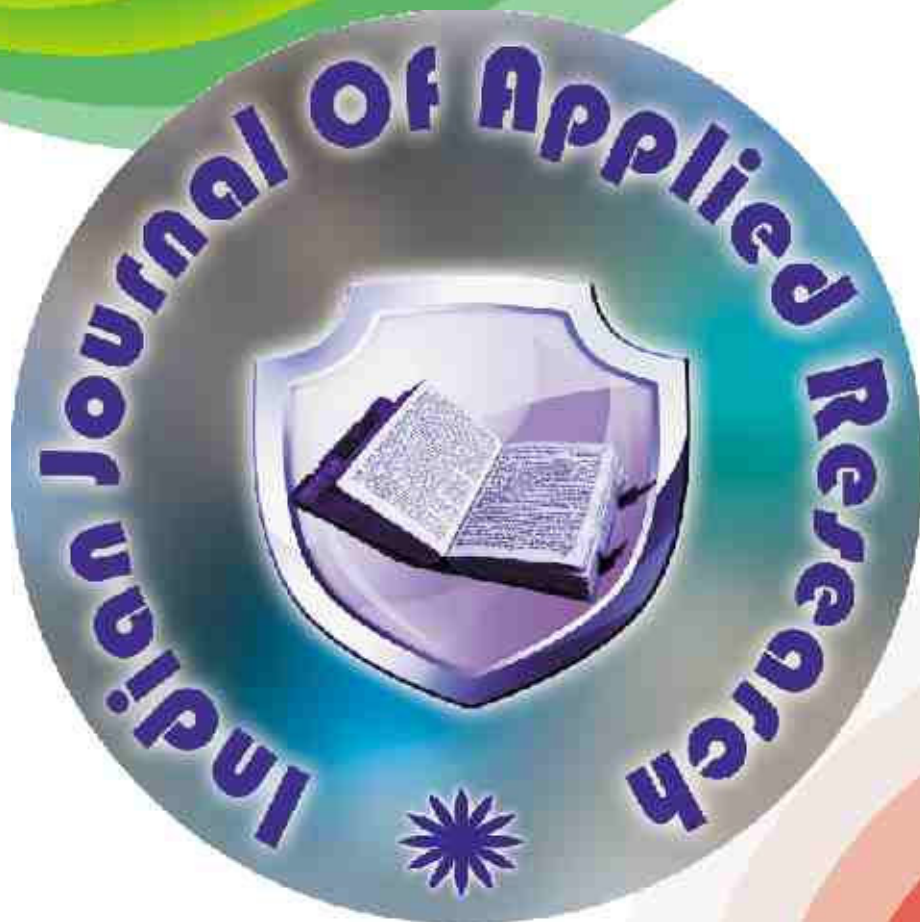


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## Sports as a Tool for Interest Oriented Learning

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### ABSTRACT

*Communication is the process of conveying messages or transmitting ideas with one another. English language is considered as an integral part of communication as it plays a significant role in promoting interaction, global harmony, solidarity and fellowship. English finds its use in almost all walks of life. The field of sports is not exempted from the use of English language. In the field of sports, every game and every event makes use of the English terms as it is the most widely spoken language. As the adolescent learner possesses greater interest in sports, it becomes a platform for learning the language. The task of teaching English can be accomplished by adopting strategies which improve the communication skills of the learners. Learning becomes enjoyable when the learner is involved to the maximum. This paper aims at developing the Listening and Speaking skills of the learners by using Sports as a tool for Interest Oriented Learning.*

**Keywords :** Interest Oriented Learning, language tasks, adolescent learner

### Introduction

Excellent communication ability is the need of the hour for engineering professionals. The forces of globalization and inter nationalization have strengthened the position of English in all walks of life all over the world. So the ability to communicate effectively through English is considered an asset. Teacher has to experiment and find out some innovative tools and techniques to make teaching effective. One of the most valuable things a teacher can do is to help students prepared for life long learning. Teachers need to discover activities that are enjoyable and educational, that will motivate students and will help them understand important concepts. Globalisation is creating a demand of skilled professionals with excellent communication ability. Teaching sounds accent, stress and intonation to engineering students can help them meet the challenges of preparing them as excellent communicators with good presentation skills.

Teacher's Role in Integrating English with Sports:

Teachers can use the sports field as an effective tool to teach English language. Unlike conventional classroom teaching, sports based teaching requires more efforts on the part of the teachers. At first, they must have the basic knowledge about sports. As everybody has hands on experience in this field, it becomes possible to employ this technique for teaching. Acquiring sports knowledge is feasible as institutions have different set of players and the department exclusively that caters to the needs. Apart from that technology also provides opportunities, through the internet source, which can be utilized for gathering information. Therefore teachers can spare time and energy to implement new teaching strategies. Moreover, the learners' interest is nurtured through sports as they are much aware of this field. The task of inculcating language becomes easy, as their attitude towards education is highly influenced by their aspirations. Learning becomes enjoyable when the learners' attitude is given enough consideration.

