

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AS A MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION

by:

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The Philippines has different languages with different dialects. In the educational system, aside from Mother Tongue which is implemented in the Grades 1 to 3, we have two languages utilized - English and Filipino. Wherein, English is not the official language but is used as a medium of instruction in different subjects such as Mathematics, Science, and English.

Accordingly, having a good academic performance means being proficient in the language or medium of instruction used in school. Understanding the content of lessons using the medium of instruction has a great impact on the academic achievement of learners.

Today, students have learning difficulties associated with using the English Language as a medium of instruction, which affects the academic performance of learners: First, poor comprehension due to weak vocabulary of learners; Second, students have a lack of English foundation background; Third, they lack confidence in using the language because of fear of committing mistakes; Lastly, learners do not practice using the English Language which results to a dilemma in learning the content. Kabelka (2022) introduces seven tips on how students would be able to enrich their English language skills. These would involve watching English movies, news or television programs. This will help the students in hearing the word properly and identifying the content to which the words are applied. Use the English language on a regular basis. The practice of using the language will provide the avenue for the students to develop the skill of conversing and composing sentences spontaneously. Do not be afraid of making mistakes with the

language for the listeners will be able to understand that you are still in the process of learning it. And lastly, enjoy the use of the language. Language can be developed best if the setting is comfortable and enjoyable. It may be during small talks or friendly conversations.

Using the English language in some learning areas will help learners to communicate globally since the world today is more globalized than before. Hence, schools in the Philippines intend to make students proficient in the English Language because it is widely used.

It is generally believed that using the English Language as a medium of instruction can empower teachers and students in making a significant contribution to the teaching-learning process. The teachers who teach and students who learn the academic content by the means of the English Language will lead to proficiency in language which results in the good academic performance of learners in Mathematics, Science, and English.

To produce quality students that will be fully equipped in those core subjects and to yield globally competitive individuals, English Language should be practiced intensively.

References:

Kabelka, L., (2022), 7 ways to quickly improve your English language skills, Top Universities, <https://www.topuniversities.com/student-info/studying-abroad/7-ways-quickly-improve-your-english-language-skills>