Innovative Techniques to Develop EFL Teaching

SHahlo Kasimova
Fergana State University

Abstract:

In the article, the innovative techniques to develop EFL teaching is substantiated. Clarifying the correct learning styles, approach and new methods based on the Uzbek national mentality was one of the important tasks of our research.

Keywords: learning styles, gamification, approach, methods techniques, strategies.

Introduction.

Today the field of language learning and teaching has been enlarged with full of research, approaches, methods, techniques and strategies.Over the years different science, theories, and learning styles were developed in terms of teaching foreign languages. You won't find the best, the one and only method of teaching English to kids or adults. Choosing the proper teaching style depends on students' skills and abilities. So in this article, we listed some fresh ideas on how to learn a new language and how to choose the right method of teaching English.

Child using gamification as a learning method

Parents who want their children to start learning English early, and for whom it is an important skill in their children's education process, often wonder how to teach English to children. Is there a dedicated approach? Choosing an easier methodology in teaching English to kids has some merit. Firstly, young children's attention is hard to maintain. The usual lessons where students have to sit at their desks and listen to the teacher is not a perfect fit for them. Did you know that a child's maximum attention span is about two to three times their age? So, a five-year-old child would have an attention span of around fifteen minutes. Secondly, preschoolers memorize information differently than adults. They have a great mental trait called involuntary memory, which activates involuntarily when they're occupied by games and creative activities.New methods of teaching English:

Task-based approach

The task-based approach in teaching English isolates individual skills and competencies in order to teach students things, which they actually need to know, in order to meet their goals and objectives.The tasks in this method should be based on common real-life situations, which a student may encounter, i.e. being on holidays, while talking to foreigners in a hotel, at an airport or in a restaurant. So, a task-based approach would be teaching how to order a meal in a restaurant, how to book a hotel room, or perhaps more advanced tasks like critiquing a theater play. With this approach, the language taught revolves around the task itself, not the other way around.For this method to work, teachers must understand their students' needs and expectations well. Without that, it's impossible to design lessons which will help students succeed in particular situations.

Project-based approach

The method was initially used mostly for high school kids and professional adults, but in the past 10 years, educators started using it with younger kids and preschoolers as well. The project method is a research method. It is directed at developing language skills and creative thinking. After finishing each topic, students have to work on a project and "defend" it by talking about its contents in English. For example, thanks to elaborating on topics such as "my favorite food", "my pet is…" or "in my house there is…" children have an opportunity to talk about what's important to them personally. With the usage of graphics and photos, it is a very engaging and fun way of using English in practice, making it easier to memorize new vocabulary and phrases.

The Gamification method

Gamification is the most common tool to engage kids and facilitate learning. When kids are playing games they are in their element, they take to it like a duck to water. Games are attractive both in terms of organization and content.Any game feels like real life to kids! And only the teacher knows how didactic and linguistically demanding it is.

The Total Physical Response (TPR) method

The Total Physical Response method is frequently used in teaching English to preschool kids. It engages the whole body in the learning process. The method is based on the coordination of language and physical movement. It works like this: the teacher gives their students commands only in the target language with specific body movements, while the students respond to them with full body movement.In this method, grammar is not taught directly, but the child learns its rules involuntarily, while repeating commands, nursery rhymes or songs.

Interactive methods

Interactive learning is an integral part of teaching English to children and adults. You can do various activities together with your child, and you can both benefit from it. Be creative. Create a collage or a poster, do crafts, etc. You can also organize workshops for you and your kid, for example, making a salad or baking pizza, making soft toys or performing any activity together. E.g., it could be growing flowers, making a flower bed or a mini-garden.

The natural approach

With this approach, students usually learn to speak before they learn to write in a foreign language. The natural approach focuses on spontaneous interactions in the target language. It requires either a simulation of real-life settings in a classroom environment or an actual contact with foreigners. The best way to achieve it? Go abroad for vacation or a language course, make some foreigner friends, or find yourself a native speaker teacher. This approach is ideal for individual students or small groups, but it won't really work in a chaotic environment. The student should always have the opportunity to speak freely in this method.

Flip the Classroom

In a flipped classroom students review lecture material at home and work on projects and assignments in the classroom. Students in the flipped classroom complete coursework typically sent home as homework in class. The flipped classroom provides a great space for peer-to-peer collaboration. Students can engage one another to complete group projects, debates, and practice. Teachers are not the center of the flipped classroom. Instead, teachers are more flexible, addressing personalized help and direction for students and student groups as they complete their work.

Personalized Learning

Personalized learning adapts what, when, and how we are teaching each student. Instead of selecting a singular method or strategy to teach the whole class, teachers adapt to the strengths of each student to help them succeed. The personalized learning experience is like how we

experience different online tools where algorithms tailor our online experiences to meet our interests. Personalized learning provides a catered learning experience and methods that are optimized for individual students. Though these individualized learning journeys are different for each student, the end goal is subject mastery or meeting standards for their grade level. So, we can think of these as different paths leading to the same place.