### Points to Ponder:

- Choose your choice: As the sports field has too many games, there is ample choice to choose the text suitable for language learning.
- Know the interest: Select the content that suits the interest and the level of language skill the learners possess.
- Motivate the learner: As participatory learning helps in achieving the target, motivate them to take part in activities
- Be Innovative: Learning must be enjoyable. So give the learner the task that evokes new thoughts.
- Create an Environment: Make the learners involve in the situation and allow them to use the language appropriately.
- Inculcate Skills: Knowing the ability of the learners, prepare them to practice the skills of language learning accordingly.
- Mould the Personality: As language learning paves way to shape the personality of the learner, give them chances to reveal their identity.

Based on the recently conducted survey, it has been mentioned that Cricket Ranks first in the Indian Soil, Foot Ball second, Tennis third and other games follow the order. The beauty that lies here is though Hockey is our National Game; it has not gained the prominence as that of Cricket. Probably the craze of youngsters, projection of media and provision for sponsorship by various business sectors promote this game and provoke the interest for watching it to a greater extent. As this scenario is encountered in almost every part of India, making use of this technique for language learning is worth mentioning.

As technology provides a tremendous support, it is possible to download interviews and play that inside the class through LCD. Initially the recorded speech of the Indian players can be played to hone the listening skills. As they make use of Indianised accent, it would be easy to comprehend the message. Later on accent of native speakers could be utilized to demonstrate the variation of style, pronunciation and usage of words which is called diction.



In order to inculcate active listening among the learners they are introduced to a listening task. This task comprises an interview with the captain of the Indian cricket team, Mr. M. S. Dhoni after the winning moments of the world cup 2011.

### Lesson Plan

Objective : To inculcate participatory learning skills.

Genre : Sports

Teaching Skill : Listening & Speaking

Teaching Material: Answering Yes or No questions, Narration, Framing Sentences

This is a three minute interview between the anchor of the ceremony Mr. Ravishastri and the Indian captain Mr. M. S. Dhoni. A couple of questions were put forth to the Indian captain and he replies to them. His body language and language proficiency were analysed and task related to that recording were given to the learners. When the learners were introduced with this task, the inspiration and the adoration they have for the Indian captain motivates them to express over whelming responses to the questions given as tasks.

### Highlights

Situation: Interview between M.S.Dhoni and Ravishastri  
Ravishastri's questions and Dhoni's Answers about the winning moments of the World cup 2011

Using this as the context, a module has been prepared to enhance the listening skill of the learners. The task is assigned as Pre-Listening, While Listening and Post-Listening activities. Learners are provided with chances to make use of the language in a productive manner.

### Plan of Action

Phase I. Knowing the context:

Learners are given a chance to watch the commentary and instructed to answer a few 'Yes' or 'No' questions. This helps in identifying their superficial understanding of the text.

Phase II. Predicting the Text:

As the learners listen to the recording, they are asked to identify the phrasal verbs. This shows the concentration level of the learners.

Phase III. Focus on Grammar:

As language learning needs grammar, the learners are insisted to frame sentences on their own using the identified phrasal verbs. This makes them to be creative in expressing their opinion. They are asked to find out new words and its meaning by referring to the dictionary. This helps them in developing their vocabulary

Phase IV. Identifying the Linguistic Elements:

Learners are grouped together as six per team and told to make an analysis of the interview. Moreover they are directed to narrate the situation based on some questions. By now the learners have a good grasp of the text; this in turn helps the learners become expressive.

### Interest Oriented Learning

Listening and Speaking Module

Pre-Listening Activity:

- Can you identify on what occasion this interview took place?
- Is Dhoni tensed?
- Can you understand the expressions of Ravishastri?
- Does Dhoni speak English fluently?
- Can you follow Dhoni's conversations?

While- Listening Activity:

II Answer the questions accordingly:

- Mention any two discourse markers.
- State two more discourse markers that you know.
- Identify any three phrasal verbs used in the conversation.
- Frame Sentences using the phrasal verbs identified by you
- List out the new words that you have come across and identify the meaning using a dictionary.

Post-Listening Activity:

III Express your views in two or three sentence Orally:

- Dhoni's body language at the winning moment.
- Dhoni's comment on Gowtham's Performance
- Dhoni's regard for other players
- Dhoni's language proficiency
- Ravishastri's language style.

### Conclusion

Language learning becomes enjoyable when the learners are offered with tasks based on their interest. Sports Arena paves the excellent way in learning the language. When the learning process involves innovative strategies, it definitely bridges the gap between academic performance and communicative effectiveness. Interest Oriented Learning will help learners achieve the necessary skills required for speaking as it evokes participatory learning. When learners are provided with activities, they are self-expressive. As ABL (Activity Based Learning) gets enough prominence in almost all the schools, the same can be extended in professional education environment to promote language learning skills to meet the demand of the competitive world. Sports field acts as the best way in realizing the challenges through a variety of developmental tasks that enhances the speaking ability of the learners. Hence, it would be apt to say that Interest Oriented Learning targets in achieving the communicative competency of the learners which is the ultimate need of the hour.

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