



Intensifying The English Language Skill: Strategies For Improving Student Proficiency

Dr. Monika Sharma

Assistant Professor English

Govt. College Bherian (Pehowa) Kurukshetra (India)

Abstract

English language proficiency is a key skill for academic success, especially for culturally and linguistically diverse students. This article aims to provide educators with effective strategies to assist these students in developing the literacy skills necessary for academic success. The problem is that English language learners (ELLs) have special educational needs that require specialized instructional approaches. The purpose of this article is to provide educators with effective strategies for helping ELLs develop literacy skills that are critical to academic success. The qualitative method used is a literature review, including theories of language acquisition and learning, differences in social and academic language, and effective English language learning strategies used by successful language learners. The participants of this study were thirty students from one of the secondary school in Pehowa block. The results of this review include six core strategies for teaching ELLs, including cultivating relationships and cultural responsiveness, teaching language skills across the curriculum, using real objects to illustrate concepts, role-playing or miming, pointing to pictures, and using overall physical response.

Keywords: English language learners, literacy skills, culturally responsive, language acquisition,

INTRODUCTION

Knowledge of English is a key skill in today's globalized world. As the lingua franca of business, science and international communication, knowing English opens up countless opportunities for individuals in their personal and professional lives. (Guilherme, 2007) Educational institutions and language centres aim to recognize the importance of this skill. On the development of strategies to improve the knowledge of the English language among students. This article aims to explore different strategies that can effectively improve

students' English language skills. First, creating an immersive language learning environment is essential to improving English language proficiency. Immersion programs or activities that involve students actively using English in real-world situations can significantly improve their language skills. (Lan, 2020) These programs provide students with opportunities to practice listening, speaking, reading, and writing in English. Activities such as language exchange programs, English speaking clubs and language camps can create a supportive environment where students can interact with native or experienced English speakers, strengthen their language skills and increase their confidence. Second, integrating technology into English language teaching can be very beneficial for students. (Cutter, 2015) With the rapid development of technology, various digital tools and applications offer engaging and interactive learning experiences. Online platforms, language learning apps, and language learning software provide opportunities for students to practice language skills at their own pace and convenience. These tools often include features such as interactive exercises, vocabulary building activities, and pronunciation guides that target different learning styles and make the learning process more fun and effective. In addition, incorporating authentic materials into the curriculum can significantly improve students' English language proficiency. (Guo, 2012) Authentic materials refer to real-life sources such as newspapers, magazines, videos, and podcasts that reflect the language and culture used by native English speakers. By exposing students to authentic materials, they develop a better understanding of the language in its natural context, improve their vocabulary and improve their comprehension. Authentic materials also expose students to different accents, dialects, and cultural nuances, making their language skills more versatile and adaptable. Another effective strategy in language learning is to provide students with regular and constructive feedback. (Akcan & Tatar, 2010) Feedback plays an important role in the language learning process in the classroom because it helps students identify their strengths and areas for improvement. Teachers can provide feedback on students' language skills in writing and speaking, pointing out grammatical errors, pronunciation problems and language use. In addition, personalized feedback allows students to work on specific areas that need improvement, leading to targeted language development. Feedback can be given in a variety of ways, including verbal and non-verbal cues such as facial expressions, body language and tone of voice. Personalized feedback not only helps students improve their language skills, but also shows them that their efforts are recognized and valued, which can be a great motivation for them to continue learning and achieving their goals. Therefore, teachers should take the time to provide individual feedback to each student. Finally, creating opportunities for language practice outside the classroom is essential to improving English language proficiency. (Yol & Yoon, 2020) Encouraging students to participate in extracurricular activities such as debates, public speaking competitions, or drama clubs can help them practice their English skills in real-life scenarios. These activities not only promote language fluency, but also develop critical thinking, creativity and communication skills that are essential for effective language use. In conclusion, improving English language skills requires a multifaceted approach that includes both classroom and real-life experiences. Creating an immersive language learning environment, integrating technology, integrating authentic materials, providing regular feedback, and encouraging extracurricular language practice are effective strategies for improving students language skills. By implementing these strategies, educators can

