

A Comparative Study on Music and Traditional Method to Develop Vocabulary



English

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S. V. Karthiga

Ph.D Scholar, Dept. of English, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore- 641046

Dr. P. Nagaraj

Assistant Professor, Dept. of English, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore- 641046.

ABSTRACT

This paper focuses on the traditional teaching tools and music. In order to find the learners view a study was conducted. A course was designed to find out the vocabulary level of the learners using music and traditional blackboard method. Initially students were only allowed to use paper, dictionaries where traditional blackboard method was followed. Secondly the same course to the same group of students was conducted using music; here the learners were allowed to use their mobile phones in order to find out the meaning of the words. At the end of both courses a test was conducted to find out which method has been more successful. Questionnaire was given to identify the learners' interest. Music is one of the major contributing factors in the development of society especially in non-English speaking countries. The reason is that people show more interest in singing the English songs which inspired them a lot even without knowing it's meaning at first. By this people get acquainted to music very easily. A key part of the teaching approach is the facilities used in method of teaching. Today teachers have lots of new technologies, electronic instructional and communicational technologies which can be used in teaching vocabulary. A learner can attain language proficiency easily if the vocabulary level is high.

Introduction

Music is one of the major contributing factors in the development of non-English speaking countries. The reason is that an understanding of the flood of the new vocabulary in these countries is gained mostly through listening to English songs. A major part of the teaching approach is the facilities used in the process of teaching. Today teachers have lots of new technologies, electronic instructional and communicational technologies at hand that are deemed as basis for institutional reforms and powerful agents for the development of new teaching strategies and material. Moreover, nowadays lots of pedagogues, psychologists, teachers and politicians are worried about the knowledge level of the young people and wonder if they can keep up their steps with the development technology. Despite all efforts some teachers complain that the rate of school (or university) failure is higher and higher every year and the level of knowledge and competency of the students is constantly rolling back and blame at the new technologies used in learning contexts. This was the motivating factor for the researcher to investigate if there are any possible advantages for traditional teaching over the new trends (music) for the students.

Traditional education means following traditional teaching methods used to be found and respected in schools for long that most teachers and students still have in their minds. In the traditional approach, new technologies had little or no place while in this contemporary society students are given free rein to use electronic devices like laptops, electronic dictionaries, internet and the material are presented to them, in most places, via data projectors. So, there's little sign of heavy paper dictionaries and blackboards in the classrooms. The quality of a country's educational system is not only an indicator of its current levels of development and social wellbeing, but also that of its future. It is not surprising that providing a universal education which is capable of stimulating the integral development of children and adolescents is also a strategic objective of great importance in the most advanced nations. Nowadays, students are helped to learn by lots of new technologies, electronic instructional and communication technologies that are seen as engines for institutional reforms and powerful agents for the development of distance education programs. Moreover, nowadays lots of pedagogues, psychologists, teachers and politicians are worried about the level of culture of the young people. Despite all these efforts, the rate of school (or university) failure is higher and higher every year and the level of our students are each time lower because they lack in language usage. This is another main view for reflection for this research. Innovative teaching and learning are deemed appropriate. Some forms of education reform promote the adoption of progressive education practices, a more holistic approach which focuses on individual students' needs and self-expression. In the eyes of reformers, traditional teacher-centered methods focused on learning and memori-

zation must be abandoned in favour of student-centered and task-based approaches to learning. However, many parents and conservative citizens are concerned with the maintenance of objective educational standards based on testing, which favours a more traditional approach. Here the focus is on the learners scoring good marks than gaining practical knowledge. Much research has been carried in the field of learning, and suggestions as to what factors intervene in learning among humans, and how most effective learning occurs abound in the literature on learning issues. Various authors, among others have expressed their views on the concept of learning and have proposed learning styles, learning models and learning cycles.

Learning is defined as actions under the guidance of the teacher aiming at bringing some relatively permanent change in the way students think, feel or act. Some of the guiding principles are:

- Learning must be relevant to existing knowledge and any future responsibilities.
- Learning ought to comprise of appropriate sequencing of instruction.
- Learning should have active student's participation
- Learning is half-finished without feedback on performance

There is growing consensus in society on developments must undergo modern education, considering that this development should occur at the same rate as do information technology which would give rise to a new teaching model. However, for a long time many theories have been developed for learning, most of which after an initial success ended up forgotten. The educational process is very complex and does not support drastic solutions that have been demonstrated throughout history. Many suggestions that seem so attractive and common sense in educational journal articles are not very effective in the real classroom and in practical application, since the number of students can be great, and many of them have not had the opportunity to establish the concepts necessary prerequisites, or do not have sufficient capacity to abstract logical reasoning. In flawless that traditional teaching has a number of limitations.

