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ACTIVE METHODS OF TEACHING AND LEARNING ENGLISH LANGUAGE

M. Martvnenko

Kremenchuk Mykhailo Ostrohradskyi National University

vul. Pershotravneva, 20, Kremenchuk, 39600, Ukraine. E-mail: speaker.kremenchuk@gmail.com

Purpose. To analyse the active, innovative and quite interesting methods of teaching and learning English language. Methodology. Historical and pedagogical analysis allowed to review a theory and understanding of a number of foreign language teaching methods. Comparison and collation method allowed to compare the traditional and modern active methods of teaching, gave understanding where the present day students felt uncomfortable a bit and how we can make our teaching more effective. Results. Traditional methods of teaching and learning English generally have poorer results than active methods. This has already been proven by the methods implemented like role playing, e-learning communication, case study, problem-based learning. These active methods help students learn the language better without realizing and also it keeps their interests, and develop the language. Active methods of teaching and learning English language help to solve both language education problems: the cognitive aspect of English language and students' ability to use English in personal and business lives efficiently. Originality. Active methods help develop not only students' skills to speak, read or write in English properly but also their skills in the fields of solving problemin a forign language, making quick decisions and have professional communication and collaboration in English. Active methods help in bringing a change in English teaching and learning processes for the better. It helps the students learn faster and in an efficient, more interesting, interactive manner and it is the lecturer's responsibility to leave the common traditional methods or make the way for new, active, innovative methods for the study benefit. Practical value. Study results can be used at different educational establishments by the teachers and lecturers when teaching such courses as "Foreign Language (English)", "English for Specific Purpose", "Business English", "English Teaching Methodology". The study allowed to determine peculiarities and avantages of active methods implementation that gives an opportunity to improve the existing methodology of English study.

Key words: English language, active methods, role playing, e-learning communication, case study, problem-based learning.

АКТИВНІ МЕТОДИ НАВЧАННЯ АНГЛІЙСЬКОЇ МОВИ

М.Ю. Мартиненко

Кременчуцький національний університет імені Михайла Остроградського

вул. Першотравнева, 20, м. Кременчук, 39600, Україна. E-mail: speaker.kremenchuk@gmail.com

Розкрито особливості застосування активних методів навчання в процесі викладання англійської мови. Наведено відмінності у використанні традиційних та сучасних методів навчання іноземної мови, які базуються на комунікативному підході та інормаційних технологіях. Доведено, що використання активних методів навчання (ігровий метод, метод навчальної електронної дискусії, кейсовий метод, проблемне навчання) дозволяє зробити процес навчання та учіння англійської мови біль цікавим та невимушеним. Дані методи допомагають не лише розвивати у студентів навички читання, письма та говоріння англійською мовою, а також уміння приймати самостійні рішення та розв'язувати проблемні завдання будь-якої складності та тематики.

Ключові слова: англійська мова, активні методи, ігровий метод, метод навчальної електронної дискусії, кейсовий метод, проблемне навчання.

PROBLEM STATEMENT. The importance of learning foreign languages has been established by most educators who agree that one of the essential goals of education is the development of students who are eficient problem solvers for the international knowledge society. Major complaints from employers about university graduates are graduate's poor written and verbal skills, their inability to problem solving and their difficulties working in a team.

English is the official language of the Europion Union and the entire world and is tricky to teach and learn. In fact every foreign language varies to study. Modern English is the simplest adaptation of a very old language and yet it is still difficult to teach effectively especially to those students who speak English as a second language. Study English using the orthodox methods of teaching: the alphabets, the words, the rules and the texts has been found to be boring by most students and it is because of this they lose interests in learning the language. Although there is no other way than the traditional one to teach the basics of the language [1].

However, when it comes to teach English to students who already know the basics, the traditional methods generally tend to yield poorer results than active methods. This has already been proven by methods implemented like role playing, e-learning communication, case study, problem-based learning. These active methods help students learn the language better without realizing and also it keeps their interests.

This paper will provide an analyse of active methods of teaching and learning English language, that will help to solve both language education problems: the cognitive aspect of English language and students ability to use English in personal and business lives efficiently.

