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THE RELEVANCE OF FUNCTIONAL ENGLISH FOR SECOND LANGUAGE LEARNERS

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ABSTRACT

This paper emphasizes the relevance of functional English for Second Language Learners. In the fast growing globalized world, all of us are communicating with many people whose cultures are different. In this situation, relevance of learning Functional English for Second Language becomes self-evident. It serves as a bridge in connecting with other cultures and to carry on with business transactions in a horizontal way. English as a second language (ESL) is often used for non-native English speakers. It also describes about the factors influencing the second language learning which includes cognitive influences.

KEYWORDS: *Functional English; English as a Second Language (ESL); Cognitive Influences*

INTRODUCTION

Grammar and Inflections

Inflection (or) **inflecion** in grammar expresses one or more grammatical categories with a prefix, suffix, infix or an internal modification such as a vowel change.

Inflection is the name given for the extra letter or letters that are added to nouns, verbs and adjectives with different grammatical forms. Nouns are inflected in the plural, verbs are inflected in the various tenses and adjectives are inflected in the comparative/superlative.

Exercise-Based Oral Drilling

When new vocabulary of words are introduced in a class, it has to be drilled focusing on the grammar points, sentence structures and pronunciation, which is a part of exercise-based oral drilling. These exercises using a variety of drilling methods while interacting with the students makes the class, students focused and interactive.

Choral Repetition**,** Drilling with Flash cards, Picture Exercises, Comprehension, Drilling in Pairs, Games, etc., are exercise- based oral drilling methods.

- **Choral Repetition**: These exercises are commonly used as a part of oral drilling, where students are instructed to repeat the words or phrases after the teacher. Through these exercises, students' pronunciation and vocabulary is improved, which leads to their success in becoming effective communicators. This method enhances the students' attention, as the teacher will have an individual interaction with each student while participating in the activities.

- **Drilling with Flashcards**: In these exercises, students are shown the images and word sides of each flashcard. Students after drilling the words once will be shown the word side of the flashcard by making them practice reading and pronunciation. This method improves students' vocabulary.

- **Picture Exercises:** This method has been used for passing the instructions for several centuries. This is considered as part of language learning. This method is broadly used in building vocabulary.

- **Comprehension**: In this method, students/some volunteers are asked to give a synonym, antonym or translation of a new vocabulary word by checking individual comprehension. By using this method, teachers can focus on the students those who do not participate actively by calling them for answers.

- **Drilling in Pairs:** This method involves, in short, pair activities, where a student's comprehension will be tested by his/her partner. For example, if a vocabulary list for instance, student A will read the translation of each word in random order, while the student B says the word in English. Then, student A will place a checkmark next to the words, which Student B has to correct and students can switch roles. Using this method, students will test out each other and have visual proof as to how well they perform in exams.

- **Games:** This involves dividing the class into groups and each group says one portion of a behavior, beliefs, knowledge, values and shared tradition, which makes a society different from other societies and color the action and thought of its members. It is a new structure in exhibiting their tasks, which leads to their success within the stipulated time. Through this method, students are encouraged to work as a team for collective success.

Teacher-Centred Approach

Teachers are like the nucleus in students' learning. Students are like "empty vessels", where a teacher plays a pivotal role in their learning. A teacher-centred approach is one of the most important classroom activities, where a student's learning is measured by conducting tests and assessments. Lecturing is the most commonly used successful teaching technique in the education system. This approach encourages students in critical thinking and problem solving.

Effective Teaching Involves the Following Strategies

- Planning the lectures well in advance.

- Discussing the course outcomes before the beginning of the lecture.

- Drawing the students' attention at the beginning of the lecture with a simple question or with a good quotation.

- Using good visuals, which are part of the topic related.

- By summing up the main points at the end of the lecture.

Learning through Imitation

Imitation is the major step in learning. Learning through imitation is the foremost tool in a classroom approach. Students observe, grasp and try to imitate the way the teacher interacts with the class. Imitation is more about process learning than content learning. Students may change their conduct and attitudes on the teacher or on a leader within the student group — for healthier or for bad conditions.

Suprasgmental Features

Suprasegmental features are linked to the features of pitch, stress and intonation. These are part of speaking skills, where a student has to practice consistently to acquire effective communication skills.

Cultural Barriers

Cultural Barriers shape the identity of the person and the society. The major causes for cultural barriers are arts, letters, manners, behavior, beliefs, knowledge, values and shared tradition, which differs from society to society. It affects the learning experience and classroom atmosphere. A cultural barrier intervenes when a new language with a different culture is introduced to the learners, obstructing the effective learning process.

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