

A REFLECTION TO LANGUAGE TEACHING METHODS APPROACHES AND PRINCIPLES

by:

Orlando I. Pragas

Teacher I, St. Francis National High School

When exposed to any human language, children can learn it within only a few years following birth. It is a concept under Language Acquisition Device (LAD) proposed by Noam Chomsky. He emphasizes that humans are born with the knowledge of what makes a human language. In this article, I will view the different traits of a language teacher, the value of language teaching, the important use of teaching methodology and approaches, and lastly the language teaching principles.

LANGUAGE TEACHER

Language teacher plays a significant role in teaching the language and nourishing other nations' culture and tradition. It is a job that dwells on understanding and accepting the similarities and differences of languages. For us to make students globally competitive, it is our job to dismantle the language barrier that is hindering our growth in understanding and communicating effectively, and it is apparent on a daily conversation with someone speaking a foreign language.

We must view our students as a never-ending challenge; we must develop a new way to deliver the lesson effectively to them. It is the language teacher's job to immerse their students in the meaningful and worthwhile learning experiences by using authentic modes of teaching. Move away from the notion that teachers are sages inside the classroom. Teaching and learning has undergone many changes in the past years, it is now learner-centered, and our job is to ease and focus on the experience a language learner must acquire.

LANGUAGE TEACHING

Teaching a language is difficult because you are grasping a new realm that is very much unknown, but it is our job to make something difficult an easy one. In teaching a language, you must prepare it in a way a student can relate to, such as using authentic materials and local examples. It understands that each learner has a distinct form of learning a language. Therefore, we cannot just use a single approach or method of teaching. It would be best if you made your student understand that having an open mind is a must in learning and help them realize the importance of learning a new language not because they will travel there, but because it is one of the ways to communicate with people speaking an unknown tongue is like removing a blindfold and seeing a vast opportunity. It is not enough to teach the learners to speak a language but to read and write.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The teaching methodology is the systematic way we teach something to achieve our goals in teaching. It integrates learning principles and methods in the teaching-learning process based on the subject. It is where we assess what principles or practices by knowing the nature of the learners to be taught. In the age of 21st century learners, it is essential to bear in mind the changes in how they want to learn, especially in the student-centered classroom. Selecting learning experiences and how to deliver these based on the teaching approach is one of our jobs to narrow down students' way of learning. A suitable teaching methodology is something in which students can freely express themselves without being concerned with their mistakes. It is what students are tasked to do in a real-life situation. Teachers must effectively communicate what to teach, how, and why to teach. The students need to become active participants in learning a language. Teaching methods define teachers. The way of selecting approaches or methodologies reflects the personality, beliefs, perspective, and knowledge of the teacher.

TEACHING APPROACHES

A teaching approach revolves around the views on the teaching-learning process. It deals with how we learn or acquire knowledge of a language. Teaching approaches are essential in processing information to achieve the desired goals and objectives, to have a good and meaningful outcome for the learners, especially in honing the 21st-century skills they need. Communicative competence must be one of the characteristics a student should have. The language approach in teaching is essential to mold the awareness of students about the technicalities and use of language for them to have the ability to communicate successfully. Neglecting these approaches is like depriving the students of the opportunity to become influential speakers and conventional writers.

LANGUAGE TEACHING PRINCIPLE

As a language teacher, you must first assess your student's capabilities so that you can craft lessons fit to their current level of competencies. By doing this, the learners can easily absorb the task, and it will boil down to the saying that every child is unique. Creating a conducive learning environment is also essential. We cannot deny that they will commit mistakes because this is an inevitable truth in teaching the unknown to learners. We must deal with this with an open heart, free from judgment. Our job is to continuously assess our lesson planning and delivery if it is still targeting the competencies being developed. Lastly, we must expect that learners learn at their own pace. Therefore, a flexible assessment must be made to cope with the different levels of progress. The importance of language teaching principles is for teachers to be guided in teaching the language appropriately and effectively. Without these principles, the teacher might get lost along the way in their teaching, or they might not reach their full potential in teaching the language.

With the advent of this new normal due to worldwide outbreaks, teachers must carry out the tasks in different modalities to cater to the needs of 21st-century learners.

The language teacher is not merely a source of learning. The language teacher must aid learners in knowing the mission before them, staying driven, building discipline, and learning how to do the job on their own.

References:

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