

READING NEWS PAPER IS A RESOURCEFUL TEACHING TOOL IN ENGLISH CLASS ROOM

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ABSTRACT

The newspaper is the most widely used means of communication [as a teaching tool in the classroom], the direct result of a national campaign by the editors, known as newspapers in education (NIE). Ten tremendous classroom activities that use the newspaper to teach all kinds of valuable skills -- including reading and writing for meaning, the reading maps, media literacy, the sequence of the meaning of the word, and mathematics. Before the advent of the NIE, newspapers tended to be used only by the social studies teachers of secondary school in units of two weeks or sessions of current events for Friday. Now, however, the newspapers are used throughout the school year in each area of the curriculum of the English language in the classroom. In tune with this real-world learning has a magnetic attraction for students. This is the reason that the newspaper is considered as one of the instruments of teaching English in the classroom, in addition to the regular course book. In addition to this, there is a large amount of information in the newspapers to make them an excellent springboard for the lessons. In this work an attempt has been made of how to use the newspaper of material for the teaching of English. In addition, focuses on different types of material that can be used to teach the vocabulary, grammar, critical and innovative thinking, and group dynamics. At the same time, it has been reflected on the use and abuse of the press material so that learning in the classroom will not create a pandemonium in the social, cultural, religious, linguistic and regional sentiments of the people.

Keywords: *Globalization, Implications, Newspapers, Vocabulary, Grammar, Innovative Thinking, Pandemonium, Linguistic Sentiments.*

1.0 INTRODUCTION:

Language abilities are subject to lot of practice in the areas of skills of language. One of its resources to provide language abilities is Newspaper. They can be used as a resourceful tool in English language classroom. It creates a kind of focus on Political, Social and other areas, but it creates Emphasized focus on Educational tool also. Reading is one of the skills which focus on the vocabulary skills of the language learner. One can get the repository of knowledge in the area of vocabulary by reading newspapers regularly. They offer more information on spending less expense on them. They give the reference to different kinds of daily wise incidents and events. It is expected a good habit from the learners of English that one should have proper maintenance of knowledge in the areas of learning English language skills. In this regard, Newspapers are being used as a good tool to gain good habits; it is very important aspect of the MNCS requirement that their employees should have thorough knowledge of all round development of all areas. Those who read Newspapers regularly are more prominent and aware about the happenings local and non-local. Students are expected to learn good communications skills as a demanding requirement of MNCS, and those can be learnt by reading Newspapers and can have thorough knowledge on all the areas provided in the Newspapers.

English language teaching has been witnessing phenomenal changes after 1980's under the impact of the information technology revolution and the subsequent globalization. Professionalism in every walk of life has resulted in the acceptance of English as a common language for communication purpose in most of the nations. In schools and colleges, whether English language is learned as first or second language, it has become imperative to get the right

word, expression and usage at the right time. This has forced to develop innovative practices in the English language classroom. Obviously the interest has shifted from the teacher to the learner for effective language learning. Accordingly, in the English classroom, learner centered approach has replaced teacher centered approach.

In this approach, learners are more important than the teachers, curriculum, methods or evaluation. In fact, curriculum, materials, teaching methods, and evaluation should all be designed by considering the needs of the learners. So, it is the responsibility of the teacher to see whether all the elements of the learning process are working well for learners or to innovate new methods if necessary. To follow this method, the teacher may adapt, supplement, and elaborate new materials to monitor the progress and needs of the students for better learning. However, the teachers of English of late have started using the newspaper as a tool in the classroom for effective language teaching. The main reason why the newspaper is considered the perfect teaching tool is learning from the real world has magnetic appeal for the students. In addition, using a newspaper in the classroom improves students' vocabulary skills, increases knowledge and encourages a positive attitude toward learning.

In reality, newspapers expand the curriculum with an unlimited amount of information to use as background for learning activities. The beauty of the newspaper in the classroom is that it is fresh each day. It is for this reason the newspaper offers a special attraction for both the teachers and learners. It can be used to enhance language skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Critical and creative thinking is the natural outgrowth of using a newspaper in the learning process. Further, it also helps how to find the main idea, how to increase vocabulary, how to form sentences, how to learn grammar, how to write letters and reviews.

Cheyney (1992) rightly remarks: "Newspapers is the text book that provides up-to date information on local, State, Provincial, National and World affairs". By reading Newspapers, The students can gather information on different subjects including Social, Political, Entertainment, Business issues, Sports, Arts, Culture, Music, Education etc.. Students are expected to have logical skills to be provided job opportunities. It is one of the areas reading newspaper, where logical skills can be enhanced and thinking skills of the students are improved. Thereby, there are provided a wonderful opportunity to express their opinion on different issues. The reasons are many to give why English Newspaper is to be read, But, mainly the focus is on learning the vocabulary. Besides being learnt the vocabulary, the present paper aims to study the learning English grammar through English Newspaper in an ESL (English as Second Language) class room. Those are the ESL classrooms where English newspapers can be used as very effective teaching tool.

