THE IMPORTANCE OF MODERN APPROACHES TO THE TEACHING OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT

This article will take a closer look at fresh teaching strategies that are grand slam with students. However, it has become clearly evident that the needs of modern students have outpaced teachers' and book publishers' best strategies. While traditional methodologies such as the audio-lingual and direct methods still offer useful elements, they're clearly outdated in the modern classroom.

Traditional curriculum design and class planning revolved around the topics considered useful for students. This meant students were to learn the grammar and vocabulary that educators thought students needed to know.

What we learned from this is why it's imperative to build lesson plans around activities that all students can feel comfortable with and relate to. The task-based approach represents a significant paradigm shift since the focus on content has shifted to skills and competencies. So, planning and design aren't about what's taught, but why it's taught. This approach isolates individual skills and competencies in order to teach material students actually need to know to meet their goals and objectives. Sample tasks could be ordering in a restaurant, booking a hotel room, or perhaps more advanced tasks like critiquing a movie or voicing their opinions about politics. In this approach, the language taught revolves around the task itself, not the other way around [1,2].

For this method to work, teachers must understand their students' needs and expectations in order to design lessons that help their students succeed. Grammar, vocabulary and language skills are just the vehicles that enable students to achieve their final outcomes Before adopting the task-based approach, educators must ask themselves, "Why are my students learning English?" Educators must then look at ways to help their learners achieve their personal and/or professional goals. The answers to these questions will help create a program that's relevant to your students.

While the previous two approaches focus heavily on the skills and competencies that students need to develop, this approach focuses on what language students actually need to produce. In particular, the actual words that students need to understand in order to conduct specific tasks.

This approach is based upon the core language that students need to know given their needs. Again, professional students need very specific vocabulary pertaining to their field. For instance, "profit" is an essential term for business students, much the same way "scalpel" is to medical students.

Moreover, any other language taught outside of this core language is meant to be supplementary and intended to enable students' communication within their respective fields. Topics such as movies and hobbies may take a back seat to things like booking a hotel or describing work experience. Nevertheless, there are common skills in all fields, such as saying your name or providing personal information.

Since this approach focuses on content, tasks and homework assignments should focus on students' true needs. Therefore, assessment should be based upon what students actually achieved. Examples of these assessments include writing an email for a job application or arranging a time for an interview. This approach requires teachers to understand what students really need right away, focus on that, and then expand students' horizons as their communication skills develop. The good news is that there's quite a bit of research on this topic, leading to word lists teachers can focus on [3].

Since these lists can be quite long, it's good to categorize them into sections like "weather and seasons" so lessons can focus on this specific vocabulary. For beginners, 10 words would make for a great lesson.

Activities can range from matching pictures and definitions to working with dialogues. An advanced twist could be to describe their favorite seasons, or even speculate about what they could do in the summer or winter. The sky truly is the limit. This is where technology can be a teacher's best friend. Since this method focuses on learning the right vocabulary, there are plenty of classroom programs and apps that can help students learn in an engaging way. For example, you can use FluentU to give life to those vocabulary lists your students are studying. FluentU's authentic content like movie trailers and music videos allow students to hear new words in natural use in these videos. This is a great way to reinforce their learning and help them understand how to actually use their vocabulary words [4,5].

While traditional approaches do provide a solid foundation for effective language teaching, it's important to understand that these techniques don't always address students' current needs. In fact, the communicative approach, still widely preached as the latest and greatest approach, is already due for a makeover of its own.

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