

COMMON PROBLEMS AND THEIR SOLUTIONS FOR LEARNING THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Djalolov Furqat Fattohovich *A teacher of translation and lingvodidactics
department of Bukhara State University, Uzbekistan.*

Raxmatova Shohinur Ilhomovna *A student of foreign languages faculty of
Bukhara State University, Uzbekistan.*

Annotation: *This article deals with basic problems and using suitable methods for teaching English.*

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In the 20th and 21st centuries, English has become an indispensable part of educational curriculum in schools. Despite all the efforts and investments devoted to cultivate and popularize English among other language learners. English is the language brought by British to our country. Though they left us, English language is still with us because it has occupied its place in global level. It has become necessity to learn such a language. Learning a second language is not an easy one.

Learning is started from childhood whether it may be sign or spoken language. Children are tempted to learn the language or languages used around them. This is the first language learned by the children which doesn't need any special teaching. A student who started to learn English face five basic problems: spelling, pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary and sentence formation. Spelling is not easy even for the native speakers because of many reasons. There are 26 letters in English which have 44 sounds. Spelling and pronunciation do not match sometimes. For example homophones and words having silent letters often confuse the students. English Grammar is the most difficult one to remember and use it logically. Though the rules and regulations of grammar are being taught at school, it is up to the capacity of students to use it while communicating with others. Furthermore, there are a lot of people who look for ways of improving their English, but they do not know how and where to start. The mistake is in

educational system itself as the teacher's target is to "prepare" his students for the examination and not to make them skilled in the use of the language they are learning. Therefore, students try to get the required grade and they have no internal motivation to learn English for other purposes and they move to higher grades with different grades and levels of English knowledge and even inadequate knowledge. In most of the English classes, little attention is paid to the conscious efforts learners make in mastering a foreign language. Many of students do not know, neglect or pay not enough attention to how to deal with the task of learning a foreign language even after years of study; only a few students who have used a set of strategies, have been able to succeed and hence, learn the language. Practicing regularly and constantly one can avoid the grammatical mistakes while speaking. The numerous words in English make the student feel edgy in some situations. It is one of the common difficulties faced by non-English speakers. The various forms of a single word, regular and irregular verbs, and tenses are confusing students. Students must be encouraged to speak in English and the teacher have to insist everyone to speak in English, not only in English classes but during school hours and whenever and wherever possible. Grammar and its usage in everyday communication should be taught to them with appropriate illustrations so that the learners can retain the basic rules in mind and hence produce correct sentences. They should be brushed up often to prevent them from forgetting what has been taught and learnt already.

The teacher while teaching English should employ the different methods of teaching English to the students. The teacher can also make use of the language lab. Using suitable method for teaching various topics will enhance the effect of teaching. Some of the methods of teaching English are as follows:

1. The grammar translation method.
2. The direct method.
3. The series method.
4. Variation of direct method.
5. The oral approach/situational language teaching.
6. Audio lingual method.

7. Communicative language teaching.

8. Directed practice.

9. Learning by teaching.

Instead of teaching how to make a conversation in English, the teacher may converse with the students on day-to-day things and happenings in and around them. It may be started in simple English. So that students can learn when they talk. When the students are talking, the teacher must listen and correct them in pronunciation and sentence formation. Videos of simple conversation with captions may be shown to the students. Furthermore, the students in English classes do not have common background knowledge because some of them are trained in rural areas in which un-qualified English teachers teach them while other students are taught in urban areas having access to a lot of classroom facilities to gain advantage of. While some of the students take advantage of using satellite programs, VCD and video tapes, and go to private language schools, most of the students just have their textbooks as the only source of learning English. Under such circumstances, there is no placement test to put students into different groups homogeneously based on their language proficiency levels. This makes the situation even much worse for the weak students and they resort to guide books.

The large number of students in the classes is the main drawback in learning in which the teacher fails to concentrate on the slow learners. The number of students in a classroom must be limited whereby the teachers can give individual attention. The language classes must be made interesting. It is only in the hands of the teacher to make them interesting. Lack of motivation on the part of the learners is another reason for not paying much attention to the language. The intention of just passing the examination must be wiped out and effective learning should take place with the help of the teachers who teach the language. It is in the hands of the teacher to make the students learn the English language in an effective manner. Students' part is the main where they have to feel free to come up correct their mistakes and make the learning successful.

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