Over time alternative forms of education have evolved from distance courses through correspondence courses to the video or satellite, however, none have managed to have the same efficacy as classroom teaching. But today, the possibilities of Internet and new generation software lead to a better quality education and flexibility called virtual learning, which are included the so-called "wikis." This new model enhances modern education especially in relation to the flexibility and interest. It is very useful because it provides training products interactive, more accessible. It is evident that new technologies can support students in the acquisition of new knowledge and provide motivation and vocabulary development for some students in

a more relaxed way. However, any new technology can replace the teacher to facilitator, as someone who transmits knowledge but also teaches how to express themselves, how to behave, how to speak, and write and how to communicate with others and to get acquainted to modern technology and English language learning. Traditional learning is attached to blackboard. Modern teaching is referred to music. At the end of the class a test was answered by students in order to investigate which of the two approaches black board teaching or teaching through music were more successful.

Method

The experiment was conducted for 50 Secondary level learners. The vocabulary test and enhancement test using black board teaching and then with music was tested with the same group. At the end of class, students answered a questionnaire and one on satisfaction foreground. The data was analysed using percentage analysis.

Percentage Analysis of Students Hail From Rural and Urban

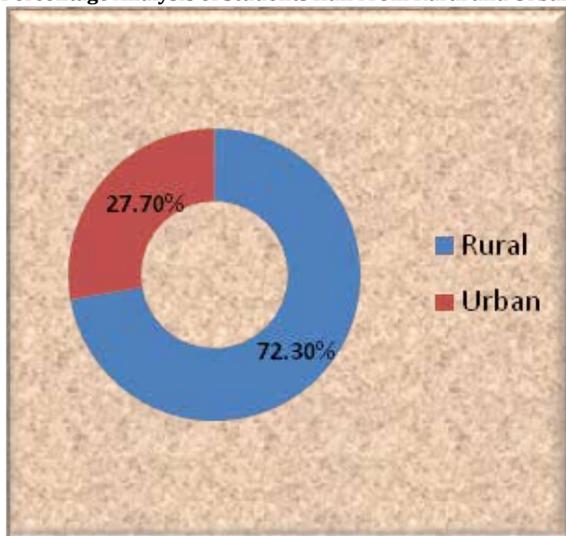


Exhibit 1

The chart exhibits that the background of the learners also remains as a reason for their language acquisition. The learners who hailed from rural were more compared to urban and the time taken for the urban learners to learn the language was less compared to the time taken by the rural learners.

Percentage Analysis of Traditional Method and Music

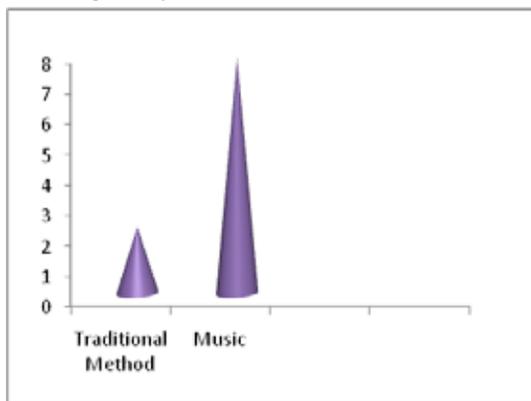


Exhibit 2

The level of learner’s interest towards music was 7.8% when compared to the traditional method the interest was 2.2%. The interest level was low when compared to the mode of teaching through music.

Limitations

The sample for the study was limited to 50. Variable taken for the study was vocabulary and no other variable was touched upon.

Results

Interestingly enough, the results indicated that students were satisfied learning through music than the traditional learning method. The explanation, according to students was that they were not distracted and learning happened more rapid because the students always have something different to do. A possible explanation for the fact that students learn more in a modern class is that when vocabulary is taught using music the students take notes listening to it keenly. Here the teacher acts as a facilitator. Thus it was a good method, where there was less deviation among the learners. Besides that, the modern way in disciplining students in school and teaching them was an effective way in building their vocabulary capacity. Teaching becomes effective through music and vocabulary level of the learners has increased more through music than traditional classroom.

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