To address these areas teachers of English should apply those active methods which help to develop not only students' ability to speak, read or write English properly but also their skills in the fields of problem-solution, decision-making and professional collaboration

EXPERIMENTAL PART AND RESULTS OBTAINED.

Methodological principles of modern methods of teaching English that we took into account are the following [2]:

- The principle of mastering all aspects of English language culture through reading and communication. In this case, communication can be used as a channel for teaching, learning and personal development, an interconnected aspect of teaching and learning a foreign language culture. The foreign language culture manifests itself in the unity and the relationship of its educational, cognitive, educational and developmental aspects;
- The principle of modelling aspects of the content of English language culture. Cultural and linguistic country-study knowledge of alive and real situations cannot be completely metabolized in the university courses, that is why a teacher must build a model of content object of cognition that is selected according to study goals and content course the volume of this knowledge, which can be sufficient to represent the culture of the country and the language system. It is also necessary to consider cognitive needs of each personality related to individual interests;
- The system principle in the organization of English teaching. It means that the communicative learning system is constructed by the reverse: at first scheduled final product (target of the study), then determined the tasks that can lead to thy goal. This takes place within the course, each semestre, the module and one lesson and applies to all aspects of the language;
- The principle of individualization in teaching and learning English. The student is determined as a personality who has certain possibilities and abilities, both general and partial nature. Teaching English is aimed at identifying their original level and further their development.
- Principle of thinking activities and student's independence in the process of learning Enlish. The fact is that all tasks at all levels of English study are problems of different levels thinking problem and its complexity.
- The principle of functionality in English teaching and learning. This one assumes that students should understand that learning English can give not only useful language skills, but also to use the knowledge gained in cognitive and emerging dimension. The principle is also what is happening on mastering functions of speech activities as a means of communication that is understood and assimilated the functions that are performed in the process of people communication: reading, writing, speaking and listening.

Role playing is an active intensive method of teaching and learning English. Students generally tend to like games and want to play them more. Traditional methods dictated for study and games to be separate but the fact remains that the students tend to be more

interested in playing games rather than sitting down at the desk to study. The game part of study would help students keep their interest as the desire to participate and win is very strong. It keeps them going and when included with different aspects of learning the learning process would continue almost throughout the lesson without the students getting tired or bored of English study.

When selecting games or simulations for role playing in an English language programme, one important consideration must be the nature of the language to be employed and its usefulness to the students. Reference has already been made to those games which practise a limited number of set responses: in such cases the teacher can ensure, by prior demonstration and drilling, that the students know what to say at each stage of the game and that they use these items correctly as the game proceeds.

The most important part of learning English through role playing is vocabulary. To understand the meaning of the words and to use them in everyday and professional lives is a very difficult task and games can help students overcome this difficulties. Games like scrabbles, dictation and synonym competitions, words puzzles, anagrams and hangman have been designed for the purpose to master English vocabulary. These games are just based on words, word expressions, phrasial verbs and help students develop their active and passive vocabularies.

In communication games, however, the exact vocabulary that the student will need in order to express himself is much less predictable, though broad semantic areas can usually be anticipated. The teacher may limit linguistic preparation to key items of vocabulary but should be ready to help students who are struggling to communicate, using the language that they momentarily need.

Learning evolved as an interaction in which there was a transition from teacher's aid in addressing learning tasks to sequential growth of students, up to full self-regulation of action and the full independence of students. The study provided the implementation of a variety of business and role-playing games. Practice has proved that the games generate significant interest if the students who have already had an elementary or pre-intermediate level of Enlish and basic theoretical knowledge on the subject and have enough skills of independent work.

There is an example of business role-playing "Job Hunting" which proved to be effective in the course of the study. In our English teaching practice, we relied on the opinion of John Bauman, who believes that through the exchange of materials between students in written form and further discussion of the main points, the main results can also be achieved outside of regular class time [3]. The game was used in order to attract the attention and interest of students to professional qualities: business written and oral communications, vocabulary and grammar.