Feinholt (1985) offers "numerous activities that are based upon the use of newspapers as a learning resource to enhance reading and life skills of students". It is very important that the motivation is to be generated to the students by any one of the resources. Newspapers are going to be taken the place of motivation and they influence the readers and make them learn language skills. One is to be habituated to do something; it is proved in the case of newspaper reading.

Little John and Windeatt(1989) points out, "Materials have a hidden curriculum that includes attitudes toward knowledge, attitude toward teaching and learning, attitude toward the role and

relationship of the teacher and student, and values and attitudes related to gender, society, etc". (69) Though the textbook is still a major source of learning in the English classroom, to generate interest in the learners, there is an increasing use of audio visual aids and even internet.

Clandfield Lindsay and Duncan Foord (1990). "News paper is an excellent springboard for lessons. There are lots of different kinds of texts in newspapers such as narratives, stories, letters, advertisements, reports and so on". (123) In the present research paper an attempt has been made how to utilize newspaper as a tool for imparting language skills in the students.

1.1 Reading Skills:Language learning works out learning all the four skills simultaneously. Many scholars believe that reading is a passive skill in which the readers move their eyes on the printed page. When they practiced on learning really, reading holds the key to the development of the real communicative competence in English for our students. The majority of the students use the English as a library language and naturally "reading" (or) the ability to understand the written language will be the most useful skill for them. In the present time the skill of reading as explosion of knowledge plays very vital role in the life of an individual. It does so many functions and its role cannot be denied, Inspire of several other resources like computers, internet facility etc. the students have to refer to the reading materials produced in English. It provides opportunities for academic/personal and professional growth. Especially "reading" is within the reach of all levels of students. We refer to dictionaries, railway time tables, read newspapers, letters, reports, novels, books etc. Basically reading can be done for two purposes; one is for pleasure and another is to get information. So the readers have to be actively involved in the process of reading. Usage of English Newspaper in ESL classrooms: One has to improve the habit of inculcating deep reading skills for the development of communication skills. The use of Newspapers in ESL classrooms will develop the student's habit of deep reading. There are many English newspapers in India, but the famous newspapers are :The Hindu, Deccan chronicle, The Times of India, Indian Express, few standard English newspapers are providing special column to the learners of English. As it is less expensive, everyone can buy them. These days the newspapers are available in small towns also. Everyone wants to read newspaper from rst page to last page. But, they cannot read the whole paper, select the important news and read it. Here, it is the teacher, he/she has to care of it, select the some important news items for the students and ask for the feedback on it.

Why do so many teachers like using newspapers? Well, to start with, newspapers are much more current than course books. There is also a lot of information in newspapers which make them an excellent springboard for lessons. Finally, there are lots of different kinds of texts in newspapers (narratives, stories, letters, advertisements, reports...)So what do teachers do with newspapers? One of the problems with newspapers is that they are often used as an up-to-date course book activity. The teacher applies the same pedagogical principles and exercises that are in the course book. Two major problems tend to emerge from this approach:

1. It can be extremely time-consuming for teachers
2. It is not necessarily interesting for learners

3. If you are going to use a newspaper, the task itself should be authentic wherever possible, not merely the material. One aim of reading newspapers should be to encourage their reading outside the classroom as well.

2.0 NEWSPAPERS FOR IMPROVING WRITING SKILLS

a) **Guided Writing:** Newspapers contain a variety of information on many aspects. Most of the English newspapers publish magazine sections and special review sections usually on Sunday. One of the interesting features is Cinema Plus sections published by The Hindu every Sunday. It contains reviews on movies released during the previous week. Two or three previous sections may be collected and learners may be asked to observe the style of writing and vocabulary used in these reviews. Based on this the learners may be asked to write a review on their favourite movie.

b) **Free Writing:** A number of articles are published on current issues in the newspapers pertaining to social, political, economic, sports, cultural issues etc. The learners can be asked to report on any issue in which they have an interest. They should be encouraged to express their opinions freely, but with responsibility. Another variation that can be tried is asking the learners to read only the headlines. From the headlines the learners are allowed to predict the content of an article and later they are asked to develop the article. At the end they are asked to compare the style of writing, vocabulary and construction of sentences.

c) **Picture Description:** Every newspaper contains a number of photographs related to scenery, sports action, celebrities, politicians etc. For developing creative writing, the learners may be shown a photograph of an incident or event and they are asked to write an article based on that photograph. In a similar manner, describing people, monuments, events, scenery, and situation also may be tried with the photographs. In addition to this, describing cartoons generates great enthusiasm in the learners. The cartoons take a dig at the personality or situation exposing the follies there by creating fun in the readers. So, by analyzing the cartoons the learners not only describe the funny side of it but also the wit or irony underlying the cartoons. d) **Information Transfer:** The newspaper contains a numerous data in the form of pie-diagrams, barcharts, tables etc. The learners may be asked to write a paragraph on any pictorial piece of information. It is possible to draw inferences, comparisons and data analysis by transferring pictures into paragraphs.

e) **Letters to the Editor:** One of the most important aspects in developing writing skills at schools and colleges is drafting official letters. Learners are directed to read some of the letters to the editors in the newspaper and they are asked to write their own letter to the editor. The teacher can direct them to bring out the current problem or situation which demands a great public interest and, in a sense can inculcate general awareness in the leaders on a wide range of issues. The learners can automatically develop the skill of official letter writing.

