

“The effectiveness of utilizing varied teaching approaches on the learning process of English”

إعداد الباحث

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الكويت

The Abstract

In the teaching process we are after an effective learning in the teaching process. we would like to get rid of the details of classroom practice. So, it is preferable to examine what we are doing and our teaching process more broadly. IN this research I'll tackle the definition of teaching approaches clarifying the terminological distinctions among them including approaches, methods, and techniques used in the teaching process. Moreover, I'll declare the theoretical orientation related to teaching approaches and how effective they are to the educators and learners as well. Also, this research investigates the different teaching approaches and how to apply them effectively in teaching the English language. Finally, the research states some recommendations for teachers of English language, hopefully they will put in mind while utilizing their teaching techniques to achieve the requirements of the learners.

Key words

Teaching approaches-Teaching methods -effectiveness of learning -teaching techniques-utilized methods.

الملخص

في عملية التدريس ، نحن نتوجه نحو فعالية تعليمنا ، نود التخلص من التفاصيل الدقيقة للتدريبات في الفصول الدراسية. لذلك ، من الأفضل فحص ما نقوم به في عملية التدريس لدينا على نطاق أوسع. في هذا البحث سوف أتطرق إلى تعريف مناهج التدريس مع توضيح الفروق المصطلحية فيما بينها بما في ذلك المناهج والأساليب والتقنيات المستخدمة في عملية التدريس علاوة على ذلك ، سأعلن عن التوجه النظري المتعلق بأساليب التدريس ومدى فعاليتها للمعلمين والمتعلمين أيضاً. كما يبحث هذا البحث في مناهج التدريس المختلفة وكيفية تطبيقها بفاعلية في تدريس اللغة الإنجليزية. أخيراً يشير البحث إلى بعض التوصيات لمعلمي اللغة الإنجليزية ، ونأمل أن يأخذوها بعين الاعتبار اثناء استخدام التقنيات الكلمات الدالة. في طرق التدريس التي تلبي متطلبات الطلاب

مناهج التدريس - طرق التدريس - فعالية التعلم - تقنيات التدريس - الأساليب المستخدمة

The elements of the study

- The definition of teaching approaches.
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- The Differences among teaching approaches, methods, and techniques.
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- Theoretical orientation related to teaching approaches.
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- Different English language teaching approaches.

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- Applying teaching approaches on learning English language.
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- Recommendations

The definition of teaching approaches

Teaching approaches have an important effect on the teaching process concerning learners. As we have many different effects which will lead to the success of the process of learning. one of these effects is teaching approaches with reference to methods and techniques used by teachers and their classrooms to fulfill their goals on the short and long terms. To begin with we must differentiate between teaching approaches, methods, and techniques.

Teaching approaches are considered the different philosophies of educators about language teaching, which can be applied in the classrooms by using varied techniques of language teaching.

The Differences among teaching approaches methods and techniques

(Tahir, S. Z. B. 2012) there are a lot of definitions of teaching approaches and methods introduced by many experts some of them

have declared such term related to their action but with the same aim and meaning. As we have just mentioned that **teaching approaches** are considered the different philosophies about language teaching, we are going to clarify the terminological differences related to teaching methods and techniques.

Methods of teaching are the combination of techniques that are used and plasticized by teachers inside the classrooms to teach their students. Some methods are taught to form and give them thinking about suitable techniques and principles according to the situation where they stand. It's very important for teachers to know different methods because their knowledge is the basis of teaching.

Teaching techniques Are considered the special classroom activities and tasks done inside the classroom.

To sum up, we can handle an example to get the terminological distinctions among approaches, methods, and techniques. ⁽¹⁾ four an approach which concerns with the communicative language teaching is built on the theory that the language we use it's just for communication.

-As for methodology such teaching approach is based on the structural components where the learner is the center to develop their communicative competence through communicating with each other within classroom activities.

-As for the techniques used in this communicative teaching approach depends mainly on speaking games, discussing topics and ordering the events in a context.

Theoretical orientations related to teaching approaches

Teaching approaches rely on many assumptions and theories which can be categorized into four important elements: cognitive orientation then the functional one sequenced by the psychological and the structural element. We will tackle each one in short.

-Cognitive: this perspective shows the English language teaching process as depending totally on the students as he is the main concern of the whole learning process. This approach deals with how to teach the language in an effective method to be able to remember some lexical items permanently in their memory.