empower students to become confident and proficient users of English, equipping them with a valuable asset that opens the door to a globalized world.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Theoretical overview, framework and hypothesis Good and correct knowledge of the English language is essential for students' development as it is an international language of communication. (Abbasi, Siddiqi, & Azim, 2011) However, many students struggle with learning English in the process, which can hinder their ability to succeed in school and in the future. This review aims to explore effective strategies for improving students' language skills. The developmental stages of language acquisition must be understood, and training must follow the steps adolescents take to achieve conversational and academic language. (Nagy & Townsend, 2012) This study highlights the need to know the developmental stages of language acquisition and tailor training accordingly. The use of technology in language teaching has been shown to be beneficial in improving English proficiency. (Clark, 2013) For example, language learning apps, online games, and interactive movies can help students practice language skills in a fun and engaging way. Explicit teaching of grammar and vocabulary has also been shown to be useful in enhancing English language ability. (Martin & Ellis, 2012) Explicit instruction means teaching students the norms and structures of the English language, which can be beneficial. Focus on academic language, literacy and vocabulary. Reading, writing and vocabulary practice are essential building blocks for developing language fluency, but they are only part of what is needed. Students who appear to be fully fluent in English may nevertheless struggle to express themselves effectively in an academic setting because they lack the words and phrases needed to connect their thoughts and discuss them with others. Provide opportunities for authentic language use. Authentic language use involves exposing students to real-life situations where they can use: English to communicate with others, such as field trips, guest speakers, and community service initiatives. Use technology to improve language learning. For example, language learning apps, online games and interactive movies can provide opportunities for students to practice their language skills in a fun and engaging way. Provide explicit grammar and vocabulary training. Explicit teaching means teaching pupils the norms and structures of the English language, which can help in their language development. Based on the theoretical overview and framework, it is hypothesized that implementing strategies such as focusing on academic language, literacy and vocabulary, providing opportunities for authentic language use, using technology to enhance language learning, and providing explicit grammar and vocabulary instruction will enhance English Language Proficiency among students. (Cole & Feng, 2015) By implementing these strategies, students can improve their language skills and achieve success in their academic and professional lives.

METHODOLOGY

In this study, theories of language acquisition and learning, differences in social and academic language, and effective English language learning strategies used by successful language learners. This study investigated strategies for improving English language proficiency using a literature review, observation, and interviews to collect data. Data Collection Technique Conduct a comprehensive review of existing literature on strategies to improve students' English proficiency. This will provide a theoretical foundation and help identify key concepts and approaches. One of the secondary school in Pehowa block has been taken to collect the data. Observation method has been also used to collect the data. data were needed to answer the research objective of strategies to improve students' skills. Conducting classroom observations to monitor students' language skills in real time. This may include recording their speaking, listening, reading and writing, as well as their engagement and participation in language activities. Interviews developing to collected data from students. This may include questions about the current level of language proficiency, perceived problems, preferred learning strategies and suggestions for improvement.

DATA ANALYSIS

Collected data from observations and interviews were analysed using appropriate statistical techniques and qualitative analysis methods. This may include organizing and categorizing data, identifying patterns and trends, and drawing conclusions based on findings.

FINDINGS

Developing English proficiency is essential for non-native English students. This requires constant effort and practice to improve language skills.(Rao, 2019) This research identifies various strategies and ways that can help students improve and develop their English language skills, including: 1. Watching English movies: Watching English movies can be one from a strategy to improve English language skills as students are exposed to natural conversation, vocabulary and pronunciation. 2. Immersion in English news: Reading and listening to English news can develop and enrich vocabulary, knowledge and overall language skills. 3. Creating a useful vocabulary book: Regularly creating a vocabulary book and adding new words acquired by students can enrich their vocabulary and improve their ability to express themselves. 4. Speak English: Speak English, either with native speakers or classmates, by providing exercises that can help improve their skills. 5. Consistent practice: Consistent practice is the key to improving language skills. Students should regularly devote their time to reading, writing, speaking and listening in English.

1. Focus on Academic Language, Literacy, and Vocabulary: Developing academic language skills is essential for students to succeed in academic settings. Teachers should provide students with an understanding of the importance of reading, writing and practicing vocabulary to improve their language fluency.

2. Building cultural relationships and responsiveness: Building good interactions with students and creating a friendly environment that acknowledges their cultural background can enhance their language learning experience.

3. Teaching language skills across the curriculum: Integrating language skills into different subjects helps students apply their language skills in different contexts and reinforces their learning.
4. Providing extra time and regular breaks: Students with language difficulties need more time and regular breaks to effectively process information and participate effectively in class activities.
5. Increasing language exposure and understanding: Teachers should provide students with clear and easy-to-understand input and use visuals, movements and other techniques to support their understanding.
6. Providing written copies of instructions and examples: Providing written copies of instructions and examples can help students understand and follow instructions.
7. Adapting Instruction for English Language Learners: Teachers may need to modify outcomes or select outcomes from a lower level to meet the needs of English language learners in the early stages of language acquisition.
8. Speaking slowly and increasing waiting time: Speaking slowly and giving students more time to process information can support their comprehension and language development.
9. Providing individual assessment and intervention: Individual assessment and remediation by qualified professionals can benefit students with language difficulties by helping them overcome their skill deficits.
10. Integrating culturally sensitive practices: By recognizing local language and prior knowledge, students can integrate culturally sensitive practices that can create a relaxed, responsive, and inclusive learning environment.

CONCLUSION

The aim of this study was to find out strategies for improving students language skills in English. Improving English language proficiency requires a combination of strategies, including regular practice, exposure to English-speaking media, and targeted instruction. By implementing these strategies, students can improve their language skills and succeed in their academic and professional pursuits. This study tries to find the most effective strategies to improve the language skills of students, especially, one of the secondary school in Pehowa block. The results of this study include six core strategies for teaching ELLs, including cultivating relationships and cultural sensitivity, teaching language skills across the curriculum, using real objects to illustrate concepts, role-playing or miming, pointing to pictures and using response.

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