



## A PARADIGMATIC SHIFT IN ELT: EMPOWERMENT OF THE ENGLISH CLASS ROOM

**Y. JAYANTHI**

Asst. Professor in English  
RBVRR Women's College  
Narayanaguda, Hyderabad.  
srija99@gmail.com

### **Abstract**

*English Language has taken a new shape in an unprecedented way. The interesting feature is the growing phenomenon of English as a global language and has been an international language since 19<sup>th</sup> century. As English educators, our goal is to equip students with knowledge of global literacy and critical awareness. At present, there is not one English, but the plethora of world English, which may vary according to culture and nation. In order to empower English in the class room, it is the heart and soul responsibility of the teacher to make the students more challenging, competent, thoughtful and good communicators by making simple changes in literacy curricula that traditionally view knowledge is text based and individualized. A variety of tasks are based on information and opinion sharing activities are to be supplied to the students to help them to get empowered, so that they become better thinkers. The syllabus must be changed to make English in the classroom more skill based and learner centered than teacher centered. The syllabus should be evolved than following the same traditional syllabus that has been following since decades, which is based on rote memorization. There should be an overall change in the classroom teaching to empower English by using different types of equipment that are available such as authentic aids and non-authentic aids.*

**Key words:** Empower, English Language, Materials and their functions, Methods and its uses, Teaching Aids.

### **Introduction**

*The art of communication is the language of leadership.*

- James Humes

The most important characteristic that raises the human being above other species of animals perhaps is the ability to use the language. Animals are said to have their own language to communicate through sounds and signs. But, human language has risen above gestures, noises and perceptions as every language has clear verbal expression to speak and write, which human beings used to express his thoughts, feelings and experiences. The need to empower English in classroom has dawned for better prospects of students. Over the years, English language has become one of our principal assets in getting a global leadership for books written by Indian authors and Films made by Indians in English language. A famous Indian movie maker Shekar Kapoor's film "Elizabeth" has got several nominations for Oscar Awards. It does not require any further argument to establish the advantage of English language to the international level.

### **Objective**

The objectives of the study are:

- Empower English language in the classroom to instill students with conversational confidence and professional advancement in all walks of life.
- One of the most appropriate requirements to empower English in class room is to provide an environment for learners to develop learning skills through the use of teaching aids.

### **Materials and their Functions**

Material is a component used to teach in the classroom. Teaching materials serve many functions to empower English in classroom, which includes

Material	Functions
Textbooks	The learners will be able to develop their reading skills; get to know the meaning of new words/concepts/ideas.
Supplementary reader	Reading for pleasure, Reading for interest.
Workbook	Through practice learners will be able to develop their reading and writing skills
Teacher's manual	The teacher's will be able to plan (indirectly helping learners)
Handouts / Worksheets	Learners can interact in the classroom and learn a lot, even if handouts are used in "Lecture Modes" (specially in Colleges)
Audio / Video	Stimulus materials for listening / writing / speaking skills
Visuals	Stimulus materials for speaking / writing skills

Source: Materials for the Teaching of English for PGCTE by CIEFL (currently IFLU).

### **Methods and its uses in the Classroom**

Over the years, there have been different methods employed for the teaching of English. According to Anthony "a method is a level which theory is put into practice".

Established methods of teaching language include some of the methods which would bring successful results. They are:

- Grammar Translation Method
- The Direct Method
- The Audio-lingual Method
- The Silent way
- Community Language Learning
- Total Physical Response
- Communicative Language Teaching

### **Grammar Translation Method**

The Grammar Translation Method is not new. It has had different names, but it has been used by Language Teacher to empower English in classroom, which is also known as Classical Method, since it was first used in the teaching of the classical languages, Latin and Greek.

- Learners can develop the ability to communicate in English Language.
- It envisages emphasis on writing using grammatical language of the target language (English).
- Grammar Translation Method aims at teaching learners more about the rules of the language by giving intense practice.

### **The Direct Method**

In this Method, English language is started through direct exposure; i.e. conversations, discussions, which are very useful to empower English language. Most recently it was revived as a Method, when the goal of instruction became learning how to use a foreign language to communicate.

- This method stresses on speaking and reading, which are very useful to the learners.
- Self-correction facilitates language learning.
- The syllabus is based on situations or topics in this method not usually on linguistic structures.

### **The Audio-lingual Method**

The Audio-Lingual method is an oral based approach, which drills students in the use of grammatical sentence patterns and has a strong theoretical base in linguistics and psychology.

- Learners are provided with good models by the teachers, where language is learnt through habit formation.
- The purpose of this method is to teach how to use the language to communicate.
- An important factor in this method, which helps the students to develop correct habits is the positive reinforcement.

