



## Augmentation of Reading and Communication Skills by Creative Teaching

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### ABSTRACT

Effective communication has been the need of any millennium. Over time, the knowledge transfer has brought us to the present day where English has become the most accepted universal medium of interaction for anything and everything. Today, life at any level, from learner to teacher, from consumer to producer, from technology to innovation etc., have become very fast paced and demanding. So, "Speed" is a key differentiating factor which is of very high demand. There is considerable amount of struggle and competition that is ongoing at every level to match up with the demand for this speed. To satisfy this demand, it is very important that everyone uses the common medium for communication. Since English has become the language that has a greater percentage of usage it is playing a pivotal role in helping the cause. This paper brings out the challenges of teaching English as a second language and highlights on how activity based reading skill plays a vital role in developing ones communication skills.

### KEYWORDS

Reading skill, activity based learning, creative teaching, communication skill

#### 1. ROLE OF ENGLISH IN RECENT SCENARIO

It is more obviously seen nowadays that the students from different countries gather under one roof to learn, doctors from different regions meet under one frame to find solutions, businessmen of different class share knowledge for effective growth, researchers of different continents gather for new developments where people who know and use English as their language say that they never felt to have any sort of barrier between each other.

This overview focusing on discrepant roles of English language is playing in the present day scenario, elucidates the assistance it has provided in almost all the fields which are very extensive and intensive. The art of effective management, which sits on the throne of every operation irrespective of the field or space or time, is in one sense effective and right communication. This is an application both at the transmitter level as well as the receiver level. As known, a person is directly or indirectly the part of the global machine, that undergoes transformation from one phase to another and for movement with limited friction, the universally accepted language, English, is helping immensely.

#### 2. CHALLENGES OF TEACHING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Effective teaching is the primary problem in taking English language to the grass root level. First of all the teacher should be a master in the language and good at analytical skills to teach the students besides creatively conveying the knowledge, that generally observed to be short of. Therefore the primary problem is the dearth of resource personnel who can effectively teach the subject to the learners. It is witnessed that the natural tendency for any individual is to stick to their native language rather than accepting a new one for their day to-day usage or interactions. Irrespective of the learning arena or otherwise, it can be said that people dominantly switch over very rapidly to their native medium of communication which reduces the effectiveness of learning and makes the process a mechanical one. People expects thumb rule for learning languages and fail to gain proper knowledge about the subject.

One of the most important and distinguishing problems in teaching English as second language is the ignorance among individuals about the various advantages one gains through mastering the language. Often this ignorance leads to negli-

gence on the part of students. Due to this failure, students often fail to express themselves properly, which indirectly impacts their confidence level that paves the way for further dip in effective learning. This one way process is seen as chain reaction among students, where it spreads from one to other among students of similar mindset.

The prevalent mindset observed among the individuals is that learning any language is an arduous task as the preoccupied mindset remains an impediment to language learning. The solution is creative teaching, which though evolving is yet to gain currency. Also the system is pre-defined at every level at this moment and often students are forced to get into the flow through monotonous learning to catch up pace with the rest, which results in ineffective mastery of the language. Aforementioned are some of the limitations that are acting as a shortcoming, which if addressed systematically can yield better results.

#### 3. FACETS OF READING

The habit of reading usually gets invigorated in the academia of a student's life. In fact, reading habit of a student reveals tetra facets namely,

- Reading for Academic Progress
- Reading for Updating Knowledge
- Reading for Corporate Induction
- Reading for Corporate Excellence

##### 3.1 Reading for Academic Progress

Academic Performance is the backbone of a student's career. Hence, nurturing the essential knowledge becomes the primary goal of a student. This knowledge is available for students in the form of books, lectures, online materials and so on. In order to absorb this knowledge from the source mentioned above, one should possess desirable comprehension and communication skills in English as most of the texts are printed in English.