Thus, students were divided into employers and job hunters, all students received the samples for writing a resume and a list of interview questions. Students compiled their CV independently, sometimes with some teacher recommendations. Students were given some time for doing the task. Each CV was evaluated by teachers and other students. Those students whose CVs were shortlisted were invited to job interview and got a proposal.

The game helped students to get better knowledge of professional English vocabulary, skills of oral and written business communication. The game included an element of competition and role swapping. As well as getting business English speaking skills, the experience that students acquired in role playing gave them the ability to assess professional situations and demanded professional skills more adequately that they will desperately need in order to become a competitive specialist in international labour market.

Due to implementation of this method into English teaching and learning process, the professionally oriented study material turned into exciting and interesting one, creating a positive learning atmosphere. Students were not limited in the use of various means of search and distribution of information. The emphasis was given on the use of modern information and communication technologies: multimedia, e-mailing and so on.

Proper use of new informational and communication technologies allows a more systematic integration of language, content and culture, and gives students unprecedented opportunities for autonomous learning. E-communication not only helps teachers and students to exceed linguistic, geographical and time barriers, but also to build bridges between native and foreign language programs. This method is important for teachers and students who use online and offline technologies to teach or learn English language. We have identified that the use of e-technologies consents learners to engage in forms of e-communication.

E-learning communication plays a very vital role in developing and improving English language. Such sources can be used to help students practise their language. But great precautions must be taken. This method should be used in the middle or even final stages of learning as that is the only place where students often use colloquial English most of the times which is grammatically wrong, except formal e-mails and communication.

Apart from that, this source is very helpful as it does not feel like education, but like a game. This is something that the students can do in their spare time. Hence this method is very effective in teaching the language. Methods of reading e-articles and e-books are also very good methods to teach the language. When the traditional methods are modified along with some innovative ideas the entire learning and the teaching process is enriched and guarantees a success in efficient English learning.

E-learning communication has been widely used by teachers of English with the purpose of activization of students' independent work in an electronic environment. Topics and problems for discussion were selected correspondently to previous learnt academic material. E-learning communication had the following stages of realization: a theme defining; student's preparation (watching videos, listening to audio materials, reading study materials in electronic libraries); the process of electronic communication and discussion, conclusion, evaluation of the actions of the participants (activity, creativity, deapth of knowledge of English vocabulary, grammar, spelling, sentence structures and so on).

These are some of the innovative and creative exercises for teaching and learning the English Language by means of e-mail communication.

The students were asked to perform various tasks in role playing "Business correspondence" (Commercial Correspondence) in English language. That game had business professional orientation. Students were divided into two groups. The task was to establish business contacts between two groups of students by means of electronic correspondence in English (a letter of inquiry, a letter of offer, a letter of order, a letter of order confirmation, a letter of complaint, a letter-adjustment of complaint).

Students work on the issues of the following situations:

- 1. You work in a banking system and want to order the software from IT company for the VIP-clients Department;
- 2. You work as a sales manager in the production department. The company was trying to improve the guality of a product, but the product was not really advanced and does not meet all the requirements of the standards. Nevertheless, you want to order an advertisement at an advertising Agency.
- 3. You work for a construction company as an economist and want to order the services of the auditing company for the accounting analysis of the Department for the last year.

In the process of using E-learning communicatin it was found that a large interest of the students caused by the topics, which combine different types of training methods and have a professional orientation. An example of such tasks is "Business calls", which is a combination of the following teaching technics: teaching creative task (the teacher creates a creative, professional oriented situation, specifies the purpose, conditions and requirements for learning activities; students learning consists of the formation of the problem and its solution, which involves active independent work using modern IT (mobile devices, electronic online communication: Skype, Messenger, WatsApp, Viber, email, social networks, etc.), role playing method (the teacher creates a role-playing business situation, which is solved in the form of a game).