### **The Silent way**

One of the basic principles of the silent way is that 'Teaching should be subordinate to learning'. In other words, Gattegno, a psychologist believed that to teach means to serve the learning process rather than to dominate it.

- Learning involves transferring what one knows to new context in this method.
- Language is for self-expression. Silence is a tool, which helps to foster autonomy or the exercise of initiative.
- Learners can learn from one another. Teachers silence encourages group co-operation.

### **Community Language Learning**

Community Language Learning advises teachers to consider their learners as 'whole persons'. Whole-person Learning means teachers consider not only their learners intellect, but also have some understanding of the relationship among learners feelings, physical reactions, instinctive protective reactions, and desire to learn.

- Language is a vehicle for communication
- Learners learn in a group and develop a sense of community from each other as well as the teacher. Cooperation, not competition is encouraged.
- Developing a community among the learners builds trust and can help to reduce the threat of the new learning situation.

### **Total Physical Response**

The other name for 'Total Physical Response' is the comprehension approach as it gives the importance to listening comprehension.

- Learners can learn through observing actions as well as by performing the actions by themselves.
- Language learning is more effective when it is fun.
- Learners feel successful in this method. Feelings of success and low anxiety facilitate learning

### **Communicative Language Teaching**

Communicative Language Teaching aims broadly to apply the theoretical perspective of the communicative approach by making communicative competence the goal of language teaching and by acknowledging the interdependence of language and communication.



- Learners are given opportunity to express their ideas and opinions
- Communicative interaction encourages cooperative relationship among learners. It gives learners an opportunity to work on negotiating meaning.
- Learning to use language forms appropriately is an important part of communicative competence.

### Teaching Aids

The process of teaching-learning depends upon the different types of equipment available in the classroom. There are many aids available these days to empower English in the classroom like, Audio, Visual and Audio-Visual aids.

### Need of Teaching Aids

“I never teach my pupils. I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn.”

- Albert Einstein

- Develop the proper image when the learner sees, hear, taste and smell properly. Teaching aids create the environment of interest for the learners.
- Learners can learn better when they are motivated properly through different teaching aids
- Provide complete example for conceptual thinking
- Provide direct experience to the students
- Help learner improve reading and other skills as learning language is an integration of LSRW (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing).

### Teaching Aids in Classroom

Tool	Used as
Blackboard	Most fundamental teaching aid and the commonest visual aid used for teaching. Simplicity, Legibility, Readily available in most of the lecture rooms



Visuals	<p><b>Television</b> With its simultaneous appeal to the sense of sight and sense of hearing is the most effective and most sophisticated audio-visual available today. It combines a number of aids for teaching English-tapes, models, films, charts, maps, diagrams and several other aids.</p> <p><b>Language Laboratories</b> It is an Audio or Audio-visual installation used as an aid in modern language teaching. Provide a variety of native good English speakers voices as models to follow Provide a reassuring sense of privacy, reduce distractions and encourage concentration through the use of headphones and partitions.</p> <p><b>Films</b> Helps the learners to instigate the intrinsic and extrinsic motivation Silent and sound films gives the teacher a chance to make a comment during the show</p> <p><b>Computers</b> Are fastest means of communication Enable the learners to easily access the world to face the challenges Have become accessible, more powerful and easy to use</p>
Over Head Projectors (OHP)	<p>Accommodates different learning styles and multiple intelligences as they can be used for text, drawings, photos. It minimizes the time the teacher spends writing on the board. Materials can be prepared in advance for presentation.</p>

### Conclusion

Over the years, there have been many changes evolving in English Language Teaching to meet the requirements of the globalised world. English can be empowered in the classroom



by using various aids that are available to the teachers. One of the main reasons why language is given a back seat is due to most of the corporate colleges, where language is given no importance and is almost an abstract subject and is more concrete at the time of examinations. Learner should be intimated how important language is to face the rigid competitive world and meet the challenges successfully by giving them exposure. As per the well-known sayings like “as was his language, so was his life”, Language should be taught as a medium but not as a subject.

### **References**

1. Anthony. *Language, Arts & Disciplines*. Cambridge University Press: P.63-67. 2014.
2. <https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/language>
3. <http://learnstreaming.com/50-quotes-about-teaching/>
4. Diane Larsen-Freeman. *Techniques and Principles in Language Teaching*: New York. Oxford University Press. P.11 – 121. 2005.
5. Julu Sen and R LalithaEapen. *Materials for the Teaching of English*. Hyderabad: CIEFL. P. 5. 1995.