



TEACHING LEGAL JARGON THROUGH NEWSPAPERS - AN INNOVATION IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

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Abstract

Newspapers are the cheapest and most widely available printed material in the world today. The use of newspaper is a dynamic teaching tool providing the link between traditional textbook and what is happening in the world today. Textbooks are often become outdated and computers require technology but the daily newspaper is valuable with a rich format of language instruction. The daily newspaper provides a wealth of up-to-date informative material expressed in clever headlines, featured articles and eye-catching photos, of all which is ideal to capture the interest of learners.

Getting the mastery over the English proficiency demands rich stock of vocabulary plays a pivotal role in LSRW skills. The words which are important for learners' day-to-day communication must be well taught. Knowledge of appropriate words brings clarity, exactness, and brevity of expression and newspaper is one of the best sources. It is said that the more we know the vocabulary, the more we speak fluently and for building vocabulary in learners, the newspaper is an instrumental, because it contains diversified material.

The study will focus on the learners of B.A LLB V Years Integrated course students particularly of towns where the English newspaper can be accessed easily. This is the most important stage in learning things and the role of teacher is immense. Generally, the newspaper is meant for reading and if it used in an innovative manner, it could be one of the best aids for teaching vocabulary to the learners in the English classes.

Key words: Newspapers, printed material, vocabulary, LSRW, teaching aids.

Introduction:

Teaching of vocabulary is one of the greatest challenges for an English teacher. The difficulty of learning a compulsory Language lies in mastering its vocabulary. In India, English being a compulsory Language vocabulary development is a great challenge for English language learners.

The ELT in India has undergone a tremendous change in recent years. But ironically most of the classrooms are still untouched by these changes and developments mainly in small towns and cities. Many English teachers shy away from using newspapers in the classroom feeling that they only apply to journalistic courses. In reality the newspaper is an authentic material to teach English and also a perfect vehicle to teach a variety of skills as well as to heighten the interest of students.

Objective of the Study:

To compare the effect of Newspapers as a Learning Tool and the existing method on the means of Post- test Scores on Vocabulary Attainment in English as a compulsory Language among Pupils of UG Level course of Experimental and Control Group using the Pre-test scores as covariate.



Research Hypothesis

There exists a significant difference between the means of the Post-test Scores on Vocabulary Attainment in English as a compulsory Language among Pupils of UG Level course of Experimental and Control Group using the Pretest Scores as covariate.

Research Procedure:

In this study, the investigator used experimental method for the collection of data.

Experimental Design:

The investigators used the pretest –post test non-equivalent groups design for the study.

Sampling:

The population of the present Study covered all the Pupils of UG Level course of University college of Law, Osmania University and Dr. B.R.Ambedkar Law college, Baghlingampally, Hyderabad, Telangana state, India. The investigators used random sampling method to select the colleges from Hyderabad District of Telangana state. The investigators randomly selected two groups from the selected colleges as the experiment and control group consisting of 35 Pupils each.

Importance of Newspapers as a Learning Tool:

An English newspaper is a repertoire of current English usage. Language teachers can use newspapers to develop various language competencies with a variety of text types that are contextualized. Newspapers can be used as an innovative learning tool in our English classrooms especially for compulsory Language Vocabulary learning. Pupils can learn vocabulary incidentally through newspapers. Newspapers can be regarded as the freshest food in compulsory Language English classroom.

Newspapers serve as one of the important and cheapest media of communication. Since Newspapers deal with the outside world; their use in the classroom can bridge the gap between the outside world and the classroom. They can reinforce, enrich and supplement the textbooks.

Newspaper is the only text that most students will continue reading throughout their lives. Newspapers are an invaluable source of authentic materials, and their use in the language classroom is very much in keeping with the current thinking and practice in teaching pedagogy.

Activities based on newspaper items used for the study:

The following are a few activities where I can use news paper in the class to build vocabulary of the learners and also find out in what ways the learner's interest could be retained throughout the class.



1) Unlocking headlines:

Here, the handouts will be distributed to the learners having some 'HEADLINES'. The students are asked to identify words/phrases related to the Headline and underline the same from the perspective of law. Then the teacher will ask whether they understand the words underlined. If the learners won't get the meaning, the teacher will write the same on the board and explains it.

2) Vocabulary race:

The teacher distributes the copies of newspaper text and asks to go through it quickly. The students are asked to find out answers for the questions given in a separate handout. Here students need to use dictionaries to find the meaning and make a written note of their answers. And at the end the answers will be explained.

Example:

Questions (Based on the text)

Article/story from newspaper and covering synonyms, antonyms, one word substitute etc.

1. Spousal support or maintenance is referred as _____.
2. The prosecution or punishment of a person twice for the same offence ____.
3. Felony: _____.
4. Acknowledgment: _____.

3) Match the following:

The students are provided a set of headlines and columns from newspaper. They are asked to match the headlines with the texts.

4) Pictures and Advertisements:

The picture brings many ideas in the learners' mind and gives a scope to be more creative in the classroom. This helps in brainstorming .Here the teacher shows some paper cuttings which have got some colourful pictures with captions and ask to describe about it by using adjectives. The learners will answer in their own words. (All WH- questions can be put to elicit the answers from the learners.)

5) Study skills:

The students are provided Newspaper cutting and are assigned to find out a few difficult words, underline and find the meaning for the same from the dictionary. The next day the teacher will explain its meaning including pronunciation. Here learners will get expose to the right pronunciation skills .They will be asked to write the sentences of their own by using the underlined words.

Apart from the above activities we can give some group assignments like writing short articles, stories, news reports etc. to make classroom more interactive and interesting.



This proposal, teaching English using a newspaper in enhancing vocabulary stock, can become a great asset for teaching learning process of vocabulary. It also tries to meet the needs of both the teachers and learners to make vocabulary learning interesting. It also develops positive attitude towards working with English –newspaper inside and outside the classroom.

6) Stories from the News related to Judgments:

Pupils are divided into five groups and each group is provided with a story from the News related to Judgments' (supreme or High courts). Next, each group is given five headlines of five different news stories, including that of the news story. Pupils are asked to choose the headline that most suits the news story given to them. As they chose they pick out the new and difficult words in the news story. The meanings of the words are explained.

7) Classifieds Jargon related to Law:

Each group is given a set of the legal jargon Classifieds section of the newspaper and they are asked some questions based on the Classifieds. Pupils are asked to write down the answers in their note book. As they write they also note down the difficult words from the advertisements. Teacher explains the meanings of words, pronunciation and usage.

8) Editorial stories from the news:

Each group is provided with Editorial news item and Dictionary. They are asked questions related to the Editorial news such as the issue to which field it belongs, the theme of the story, the concept of the Editorial news etc. Pupils have to find out the answers by reading it. As they read they also pick out the new and difficult words in the news story and find out the meanings using the dictionary. They frame sentences using the newly learned words.

Recommendations:

- ✓ For Teaching and learning- using Newspapers as a Learning tool should be encouraged at UG Level courses.
- ✓ Teachers should be trained in using Newspapers as a Learning tool effectively in classrooms. (Using Authentic Materials)
- ✓ Teachers should plan appropriate Newspaper activities for Vocabulary Attainment in English as a compulsory Language.
- ✓ Group work should be encouraged in classes for the active learning of Vocabulary.
- ✓ Brain storming methods are adopted for developing vocabulary.

Conclusion:

To enable learners to improve their lexical development teaching vocabulary in English as a compulsory language using activities based on news papers is more effective than the existing method of teaching vocabulary.



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