The task "Business calls" had the following algorithm:

- 1) Read, translate the telephone conversations and answer the questions:
- 1. Which conversation is between: a consulting company and a sub-contractor? A supplier and a customer?
 - 2. What is the reason for each call?
 - 1 Dialogue
 - A Ackers and Shipton. How can I help you?
 - B Is Mrs Ackers there, please?
 - A Speaking. Who's calling, please?
- B This is Simon Ilago from AOS Ace Office Supplies.
 - A What can I do for you, Mr Ilago?
- B I'm calling about a special price on the printers, Mrs Ackers.
- A I'm sorry, but I can't discuss this now. I have a meeting in five minutes.
 - B Can I call you back tomorrow?
- A Sorry, but I'm out of the office tomorrow. But thanks for calling. Goodbye.
 - B You're welcome. Goodbye.
 - 2 Dialogue
 - A BFC Consulting. Ralf Gustuvson speaking.
 - B Hello. Could I speak to Leo Keliher, please?
 - A I'm afraid he's out of the office at the moment.
 - B Could I leave a message?
 - A Yes, of course. Could I have your name, please?
- B This is Natalie Kent from NT Consulting. Could you ask Leo to call me back? It's quite urgent.
 - A Yes, sure. Could you tell me what it's about?
- B Yes, I'm phoning to offer him some subcontracting work.
 - A OK. I'll leave Leo the message.
 - B Thanks for your help. Goodbye.
 - 2) Match the question with an answer:
 - 1. Is Mrs Ackers there, please?
 - 2. Who's calling, please?
 - 3. What can I do for you?
 - 4. Can I call you back tomorrow?
 - 5. Thanks for calling.
 - a. This is Simon Ilago from AOS.
 - b. I'm calling about a special price on our printers.
 - c. Speaking.
 - d. You're welcome. Goodbye.
 - e. Sorry, but I'm off tomorrow.
- 3) Which questions were asked by the the person who calls and which ones by recepient?
- 4) Tasks for working in pairs. In turns change the role of a caller and a recipient. Have some telephone conversations:
- Call 1: You want to arrange a meeting to present your products.
- Call 2: You want to ask about payment of an invoice.
- 5) Working in a group of three have phone conversations on the topics:

Student A call student B. Ask to speak to Student C. You're an ex-colleague. You want to meet him / her for lunch or dinner tomorrow to discuuss current issues at your new work. You're only in a town for one day.

Student B Student A calls you. You work with Student C. He / she is very busy and wants you to answer all phone calls. Ask who's calling and why, then call Student C and give him / her the massage.

Student C Student B calls you. Listen to the message then call Student A. Decide together if you can meet tomorrow.

Case study. Most of the methods that we discussed required a lot of efforts on the student's activities. It is worth mentioning that case study requires effort on the teacher's activities. This method of approach is very appropriate for economics and engineering students although when it comes to English language the students should be given assignments in which they have to modify something that already exists, but practising it again only in English. If the students are just given tasks like writing an essay or a report then most of the students crack because not everybody is able to come up with a story or even if they come up with one, they cannot write it down grammar correctly and style properly. In such case the students should be given the base knowledge and data and only after that a teacher can ask them to modify the data. For example, the students can be given a base story and then a teacher ask them to modify a part of it. Such assignments engage students' creativity and also help them overcome the difficulties of writing and speaking skills. More importantly, it lifts the pressure of creating new ideas. Invention is a very difficult thing especially when students are being forced to do that. In case study activities the students are not forced to complete the assignment and then they can do it whole heartedly and hence complete the learning experience that can be gained from the case.

Cases study is a very integral part of teaching English language. It appeals to the inquisitive nature of the students. Any unfinished case always keeps the mind of the student agitated. The evaluation and estimation procedures of testing the students in their proficional fields over the English language is perfomed through questions based on the case. A case is supposed to appeal to the imaginative part of the brain. It helps students be more creative, by trying to visualize the things that are happening inside the case. It should not only teach the English language but it should also help students in extracting a lesson from the case.

- S. Donna [4] stresses the fact that if students believe that in a language course they do tasks relevant to their future specialty and professional communication, they are more motivated to learn and get better results. That is why the basis of case study is almost always real and only partly imaginative live professional situations, that involves a variety of independent students' activities in English language to resolve problem situations:
 - reading the text;
 - translation;
 - analyzing the information;
 - asking and answering the questions;
 - group discussions;

- group and pair coversations;
- oral or written reporting.

