

## THE DYNAMISM OF ENGLISH PROFICIENCY FOR ENGLISH TEACHERS

*by:*

**ALPHA JOY P. AZCONA**

*Teacher I, Bonifacio Camacho National High School SDO Abucay Annex*

Proficiency and teaching ability in teachers are two different things when it comes to English language teaching. English language proficiency means the power to use and comprehend spoken and written English at a grade sufficient for safety within the scope of practice. Also, language proficiency is the ability to accurately use a language that transfers meaning in production and comprehension. It also involves advancement in vocabulary usage. Teaching ability is another thing. Teachers have different strategies and ways to deliver their lessons. English proficiency refers to an individual's ability to communicate effectively in English. It encompasses various language skills, including speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Proficiency levels can range from basic to advanced and are often assessed through language tests or examinations. English proficiency is crucial in various settings, including education, employment, and social interactions, and individuals may actively work to improve their proficiency through language learning programs, practice, and exposure to English in different contexts.

Richards (2017) has an article on how the role of language proficiency issues has been addressed in the English Language Teaching literature. It describes the language skills required to demonstrate English through English, the connection between language efficiency and teaching capacity, considers the impact of language proficiency on various aspects of teaching, and discusses the implications for language assessment and the design of language enhancement programs for language teachers.

Furthermore, the writer emphasized that the flexibility to teach English through English has been understood to an outsized extent as a language proficiency problem. Teaching

English through English, commonly known as the immersive or communicative approach, is a method that emphasizes learning the language by using it in context rather than focusing on explicit grammar rules and providing constructive feedback on language use, focusing on communication rather than just correctness. Encouraging students to express themselves even if they make mistakes is one way of practicing such and incorporating language games that encourage students to use English in a fun and engaging way. Games like word puzzles, board games, and language-based competitions can be effective.

Once teachers have improved the amount of their English (or their teaching language), they will be ready to teach effectively in English. On this assumption, native speakers of their teaching language are thought to be more legitimate and better-qualified language teachers than those who do not have a native-like command of their teaching language. The more one knows a language, the better prepared one is to teach it. As a result, it is often considered that a learning facilitator who is a native speaker of their teaching language has the edge over one who is not.

Teachers' English proficiency matters. English language teachers must be able to attain a high level of proficiency together with proper strategies and methods of teaching. These two are powerful when combined.

Students find English teachers admirable when they have a good command of the language. They automatically listen and try to focus on what the language teacher is saying. Teachers must know how to teach communicatively and structurally. When students are lost in grammar, teachers must know how to get their attention and make them talk despite the grammar lapses. The key to successful language learning is a balance between exposure, practice, and feedback. Creating a supportive and encouraging learning environment is crucial for students to feel comfortable using English in various contexts.

*References:*

Richards, J. C. (2017). Teaching English through English: Proficiency, Pedagogy and Performance. RELC Journal. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0033688217690059>