

INPUTS FOR LANGUAGE TEACHING STRATEGIES FOR ELEMENTARY LEVEL

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Language teaching is a complex process. Its complexity lies on the context of the teaching and learning process. When the context requires a different approach, it has to be executed in the manner that it will align with the needs of the learners. Second language teaching differs from teaching in the native language. It is not merely memorizing vocabulary and grammar rules wherein it focuses primarily in the structure but rather transcending to the very essence of language teaching that is communication (Suryanto & Sari, 2020). It goes beyond identifying the syntax errors and errs in pronunciation even translations in conversation. Further, it also involves understanding context, in-depth thinking, and exposure to culture. Therefore, when Filipino learners study English subjects, the competencies are not just in the realm of reading or identifying errors but actually in line with the English macro-skill - listening, speaking, writing, and text appreciation (Diez & Diez, 2024).

There are effective strategies to increase language proficiency. Teachers who are teaching English subject can consider these strategies. These can be integrated into lessons as part of their activity or formative assessment. These include the need for the consistent practice of language, the use of engaging senses, and learning through interaction among learners.

Consistent Practice of Language. Consistent and regular exposure of English to the pupils can help them to be proficient. It is through familiarity with the language can build schema. Schema is defined as the prior knowledge of the person. It is acquired from the habitual experience of something. Teachers can apply this by reading literature in any

part of the lesson, directing them to write short sentences, allowing them to speak through recitations, and listening to audio presentations (Hurst et al., 2013).

Use of Engaging Senses. A familiar quotation states that “the more sense is involved, the more effective the lesson will be.” However, with the suggestion of incorporating engaging senses in the English lesson, teachers are directed to invoke the use of technology in the classroom to create engaging senses. It can be an auditory and speaking skill using watching short clips or videos, listening to music, and even conversing with the native speaker. Nevertheless, these can be possible with Artificial Intelligence (AI) wherein somebody can converse (Anis & Khan, 2023).

Learning through Interaction. Interaction among peers is one of the best ways of learning the language. Teachers in her lesson can create a short conversational role play wherein pupils can apply the competencies being taught in the lesson (Khamouja et al., 2023). Another way of fostering interaction is by allowing learners to join school clubs wherein they will be encouraged to interact with each other. In some instances, they may use the second language as their medium. School programs also can be an avenue to increase fluency. Short plays, speech choir, and declamation are some of the examples of programs that require interaction among pupils. Lastly is the use of technology. There are short video lessons that require views to answer the questions.

Teaching the English language at the elementary level requires a high level of competence in both pedagogy and content to effectively deliver the lesson and foster mastery among pupils. Instruction has to be in harmony with the existing Language framework. It is because curriculum provides competencies while pedagogy gives effective process and assessment suggest measuring methods to ensure effective language teaching. Adjustments on teaching have also to be considered. Teachers have to take note that learning context is influential, best practices are worthwhile and experience teaches. It is because language learning is a complex process (Hashim et al., 2018). It is about training the brain of the learners to recognize the different patterns of sounds. It

also involves the structure of the word and its meaning. It is but natural for the learners to opt to use their native language while learning the new one. However, fluency in the language will come directly when the studied language is formed. In comparison to adult learners, learners can easily adapt which facilitates ease of language acquisition. However, focus, conscious effort, and practice are needed.

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