Students should understand the nature of the Case problem and define their own position in assessing the situation, consider the questions answered and find some solutions of the problem; there maybe exchange of views; identifying the leaders, who are able to offer solutions of problems through group discssions.

The students can enact the Case or the Game. In this way the students are personally engaged. They can bring their own interpretation. It is interesting for the students to understand the Case and put themselves into that one. It engages their creativity. It also helps them understand other students' interpretation of the Case and helps them have a conversation which helps them in learning the language. It removes the dull aspects and makes the English language learning more colourful. It may not be perfect but it will leave a deep impression on their mind. The Case will help them learn the language as they will be enacting it by dialogue which they will make themselves. This also leads to student personal development and helps work as a team player and all the way the student is learning the language.

The implementation of case study into English learning provides didactic qualities which offer the following opportunities:

- to practice all language skills: reading, speaking, listening and writing;
- to develop the productive language skills in a very intensive way;
- to analyze, present and comment graphs, tables, charts and other quantitative data and schemes;
 - to practice analytical and managerial skills;
 - to develop communicative skills;
- to practice business skills of presenting, negotiating, chairing and participating;
- to understand the components of business culture and business ethics through the language course;
 - to practice intercultural skills.

Problem-based learning is one of effective active methods of teaching and learning foreign languages that attracts much attention of those teachers who are interested in raising students' competences level. At the same time, an essential component of problem-based learning is that content is introduced in the context of complex problems. This contrasts with prevalent teaching strategies where the concepts, presented in a lecture format, precede end of the chapter problems. In problem-based learning, students work in small groups and must identify what they know and also what they don't know yet to solve a problem. These are preactivities for understanding the problem and making decisions required by the problem

As a rule, the nature of the problems supposes simple answers. Students must go beyond their textbooks to pursue knowledge. Also they try to obtain information in other resources and between their group meetings. The primary role of a teacher is to facilitate group process and student independent learning. A

teacher must not provide easy answers. The problembased learning develops students critical thinking skills, better understanding, teaches students how to learn independently and working cooperatively. It has a student-centered instructional strategy and is based on the social, cultural and constructivist theories of learning.

Problem-based learning can be used to increase students content knowledge and foster the development of communication in English language, problem-solving, and self-directed learning skills. Such learning dips students into simulated real world working and professional contexts which involve problems of defferent levels that need to be understood and resolved to some outcome. By working through a combination of learning strategies to find out the nature of a problem, realising the constraints and options to its resolution, defining the input variables, and understanding the viewpoints involved, students learn to negotiate the complecated nature of the problem in English language.

The experience of foreign language teachers has proven that modern students are not the proverbial blank slates, but individuals whose prior learning can greatly impact their current learning. Sometimes they might have greater content and skill knowledge than teachers would expect. As their prior learning can both aid and hinder their attempts to study new information, it is imperative that instructors have some sense of what intellectual currency the students bring with them. The context for learning assignments in problem-based learning is highly context-specific. It serves to teach content by presenting the students with a real-world challenge similar to one they might encounter were they a practitioner of the discipline [5].

The problem-based learning process should be divided into some phases. R. Karthikeyan emphasizes the following phases of problem-based learning process [6]:

- 1) the concept introduction;
- 2) the problem announcement;
- 3) grouping and surveying;
- 4) monitoring and coaching;
- 5) the performance assessment.

Teacher acts as a facilitator and a cognitive trainer, The roles and responsibilities of a teacher and a student can be defined in each phase of problem-based English learning.

Introducing the concept a teacher enlightens the students with the basic concepts and enables the future specialists to find out the advantages of using English problem-based language learning. Students are to overcome the difficulties of switching over from conventional language learning to problem-based learning and to understand the concept thoroughly.

Announcing the problem-task a teacher introduces the subject in the form of a trigger, elicits all the information related to the topic from students and provides some kinds of elementary help with some sources pertaining to the problem. Students have to understand the trigger or problem and to be mentally ready to meet the problem-based assignment confidently.

