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DEVELOPING LANGUAGE HABITS AT HOME READING LESSONS

Thinking psycho-linguistically, language and speech, habits and skills form a content or, in other words, brain and mind have to be trained to work in synch for us to be able to develop language intelligence on the basis of the ability to empower our language-speech competency and develop considerably our language personalities [2].

Great French linguist De Saussure viewed language as the blueprint for speech which is actualized language. Backing up the genius of De Saussure scholars think that language intelligence is based on solid language habits(pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary) and well developed speech skills(listening, reading, writing). Correct speaking of a person is connected with correct thinking. Personal contact has to be based on proper language habits – good grammar, correct sentence structure, meaningful vocabulary choice.

Vocabulary is central to English language teaching because without sufficient vocabulary students can not understand others or express their own ideas. David Wilkins wrote that “. . . while without grammar very little can be conveyed, without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed” [4, p.111].

Pronunciation is the physical level of language awareness. It is necessary to manage pronunciation habits consciously. Pronunciation is never static. It is the constant state of flux.

Grammar is the Modus Operandi of any language. To learn any grammar is to put the language in your brain on the objective basis and structure the language that you are using according to its objective laws in order to form true, sustainable language awareness, or perception [2].

Developing students' reading skills has a significant role in improving their overall proficiency in foreign language. The present study aims at exploring the importance of reading and how it can be utilized in helping the students to improve their level of proficiency in English.

Four language skills (macro-skills) reading, writing, speaking and listening are highly interconnected and, therefore, can not be taught independently. The understanding of these skills is very important in order to enhance everyday languages.

Each of the approaches, methods and procedures used has its own intrinsic value as a filter, through which to sift and sort, through what an author is attempting to communicate to us.

Learning language and developing its habits is the conscious process at home reading lessons. According to Krashen S. learned language can not be turned to pointless spending a lot of time learning grammar rules, since this will not help us to become better users of the language in authentic situations.

A good start to improving reading ability is increased access to different kinds of authentic literature, fictions, magazines, newspapers. These increased access to books results in more reading and more reading results in better literacy development. Home reading (HR) is the reading of any book that students have chosen for themselves or recommended by the teacher which is subjected to follow-up work such as comprehension questions or summary. It serves to increase literacy and to develop vocabulary first of all.

In his book 'The Power of Reading' Krashen S.D. states the following:

- Students who read more do better on a wide variety of tests.
- Reading is the most significant factor in the development of vocabulary.
- Reading is the major factor in the development of writing competence.
- Students who read extensively have a greater general knowledge.
- Home reading is extremely enjoyable and probably the most popular means of achieving language experience.

When students read for pleasure, when they get hooked on books, they acquire involuntarily and without conscious effort, nearly all of the so-called language skills many people are so concerned about. They will become adequate readers, acquire large vocabulary, develop the ability to understand and use complex grammatical constructions, develop a good writing style and become good (but not necessarily) perfect spellers [1].

We can diversify our language habits and speech skills much better if we read consciously, paying attention to what we read, conceptualizing the text while reading and paying aware attention to the richness of the vocabulary that is being used by the writer. These skills should be developed with teachers' aid through analyzing, integrating and synthesizing the information verbally and in written form.

In sum, evolution of a language use requires the paradigm shift in language competence because "it directs our attention from the predominant focusing on the speech skills to a holistic and keenly conscious linking of language habits and speech skills" [2].

References

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