##### 3.2 Reading for Updating Knowledge

In continuation to the academic quadrant, the next crucial point in a student's life is getting selected in a company that supports the person's skill and aids growth. If one analyzes the different stages of short listing a candidate by most of the growing organizations, it will have four stages like

- Aptitude
- Technical test
- Group Discussion
- Personal Interview

Ultimately, Communication plays a vital role in all these tests. Also mostly the managers are looking for the students who are not just good in the field of operation but who are able to effectively communicate their idea forward.

### 3.3 Reading for Corporate Induction

Prospering professionally requires good communication skill. As mentioned earlier, communicating the ideas forward is very vital. This will be at the grass root level but growing ahead, it will progress to discussion of ideas, escalating the developments to managerial. All these require effective communication skill.

### 3.4 Reading for Corporate Excellence

The world is becoming more competitive day by day and every time the next generation steps in to a more advanced world. In order to help them succeed as student, it is essential to nurture them properly and guide them in the right channel for which the key is effective communication.

## 4. READING AS A DEVELOPING SKILL

Reading is a skill that will be improved through practice. The process of reading begins with a person's earliest exposure to texts and literature culture and it continues throughout one's life.

For children to become skilled readers (Neuman & Celano 2006) they will also need to develop a rich conceptual knowledge base and verbal reasoning abilities to understand messages conveyed through print. Successful reading ultimately consists of knowing a relatively small tool kit of unconscious procedural skills, accompanied by a massive and slowly built-up store of conscious content knowledge. It is higher-order thinking skills, knowledge and dispositional capabilities that enable young children to come and understand what they read.

Children's earliest experiences become organized or structured into schemas, building blocks of cognition. Schemas (Anderson & Pearson 1984) provide children with the conceptual apparatus for making sense of the world around them by classifying incoming bits of information into similar groupings.

Stein & Glenn (1979), for example, provided a compelling case for schemas and their usefulness for recalling information about stories. Well-read to children internalize a form of story grammar, a set of expectations of how stories are told which enhances their understanding. Knowledge becomes easier to access (Neuman 2001), producing more knowledge networks. And those with a rich knowledge base find it easier to learn and remember.

## 5. CREATIVITY IN TEACHING

One common uniting factor across the world, among most of the people, is English which is helping them to effective interactions and sharing information at will and in a free flowing manner. If we check the creamy layer of the world, the engine of the universal machine, English has been acting as the key agent for proper functioning and optimal progress.

On the flip side, when you check out the micro level though we can claim the effectiveness by using English language remains intact, the doubt always hovers around the command over the language. So, there arises the need to teach the language creatively, which is never short of headwinds.

By being creative, it would help in creating interest among the learners by extending out innovative ideas and techniques thus making the process of learning simple, easier to understand and fun filled.

One strong limiting factor for reluctance to improve reading habit is the lack of interest and the best medicine to cure this is being creative. The creative elements will break the monotonous patterns and it can bring in the flexibility to adapt to the latest trend in the system and the society. The creative approach will help to extend the teaching arm to any level by minor tweaking according to the recipient.

## 6. ACQUISITION OF READING SKILL THROUGH ACTIVITY ORIENTED TEACHING

Activity based teaching reading skills help the students in active contextual understanding and momentous language learning. It enhances team work and decision making skills and increasing interest in active team work with the winning attitude of the given activity that helps the students acquire reading skills automatically.

Any learning will become relatively easier if there is a specific reference available and if the reference is practically emphasized, it makes learning much easier. It can be said that the exhibition of the real-life scenario through demo or actual object has huge impact in understanding the subject effectively. The virtual classrooms with video narration and descriptions are result of the impact of the aforementioned idea.

The next phase of demonstrative teaching is activity based teaching where the practical application of the subject in focus is taught through more creative, interactive and practically oriented learning. The participation for such technique is also better and the focus on the learning is far better as the core of this way of teaching is active involvement by the learners.

## REFERENCES

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