Grouping and surveying a teacher divides the future specialists into groups by adopting specific strategies, provides access to differet resources such as text-books, Internet, journals, magazines, etc. A teacher extends conducive environment for learning to take place. Students are to develop a rapport with fellow group members, to explore known and unknown facts, to investigate the problem into its details.

Supervising and coaching a teacher monitors the progress of students and provide support when needed trying to avoid controlling and directing their efforts in solving the problem and provides constructive feedback during the activities. Students are to have healthy and constructive discussion among peers to generate possible solutions to the problem solving.

Assessing the performance a lecturer provides students with possibilities to show and share the findings and the results, a teacher extends variety of following up activities, assesses the performance of students and gives feedback. Students are to represent the results in the form of e-presentation, to assess the performance of facilitators and the performance of self and peer.

Problem-based English language learning involves problem speaking. Conversation is by the way the most useful tool of teaching the English language. Even when a student learns his or her mother tongue it is by the conversations that takes place between him or her and others or by listening to the conversations made by the others. The student is never taught the native language but is still able to percept the meaning and learns it automatically to use it in personal and business lives. The English conversations alone teach the students. Hence defferent conversations in English form a very important part of the teaching and learning processes.

The constructions of a sentence and the grammar rules is not something that can be taught only by rules. These aspects have to be taught intuitively. That can just happen through a lot of reading, speaking and listening activities. Nevertheless, every conversation needs a theme. The topic can be introduced in a form of written documents which students have to read at first, then form an opinion and after that have a conversation about the topic. Also the topic can be spoken out and then students can listen, understand and after that take part in the conversations. The participation and other aspects of the conversation can always be analysed through the aspects which will also push the students to participate in the conversations. These conversations may have general, business or professional themes. They have to happen as if colleagues, friends or acquaintances are talking to each other. Such tasks let students feel comfortable in expressing themselves in English in the best possible ways. These processes may need some time but in the end it would be the most effective and efficient method in teaching and learning the English language.

CONCLUSIONS. The English language plays a very important role in our lives. It helps us express our

emotions and explain what we want. It helps us to communicate and hence are the prime tools to express who we are. Thus the knowledge of English language and its proper utilization is very important as it defines the person. Also the ways the languages are taught play a very vital role in a student's life.

Since English is the official language of the world it is of utmost importance that this language has to be taught in such a way that it will help students not just to speak and write and listen but to communicate in social, business and professional lives. That is the purpose of the language and that is what it must be taught for.

Active methods help develop not only student's skills to speak, read or write in English properly, but also their skills in the fields of independent learning, decision-making by themselves, effective independent problem-solution and professional collaboration in English; personal abilities of being both a good learder and a team worker [7].

Hence active methods help in bringing a change in English teaching and learning and most of the times for the better. It helps the students learn faster and in an efficient, interesting and an interactive manner and it is the teacher's responsibility to leave the traditional methods and make way for new and better methods for the students benefit.

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АКТИВНЫЕ МЕТОДЫ ОБУЧЕНИЯ АНГЛИЙСКОМУ ЯЗЫКУ

М.Ю. Мартыненко

Кременчугский национальный университет имени Михаила Остроградского

ул. Первомайская, 20, г. Кременчуг, 39600, Украина. E-mail: speaker.kremenchuk@gmail.com

Приведен анализ активных методов обучения, описаны особенности их использования в процессе преподвания английского языка. Выявлены отличия между традиционными методами обучения иностронным языкам и современными, которые основываются на комуникативном подходе и информационных технологиях. Доказано, что использование активных методов обучения (игровой метод, метод обучающей электронной дискуссии, кейсовий метод, проблемное обучение) позволяет сделать процес изучения английского языка более интересным и эффективным. Данные методы помогают не только розвивать у студентов навыки чтения, письма и усной речи на английском языке, но также умения принимать самостоятельные решения и выполнять задания любой сложности и тематики.

Ключевые слова: английский язык, активные методы, игровой метод, метод обучающей электронной дискуссии, кейсовий метод, проблемное обучение

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