In this approach everything is used including the techniques, the strategies rotate around the learner himself and his acquisition of the English language.

-Structural: this approach believes that teaching a language would be through having certain rules related to the language such as grammar rules, to help the learner to recall such rules in his mind, so that he can achieve the fluency of the language in a short time. We have to

combine basic elements through using special ways on how to teach a language. That's why teachers in this approach depend on the grammar box to achieve their goals.

-Psychological: in this theory teaching the language depends on psychological elements for the learners and the teachers, such as the motivations of students to learn the language and the attitudes of teachers towards the students and the process itself. They are after having the class active and students responsive to acquire the language effectively. So, it is essential for teachers to put in mind the social and psychological backgrounds of their students. The teacher acts as a supporter to his students and makes the class dynamic as possible.

-Functional: the main emphasize in this approach is using the language as a way of communication regardless of its rules. This approach highlights the spoken language and its importance. Therefore, teachers are not after the effectiveness of the written form of the language. This has a dramatic effect on the kinds of activities teachers are using in their classes. In this approach they emphasize any speaking activities such as making role play or dialogue to have interaction among students and encourage them to speak freely. (Richards, J. C. 2002) many attempts were taken to improve the methodology of teaching the language, especially the kind of teaching which is based on tasks to be carried out. This kind of teaching is considered the main core of the learning process.

Now after getting some knowledge about the four different categories that the teaching approaches are emphasizing. We should be aware of utilizing these approaches in the best way in the classroom. The main aim of education is to create with in the learner the inner desire to learn, and to involve himself in the learning process willingly, to achieve the best he can by using the available materials in his surroundings.

Different English language teaching approaches

English language teaching approaches are closely connected with each other. they have some points of similarities and differences. Therefore, we can't say that no signal approach can be the suitable one for every teacher, as educators have to apply different approaches till, they make sure of the best one suitable for their teaching situation. Teaching approaches have their own pros and cons and this is the job of the teachers to figure out which approach is the proper one to be utilized in their class. Let's shed light on some of these approaches discussing their importance and features.

1-Reading approach

This approach is very special as it is only used by specific kind of learners who are after using English language for specific situations, as for work or traveling or even for trade. As they are after learning the language for specific reasons teachers have to emphasize reading skills in particular.

Teachers in such an approach have to teach a little grammar and should focus on understanding the content of any reading comprehension passage. Also, educators teach new lexical items in contexts, and teach negative statements to present the opposite meaning. That's why this approach depends on a functional and structural base.

2- Audiolingual approach

The priority in the audiolingual approach is the spoken form. It is a major aim to speak the language of different countries. It emphasizes

combining the sounds to form lexical items then join them together to form meaningful sentences. so, students using this approach are after using the English language to get the accurate pronunciation, by role play and conversations. Moreover, the teachers have to correct students' mistakes to get the appropriate fluency of the language. Also, Students in such an approach get the pronunciation and rhythm right through drilling, and dialogues.

3- Community language learning

This approach was called so as the students in the classroom represent one community. They should interact together in the language they are learning to have an active role in acquiring it. Educators in this approach have to act as guides to their students to make them involved. In this approach learners have to make a big circle sitting together. They don't have a specific lesson for each day learners decide what they are going to talk about through making suggestions and choose a certain topic. After that the teachers will be able to translate the name of the suggested topic while being outside their own circle. The teacher will encourage the students to pronounce and repeat the topic aloud correcting any mistakes in the pronunciation.

In fact, learners in this approach form a community learning atmosphere, as teachers in this approach help the learners to take part in communication and discussion to improve their learning process.

4- Functional- notional approach

It is noticed that we talk because we need to communicate something. This approach is mainly used for the purpose of communicating the meaning we want to convey. As words are not just sounds without a meaning but we use language functions to inform people about something or agree about ideas or even to persuade others of our perspectives. We use such functions to express our daily events describing places or actions. The teachers should adjust this approach according to the usage of the learners and why they are learning the language. For instance, when we teach young students, they should be taught the four skills first and we could give them simple social phrases to use to communicate with their family and friends. But it is completely different when teaching businessmen they will need completely different syllabus, which will serve the needs for learning the language. By Creating similar situations to the working place, they will act a similar role play and related dialogues. Sometimes teachers can refer to grammar patterns in a minor scale as the main concern should be the real purpose beyond learning the language of the learner.