3.0 DEVELOPING SPEAKING SKILLS BY READING THE NEWSPAPER

Newspapers offer a great scope for developing speaking skill in the learners.

a) **Role play:** An interesting topic or story may be selected from the newspaper and distributed for every pair of learners. Care should be taken such that the piece of writing can be modified into a role play. The learners can add some more information suitable to their needs and understanding. By improving an article or story, one learner plays the role of a journalist and another dons the role of a politician/ celebrity/ scientist. The journalist does the interview while the other person answers the questions. This particular activity also helps the learners about how to frame questions.

b) **Group Discussion:** Newspapers can be used as wonderful resource material for conducting group discussion. In the recruitment process, most of the MNC's are using group discussions as a wonderful tool to know the ability of a person to work as a member of team, leadership qualities, communicative skills, strategic thinking, and proactive behavior. Newspapers contain issues that can be discussed at length in detail and learners are encouraged, in addition to the solutions provided in the articles. As learners work on the current issues their strategic and critical thinking abilities are vastly developed.

c) **Debate:** It is known fact that debate as an activity truly tests the speaking skill of the participants. Newspapers provide wonderful topics for debate to the learners in the classroom. Topics related to social issues, cultural contexts and political agendas can be picked from the newspapers and placed before the learners for debating purposes. This can be done only by providing headlines to the learners and they should be asked to compare the information with the published article. For a change, the teacher can open a debate on a topic that was published in a newspaper in the past and can input on the same issue in the present scenarios. But it largely depends on the teacher's regularity in going through the newspaper.

d) **Extempore presentation: (JAM):** The teacher may read an article in a newspaper and learners asked to express their opinion on the topic in a limited time for example in one minute. These are known as JAM (Just a Minute), sessions which help the learner to speak without having much time to think. These sessions not only improve the students' ability to use vocabulary, but also help them in developing creativity.

4.0 TEACHING GRAMMAR BY USING NEWSPAPER

The best way to use the newspaper for this purpose is the students may be invited to present the major developments in the classroom every day at every turn. The newspapers contain more of writing that uses the language to deliver information in a specific way. It is for this reason that are made with a great resource from the real world to students in reading skills, connection with the analysis of the discourse, as well as the analysis of the grammar. Invariably, the student will be required to read the newspaper at home and prepare notes to read in the classroom. In this activity are distributed sheets of newspaper to another group of students, each consisting of three to five years. Can be instructed to read and remember as much as possible within a certain time limit by passing over the newspaper. When the time runs out, all the groups may be asked to come together and report to each other they remember. This is a reading group and speaking of

the activity, and the time limit forces students to use the reading skills of foamed bitumen. In addition to this, the teacher can observe the pronunciation of the students. More newspaper also helps the teacher to allow students to learn the grammar in an interesting way and practice. For example, the meaning or the definition of 'name' can be explained in the class. Then ask them to select an article in the newspaper and the task of finding names must be given to them. Can be instructed to underline the names of the people in red, places, and things of a blue-green. In the same way, may not be applied to analyze the usage of tense in the heading describing stories, reports of an incident, sports action and even in the preparation of a recipe. Learning score can also be improved through the use of a newspaper. Press reports can be used for a correct use of the preposition, phrasal verbs and idioms. The teacher should identify a report and to request the deletion of fluid on the prepositions to block them. Photostat copies should be given to a group of students and may be asked to fill in the blanks with the missing prepositions. It is generally observed that sports columnists used a variety of phrasal verbs and idioms to create special effects in readers. Students may be asked to select their favorite sports and identify the column phrasal verbs and idioms using a bookmark. Later, was commissioned to guess or identify the meaning of these expressions by the theme that comes to your mind that finally results in the development of the glossary.

5.0 LISTENING - AN ACTIVITY

Listening is the most neglected skill, but is of vital importance for the development of good communication skills. The newspapers can be considered a wonderful source of material for the development of listening skills. One normally uses the method of understanding for teachers to know if students are listening. However, students feel flat for such routine tasks. In its place, professor can read a story or a joke published in a newspaper and students can ask to recount in his/her mother tongue or vice versa. There may be another strategy for the development of listening skills effective is that students can ask who read an advertisement title or description and others are trained to identify the notice of invitation to tender. In another strategy, the principle or the end of a story is revealed to the students and encourages them to complete the remaining part of the story. Gap of information and opinion activities activities gap could be used to improve the skills of listening. People with trained ears have always success at the highest level. Use and abuse: At the present time, where politicians are guided by populism, people are guided by emotion and the means of communication are guided by the sensationalism is necessary on the part of the teachers and pupils to have a balanced view in the use of the press as a source for take a balanced point of view in the use of newspapers as a source of materials. Global education has as its objective to help students to recognize the systematic errors in written texts and visual, avoid controversial issues, and consider different points of view and help to give value judgments on the basis of morality in place of value. Working to improve the language skills through periodical must be used with care to help students in the intercultural learning and intercultural understanding, diversity, behaviors and attitudes and skills development of creative and critical thinking.

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