in that language and to exchange the language journals, meet them regularly and having a talk with them improve the communication skills in the target language. Learners who involve themselves in the everyday language on the devices like radios, TVs, newspapers and can use the target language as their native language or the language used for communication. Test and Self-evaluation on grammar are useful to develop a long term memory of second language. Group Discussion, Mind maps, preparing language games, Vocabulary tests are the effective learning strategies to promote the second language proficiency of the learners. As learners of second language, they find opportunities to practice the language. The most important and practical strategy is to change the language settings on all the devices which are used by the learner. This method forced the learners to learn the language within a situational task. This is known as situational learning.

4.2. Cognitive approach levels

The cognitive approach of second language learning can be classified into five levels. They are Memorizing, Understanding, Application, Evaluation and Creation. Second language of a person can be attained at all these levels of learning. Learning envisages a change in the cognitive structure of a learner that happens when new information or experiences are clubbed with existing knowledge stored in memory. The goal of learning is to get the learner thinking and applying problem solving strategies without the use of preparation. Memorization is a mechanical learning. Memory recalls the information and facts associated with stimuli and responses. It remembers the facts like names, dates, events, places or symbols. Understanding is a meaningful learning.

Knowledge plays a vital role at this level of learning. The learner interlinked the new ideas with that of knowledge. The learners can get the idea of the concept and connect with day today activities. Application is a mental process of learning. Whatever things are learned by a learner is aptly applied to the situation which is the purpose of learning. Using this way, the learner adapts the transfer learning. Memorization though sometimes very important, is greatly overused in most training settings. Understanding is very much necessary but is relatively complex and has not received much attention in recent days. Application is important and has received a great value when it provides a good place for beginning. The principle of Evaluation focuses on analyzing information and making judgment. The learner of second language will weigh information based on criteria previously learned. The learner can improve the skills using the techniques like constructing a graph to illustrate some information and prepare a questionnaire and to collect the data based on the questionnaire. Cognitive learning is centered on adapting to new stimuli and constructing methods to solve problems or address needs. Creative activities rely on the learners to produce original ideas to address prompts, organize thoughts and make a meaningful invention that leads to problem solving. The learner is asked to create a paragraph on demonstrating a scene, aim and important events. Developmental speaking is a great way to begin and formulating the cognitive learning activities.

5. Conclusion

Communication skills are a two way process of information. Good communication is one that reaches the persons as it is thought or created by the speaker. The communication which is not properly delivered is considered incomplete because it does not make the listener respond correspondingly. Though the communication skills are acquired by continuous and strenuous practice, it would always be better if it is acquired by developmental speaking.

Developmental speaking is always considered better than the other types of speaking skills because it emerges itself by mingling with others who speak English as a first language or a second language. The modern trends and technologies being used to develop the communication skills have been discussed in detail in the article. As far as English in India is concerned, the acquisition of second language is the vital factor and hence the stages of second language acquisition have also been elaborately described. The strategies for acquiring the second language have been put in words using cognitive approach along with its levels. Speaking is a skill which is the target of every learner and so the strategies devised are based on cognition. The mechanism of the brain functions solely by the input given and stored in it. The paper prompts how the cognitive approach can be used for acquiring second language through Developmental Speaking.

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