5- Grammar translation approach

It was the most popular and widely used approach for teaching the English language from an early age. In such approach the learners

were made able to study English through learning the grammatical rules and the lexical items of the language. So, learners will be able to translate the language into their first language and in the second language, but this method was criticized later as it couldn't fulfill the demands of language learning at that time. (Celce-Murcia, M.2001) The result that we can infer from this approach is that students can't use the target language for the purpose of communication.

6- Direct approach

As a reaction against grammatical approach emerged the direct method which was an outcome to face previous approach. The direct approach was based mainly on the assumption that learners of English language should directly think in English. It is against the translation of oral texts or written ones as it focuses on telling the meanings of words through action, real objects, and demonstration. So, this approach aims at doing discussion and conversation in English to promote direct thinking and to form a link between expression and thought and between experience and language. But this direct approach was also criticized according to the following reasons:

-Indirect approach learners are asked to do oral communication in English, and to master pronunciation and accent like native speakers which requires from schools to hire native speakers as teachers which actually can be very expensive.

-To achieve success in such approach the main base is on the teacher's skills and personality more than on the methodology.

-For direct approach to be successful it should be applied in private language schools as it needs only small classes to be accomplished where all learners can't get individual attention.

-Indirect method the educators extravagantly excel in keeping the mother tongue of their learners away from them.

7-Dogma

Dogma is called the approach of communicating in a humanitarian way. As the main focus is on making conversations and dialogues where educators and learners interact with each other to develop the four skills of the language and improve their knowledge. This approach could be applied through forming activities rely on conversations using the English language. This can be done through video materials or real-life situations.

8- The silent way approach

In this approach the teacher is talking as little as possible. It uses silence as an important teaching method. The teacher is using silent treatments to encourage students to do the talking themselves. The teacher should encourage students to depend on themselves to get the meaning of the language. Teachers will do so by having different gestures of communications, which they are going to employ in their classroom activities with their students.

Applying teaching approaches on learning English language

Educators should be aware of how to utilize the teaching approaches in their teaching process which will be through applying a variety of teaching strategies related to the pre-mentioned approaches in their classrooms. Teachers have to think of valid learning methods and techniques including suitable syllabus to be taught. The main aim depends on the type of students and their attitudes towards their teachers. Using the learning whole class approach is an essential one which improves the effectiveness of learning. This approach includes conversation giving the students the chance to give their own response inside the class. (Chen, D., & Yang, X.2017) since ages, many scholars and educators have been searching for new techniques to improve their learner's abilities to acquire the language regardless of their different backgrounds. Moreover, assessment practices are essential as they inform teachers if their students reach their goals. Such assessments will help students to know the effective techniques to improve their learning.

Now let's handle the most important teaching methods and their effectiveness on the learning process. First, we should know that we mustn't choose one method or technique and repeat it

permanently, but we must adjust the methods and techniques which will be applied to the appropriate learning situation. Here are some of the most effective learning methods and how they are applied:

*** Differentiation**

This learning method conveys that we are teaching different types of students inside the same class. They are different in their needs, abilities, and backgrounds. This learning method deals with the differences among learners especially if we have varied abilities in our classroom.,. To apply such a method teachers should apply appropriate methodology. Differentiated learning shouldn't make some students feel inferior or embarrass them in front of their classmates. This balance will enable learners to feel equal regardless of their race, ability or needs. So, teachers will use different activities involving images, books or films which allow students to get the opportunity to be engaged in the lesson.

*** Online learning**

Teaching online is the method of using the Internet through the teaching process including platforms, messaging, and video calls. Actually, is it a combination of all the previous elements. The first step to teaching online is that the teachers should be qualified enough to use technology perfectly in their classes and prepare digital resources such as lesson plans, presentations, or workshops for their students. Teaching online is considered an effective method of teaching as it is accessible to many people nowadays, it helps in emergencies or hardships such as the time of COVID-19 pandemic, it was the only solution for teaching in the state of going to school. So, we moved successfully from depending on the traditional method of teaching (face- to- face) to online teaching.

