

Realia Education in Language Learning

International English Learning and Teaching Skills
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Abstract

This paper aims to focus on the importance of Realia Education in language learning. As the world is getting globalized, it is utmost important to study various languages to communicate and connect with others. Learning new languages opens up a world of new opportunities for us.

This paper projects the efficient use of realia in the language learning process. Realia refers to the use of real life objects in the classroom to teach a particular concept or a language. It brings life to the class by improving the students' understanding to real life situations. It also aims to highlight the benefits of using realia in the EFL classroom as it promotes a creative and engaging teaching-learning environment and brings up a cultural understanding. For English, the vocabulary learned from realia will provide a practical and interactive approach to learning. The chances to remember the new words increases as it provides an interactive and practical approach.

Realia based education is one of the ways to foster creativity and also makes the language learning more memorable and easier to recall . This study also discusses how realia connects the classroom to the real world and makes the lessons interesting and relevant for the students. It enhances the concept retention capabilities and also provide a clear experience compared to any other method of language learning. It appeals to the learners of various age groups as it is quite relevant and practical method for better understanding of a new language and is often more interesting than the material from text books. The use of physical elements allows a multidimensional learning experience to the students. Thus the ability to learn a new language improves if realia is included in the learning process.

Keywords: Realia, engaging, interactive, creativity, concept retention, multidimensional

Introduction

Language is the medium by which we are able to express and comprehend spoken and written words. It is something which makes us human and makes meaningful communication possible by connecting us with others. Learning various languages makes us efficient in many ways. There are many benefits of learning a new language. It improves our cognitive skills too.

It has been found that bilingual students concentrate better and more effectively than those who know only one language. This is due to the reason that learning a second language strengthens the brain's ability to focus. The most important benefit of learning new languages is that it gives us a broader and global perspective. As the world is getting globalized, multilinguals can have an edge over others who speak just one language.

In language learning, enriched vocabulary can help students in explaining their thoughts better and speaking more precisely and persuasively. They can understand more of what they read.

From various studies, it has been observed that learning a new language can be a very efficient way to increase intelligence and focus. Due to linguistic diversity around the world, language learning is a vital part of understanding various cultures.

For teaching various languages many different strategies can be followed. These strategies make the learning process more effective and foster more efficient development of students.

In this study, the aim is to highlight the importance of realia based education in language learning. It has been observed that this use of realia has increased the proficiency of students in a language.

Efficient use of realia in language learning

Realia refers to various real life objects and materials which are used in teaching to enhance the student's learning process. These real materials help the teacher to make classes realistic for the learners. It creates a multidimensional connection between the classroom teaching to the reality.

Realia can be used as a very effective tool in teaching english vocabulary for students. In second language learners, the realia proves to be a very efficient tool as it significantly improves the performance of learners.

Teaching a new language is a very difficult task, particularly in ESL classrooms. Different students have different learning styles, intellect levels etc. So, realia proves to be a better way to learn vocabulary of a certain language.

Real objects are always better than learning through images. Realia attracts the attention of learners and thus makes the learning process more efficient.

As vocabulary is the most important part of learning a second language, real objects can make the learning process more relevant for the students.

Advantages of Realia based learning

Using realia as a teaching aid makes the process of language learning better and more relevant. In teaching English vocabulary, real objects make the lessons more memorable by connecting to the real world. Various realistic materials can be used to illustrate and teach words of a particular language.

It makes the Kinesthetic learning better as it provides hands on experience to the learners . It makes a change from the normal reading and writing and is more engaging than textbooks as it creates an excitement among the students.

Students get a chance to understand in a better way as as realia makes the experience more interactive for them. It also enhances creativity among the students.

For young learners, realia makes the learning process better as at such an age, children are mostly visual learners and thus the use of real objects enhances their creativity too.

Flashcards and pictures are also used to teach a new language but using realia, the students can touch and feel and will never forget those words. It is a very efficient way to bring real life to the classroom.

The introduction of real objects saves time and the retention of words becomes much easier for the students. It gives a new life to the classrooms and the chances of remembering new words that has been taught increases. It also makes the lessons more enjoyable.

Real objects generally capture more attention than textbooks and thus can benefit the students in language learning.

Relevant Method of Learning

Vocabulary is about learning new words and understanding their meaning to use in a language. Using realia for this learning process is quite relevant as it is accesible in our environment and the learners can utilize their senses to perceive it. It encourages innovative and dynamic learning in students.

Using realia, students can practice real life situations and thus they will become more confident while using the language.

Even realia can be used as an efficient tool for grammar. With the use of real life objects, students can get a better idea of various rules of grammar like countable and uncountable nouns.

An effective pedagogical tool for language learning

For language teachers, realia can be very effective pedagogical tool as it apoeals to both visual amd Kinesthetic learners. They can be used to teach the meaning of vocabulary words. This method strengthens the connection between words and objects.

The type of realia material used for teaching is very extensive and thus can be very useful in vocabulary. Materials like food, clothing, household items etc can be used for enriching vocabulary of a new

language and can be used in day to day life. Realia gives the students the opportunity to use all of their senses to learn about a given subject.

For teaching students through realia, various kinds of games or activities can be involved. Presentations, role plays, quizzes and many more things can also be used to make learning new words an easier task for students.

Disadvantages of using Realia in teaching

There are some disadvantages of using realia in teaching a new language. Not all realia can be used in the classroom as many objects may be too small or too large to be used in classroom study.

Also, realia can be more expensive as compared to textbooks or images . So, to minimize the cost teachers can form groups for students and can use real objects for teaching.

Some of the real objects may not be safe for learners. So, it is not possible to bring them to the classroom for teaching purpose. Also collecting some of the realia may affect the environment.

There are more advantages of realia based education and thus it can prove to be a very relevant and beneficial method for language learners.

Virtual Realia

Virtual realia is referred to as any material or object presented in a digital format. It certainly has some disadvantages as the students can't touch or manipulate these items but there are many advantages too.

Virtual realia can be easily reproduced and shared and thus can be used in many interactive ways. They can be accessed easily by the students in different ways. Also, those realia which can't be brought in classroom can be shown using the virtual realia.

It benefits the teachers too who can't collect real materials for their teaching process. Virtual realia can be a major benefit for all the language learners who want to enhance their vocabulary and take their skills to another level.

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It can be very useful in practicing real life situations too so that the students do not face any problem while using the language in day to day life.

With the advancement of technology, virtual realia is now a very helpful method for language learning and vocabulary building. It can prove to be a very effective educational tool too.

It also enhances the learning experience by providing students with memorable and immersive experience in language learning.

It has been observed that virtual realia can also help students to expand their efficiency to learn new things. Thus, virtual realia can also be a very efficient method for teaching a new language to learners of various age groups.

The main advantage of using realia for language learning is that students are able to focus in the classroom activities easily and thus the learning process becomes much easier. It takes the students away from stressful textbook based learning and brings new life to the classroom with the use of real life objects. As it is enjoyable and interactive, the learners find it easy to understand and retain in their minds. It also improves the understanding of various cultures and real life situations so that they can use the language very well.

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