

## METHODS OF GENERATING AND FACILITATING STUDENTS SPEAKING SKILLS IN EFL CLASSES

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### Annotation

Speaking skills are one of the most important skills we learn, as they allow us to communicate with others and express our thoughts and feelings. Understanding how to communicate effectively with peers sets the stage for positive self-esteem. This article deals with methods of generating and facilitating students speaking skills in EFL classes.

**Keywords:** skill, vocabulary retrieval, grammatical patterns, sociocultural competence, proficiency, Communicative Language Teaching method.

The process of language learning, the main aim of the learner is to acquire the four language skills – listening, speaking, reading and writing. Among these, listening and reading are receptive skills whereas speaking and writing are productive skills. These skills must be focused in the classroom by teachers because the soul of language learning lies in language skills. The main objective of all these four language skills is to develop the learners' learning abilities in producing oral discourses.

For effective communication in English, first of all, learners need to acquire the knowledge of both grammar and vocabulary which are the two basic and important components of a language. Once the learners learn some basic structures of English and some vocabulary, they can practice speaking skills under the guidance of their teachers. In this regard, Celce-Murcia and Olshtain(2000) point out, "In some ways speaking can be considered the most difficult skill to acquire as it requires command of speech production sub-skills like vocabulary retrieval, choice of grammatical patterns, and sociocultural competence". As there is a huge demand for speaking skills in the present job market, learners are now struggling to obtain these skills. Moreover, all the organizations are recruiting the people who have excellent communication skills, as they believe that these skills may promote their business. These skills are required in almost all the fields like software, business, sales, teaching, law, administration, reception, management, marketing, tourism and so on. Due to the demand of these speaking skills in various fields, it is high time for the learners to get a mastery over these skills. At this juncture, it is appropriate to quote the comment of Khamkhien (2010) who says, "Speaking skill is the most important in a second language. Mostly people, who learn English Language, have in their minds that they like to master the goal of developing the proficiency in speaking skill though it is a difficult task". There is a high demand for English language in global market because of the global status of English language that is widely used in all fields by most of the countries around the

world. English language learning is promoted everywhere as EFL and ESL. In both settings, language skills are given more importance in the process of teaching and learning. In order to train the learners in language skills, teachers of English language use different techniques and strategies with the help of technology in classrooms as well as language labs. Speaking is a productive skill which learners should develop to communicate fluently. Iqbal (2012) says, "Speaking, therefore, as a skill is defined as the oral mode or the productive skill which is more complicated and which involves more than just pronouncing words". In the acquisition of a foreign language or a second language, speaking plays a dominant role. Usually teachers focus on speaking skill to make their students communicate well. Speaking builds people's link, personality and character. Speaking skills are needed for expressing one's ideas and opinions as well as impressing the others. Good speakers can win lakhs of hearts with their impressive, attractive and attentive talk. It is not enough to face the challenges today and the teachers have to realize that they need to focus more on this skill to prepare the learners for employment, interaction with others and perform well at work places.

### Teaching Speaking Skills

In the modern classroom, English teachers apply various methods and techniques in the classroom to teach speaking skills. Predominantly, they focus on communicative language teaching (CLT) and collaborative learning because CLT is based on real-life situations and it is more useful in developing communication skills among the learners. Collaborative learning is also encouraged by teachers to involve the learners in various task-based activities. It is applicable to both EFL/ESL settings. While teaching speaking skills to the learners, teachers need to focus on speech sounds, sound patterns, stress and intonation patterns, the selection of appropriate words and sentences; according to the audience, social setting, subject matter and situations. The teachers help the learners organize their thoughts and ideas logically and meaningfully in order to use their language to express with values and judgments. Since speaking is considered one of the language productive skills, according to the intention of the speaker, Brown (2004) has classified them into five types: imitative, intensive, responsive, interactive and extensive. Source: Brown, D. (2004) Imitative speaking is the learners' ability to parrot back or repeat the others' speech as a word, a phrase or a sentence. This type of repetition involves grammar and lexis which are useful to interact in a conversation or to convey the meaning. Intensive speaking is the product of short discourses where the learners have to complete the tasks like reading aloud and completing sentences and dialogues. Responsive speaking involves two persons or two groups in short conversations, small talk and simple requests to make them authentic. Interactive speaking involves transactional language and interpersonal language. Transactional language is meant for exchanging information whereas interpersonal language for social relationships. Extensive speaking is

more deliberative and formal for extensive tasks involves speeches, oral presentations and story-telling. The role of teachers in training the learners in speaking skills is crucial in English classrooms. According to Vilar (2003), “Teachers have two primary functions in education: the managerial and the instructional functions. The latter refers to the conditions that teachers create for learning to take place and the other is the knowledge that the teachers impart in the classrooms. Teachers should carry out these functions simultaneously for efficient language instruction because they cannot be separated”. The teachers are expected to play a key role in imparting quality education in ELT classrooms, both in ESL/EFL settings, especially in teaching language skills. To achieve this quality, teachers should use their skills, knowledge and various techniques to motivate the learners towards the learning of language skills. In this context, teachers should act as facilitators, motivators, organizers, monitors, participants, assessors, models, observers, and so on. When it comes to teaching speaking skills, the role of teachers is essential because speaking skills can be taught effectively by teachers applying various techniques such as interaction, motivation and encouragement. In order to develop the speaking skills of the learners, the English language teachers have to put their focus mainly on vocabulary and grammar and then on speech sounds, stress, intonation patterns and finally on patterns of sentences. To enable the learners to enrich good vocabulary and to have a good command over grammar, the teachers should concentrate more on speech sounds, stress and intonation patterns which are the fundamental elements required for speaking skills. After proper training in these areas, the teachers have to provide the learners with a number of opportunities to make use of them in their speaking practice sessions. Moreover, the teachers are supposed to conduct some learner-focused activities like activity-based or task-based activities that involve the learners to develop their speaking skills in the real classroom environment. Here the teachers can implement innumerable activities such as JAM (Just a Minute) sessions, role-plays, group discussions, preparing for both interviews and presentations and preparing the learners to present papers in conferences, seminars, workshops, etc. The role of teachers is very crucial here to prepare the learners for their future career and prepare them to be competent in their speaking skills as the classroom is the main platform for learners to perform these tasks. Harmer (2007, pp. 58-59) says, “The role of a teacher is related to organize learners in the classroom when doing different tasks, this means grouping students and providing them with information about the way they are going to do such activity in a limited time. The teacher, when plays this role in the classroom, has to be aware of making learners understand what they are going to do in order to make them involved and benefit from the activity they are practising”. The teachers should organize his students in terms of group work and pair work and involve them in their activities because they cannot be successful without their active participation in speaking activities. The teachers

should guide the learners in their activities by giving them instructions, instruct and monitor the tasks and give them their feedback at the end.

As communication skills are playing a key role in the modern society, the responsibility is more on the teachers to train the learners in those skills. Speaking or oral communication is important in personal and professional life. Therefore, English teachers have to give importance to speaking skills in classrooms and encourage the learners to communicate in English not only in the classrooms but also in social life.

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