*** Experiential learning**

Experiential learning emphasizes that learning is an accumulation of the person's experiences .. As we gain our experiences from communicating with each other. which will enrich our experiences and knowledge.

In fact, David Kolb's was the first one to establish this approach as he stated that our learning consists of a cycle of experiences including

emotional experiences and cognitive ones. He suggested four stages in such learning cycle which we are going to thank you now. -

-real experience: when students have a new experience for the first time such as going to school.

-Reflective observation: students have to reflect their emotions and wait to see others doing the same action after exposing to real experiences.

-Abstract conceptualization: in this stage learners reveal their future plans concerning their learning, asking help and advice from specialists to keep going.

-Active experimentation: this is the last step where students will check back their previous experiences trying to redo them again to recognize the progress, they had made which will enable them to make another real experience and then the circle restarts once again.

This learning method is very effective for preparing students for their future experiences learning from their previous mistakes. teachers can use this method in different subjects, for example in science classes or sports training, Teachers can apply such methods in teaching through recording themselves, so they can get feedback on the previously taught materials.

In this way the teacher will be able to encourage his learners to evaluate themselves and treat any shortage of the learning process in an accessible way.

* **Blended learning**

This method is the mix between the traditional way of teaching and the technological one. It is beneficial for learners and teachers as it is considered the bridge between the old and the new.. This message has become so popular at the period of the pandemic COVID-19 with these schools and universities. Using this method, is really effective for learners to communicate personally with the teacher. here we have some examples of blended learning:

-Flex learning: Students use online learning methods while being in class with their teacher. For learners the teacher is a helper and supporter giving instruction whenever needed.

-Station rotation: During the lesson the learners rotate around different “stations” to make a mix between online and hands- on activities.

-Virtual reality: in this learning we help students to be focused and improve their future learning. they are doing this through involving themselves in different environment for example in an art gallery or historical places.

- Enriched virtual learning: Students are using technology to complete their worksheets, assignments, and presentations, but they can resort back sometimes to traditional learning. Therefore, mixed learning is becoming more dominant in our world today due to the

modernization of our teaching process and the continuous link between digital and physical world.

*** Game- based learning**

Educators used this kind of learning to make their lessons fun, engage all students and make them interactive. Game based learning is also called gamification, it is an effective method to involve learners especially in the early age students who acquire learning through playing.

In this type, teachers tend to implement games in the textbook activities to achieve enthusiasm among students. We can present video games, playground, and the board games that all learners are interested in. Doing so students will be responsive, active and have the interest to succeed and achieve their goals. Actually, it depends on the lesson when to use gamification or it needs a serious discussion.

Let's shed light on some ways where teachers can utilize games in their lessons through the following:

- Progress bars in the class
- Impressive rewards
- Competitions and challenges
- Point systems

-The learning badges

* Student- centered learning

This message focuses mainly on students. Student- centered learning is a little bit distinguished from the traditional method of teaching, which is known as teacher centered learning, where the teacher is the dominant person of the class giving lectures and instructions to the students. On the other hand, using student center learning will give the learners the opportunity to make their own decision concerning the material they would like to learn and the suitable way for learning. This is also known as” personalized learning” as learners will participate in an active way in this method. They will get the chance to ask their own questions that will lead to inquiry-based learning.

Teachers can apply such methods through allowing students to take part in debates, fun role play scenarios together and small group projects. The teacher will be an excellent facilitator by encouraging creativity, curiosity, open communication, and exploration.

Recommendations

- 1- The teacher must use the method that revolves around the students and encourage them to participate.
- 2- Utilizing the student- center approach in classroom at the students will get the chance to express themselves in an easy way.
- 3- Educators must give certain amount of freedom to their learners to speak in English in the classroom.
- 4- Teachers should have some patience and wait for a response from learners using facial expressions and gestures when needed.
- 5- Teachers should vary their techniques in the class according to the level of their students and the syllabus they are studying.
- 6- Using visual aids and technological tools would be very effective for both teachers and students in acquiring the language.
- 7- Teachers have to teach their learners to think in English and not to express their ideas in their own language and translate them.
- 8- Teachers have to keep their instructions clear and straightforward before asking students to do any task to make sure that all students will be involved and responsive.
- 9- Teachers have to use a combination of techniques to make the English language understandable.
- 10-students' experiences should be focused on, and teachers will make use of them in making up the content of the lessons.

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