Project-Based Learning (PBL)

Project-based learning is an effective method that helps students drive their own learning journey. In a PBL exercise, students identify a real-world problem then develop a solution. Project-based learning relies on developing key skill sets such as research, critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration. Project-based learning is an active method of learning where students gain mastery through the application of their knowledge rather than rote memorization. Like the flipped classroom, the teacher's role becomes that of a guide and the students take ownership of their learning.

Jigsaws

Jigsaws are another active learning method. Most importantly, jigsaws introduce the opportunity for students to teach other students. And, as Seneca said, "While we teach, we learn." Explaining something to someone is often considered the best way to truly understand it (the protégé effect). With jigsaws, students are divided into groups and given different pieces of information. Students in each group are then tasked with learning the information enough to be able to explain it to someone else. The students are then assigned to different groups where they explain their information to the other members. They complete this process until each group has the full picture of information to complete the puzzle.

Ask Open-Ended Questions

Students, especially successful students, may rely too heavily on textbook answers. They may develop over time the tendency to think there are only right and wrong answers. But most questions don't have right or wrong answers. In today's divisive public sphere, students need to exercise conversational skills and empathy. Students need to learn to communicate and collaborate. By asking open-ended questions, teachers encourage vibrant in-class conversations. Students can piece together different information learned or experienced in their life to stitch together cohesive points. This can encourage students to not only find their voice but express themselves as well.control over the time, place, path, and pace of instruction. Check out our previous post on blended learning to learn all you need to know. What's exciting about blended learning is that it provides traditional classroom experiences as well as online tools and learning opportunities. It's not an all-or-nothing method. Still, technology is a key component of blended learning as it is for students in the real world. The flexibility of blended learning enables students to have more control over their learning methods – perhaps they'll watch online lectures at home and engage in peer groups for collaborative activities or maybe they'll prefer to join lecture-based virtual classes and do their homework independently.

Feedback

Feedback is incredibly important. Students need to learn how to offer constructive feedback as well as accept feedback. Provide students with a mechanism for providing feedback. In a virtual classroom, feedback tools like polling or emojis are a great way for quick feedback cycles. You can even challenge or ask students to expand upon their feedback then ask other students with opposing opinions to discuss why they think differently.

Active Learning

Many of the innovative learning strategies we discussed are active learning strategies. Active learning methods encourage students to discuss, contribute, participate, investigate, and create. Active learning challenges students by questioning them, requiring problem-solving and critical

thinking. Most importantly, active learning engages students and requires them to be active in the classroom. Students that participate in their learning are more likely to succeed in your class.Offering digital programs provides students flexibility with greater access to teachers and classes as well as the opportunity to take more control over their learning.

As Plato wrote, "our need will be the real creator" or as we say today, "necessity is the mother of invention". Introducing innovative teaching strategies into the classroom may have been a niche academic practice conducted by a few bold educators previously, but these strategies are becoming more commonplace today as schools look to make up for learning loss and our new reality. We can expect to see more blended learning, hybrid learning, and bold initiatives to address the challenges schools and students face today. This trend goes beyond the classroom as the workplace also faces these challenges and figures out how to approach their own hybrid learning experiences.

Conclusion

I can say that the methods and techniques given above not only motivate students, as well as due to them they can improve the main four skills such as reading, speaking, listening and writing which are very important in knowing a language. There are a lot of teaching methods and depending on the kind of students, you will have to change your approach and strategy. We cannot say that one is better than the other. Choosing the right teaching methodology is important because that decides the effectiveness of learning in your classroom. As teachers, you have to ensure to choose the right innovative methods of teaching. You can choose from the different types of teaching methods based on the demographics of your students, the subject that you teach, and the intensity of the lesson. Innovations and the use of various innovative teaching methods play the most important role in teaching English as a second language to young learners in contemporary primary schools. Therefore, it is necessary for the teacher to effectively use interesting games, interactive activities, modern approaches, and new technologies that give the best results in teaching English. Even young learners can learn a new foreign language in a very easy and interesting way. In addition, definitely teacher's role plays the ultimate in using different concepts of innovations in ELT at schools. The role and place of innovations in teaching English as a second language in schools depends on the modern approaches, interactive activities, various interesting games, CLT method and new technologies used by the teacher. To conclude, the best way of teaching English language at school is the way which gives results. If teacher can correctly use the methods for his/her teaching young learners are able to get the maximum a new language. Once they get it is more practical way for them to use acquired one. Teacher's aim is to develop pupil into English-speaking person. To be kind, helpful for children during the lesson is the main and the most important for teacher. Teaching should become and be seen as a well-rewarded and highly valued role that attracts some of the best graduates into teaching careers.

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