

Language Acquisition Via Facets of Literature

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Abstract

Language plays a pivotal role in everyday facet of human life. In general, teachers of English are always anxious with the kind of ideas and information they dispense to their students. Many ways and resources are available to acquire the language skills in this modern technological era. But the language taught and acquired through literature has its own tremendous outcome. Nowadays literature is one of the most demanding classification of material for English class. It is affirmed that teaching language through literature stirs up effective language learning. Language through literature extends linguistic knowledge, facilitates intelligence, stimulates creativity, improves cultural awareness and develops psycholinguistic aspects. Learning the language through literature makes expressing opinion easy, develops reading skills and strategies and moreover increases fluency and proficiency. Experiencing the language through literature induces to dream in the world of future and provides life time experience and persuades the learners to identify themselves in different characters. This facilitates language learning in an unconventional environment and motivates for further acquisition. Learning of a language allocates with social understanding and culture. Moreover, Literature reveals one's personality and culture on the basis of the language. It eases an opportunity to unlock the potential of the learners and helps them to have a different view and collective opinion about different writers and their works. Reading different literary works develop the growth of vocabulary and it also helps to learn new words and expressions. Literature enhances all language skills and it widens to gain more prowess on linguistics. This paper aims to promote the language through literature and acquiring the skills for the same.

Key words : linguistic knowledge, creativity, psycholinguistic aspects, intelligence, culture

Introduction

The teaching of a foreign language is changed vigorously due to the advancement of technology. Language is an art and it can be learnt only through practice. The prime motive of learning any language is to communicate in that specific language to its native speakers. Literature and Language can go hand in hand and correlate for the attainment of students and teachers in a productive mode. It proliferates fascinating ideas and learning. Nowadays most of the teachers contemplate the literature usage in language class is an appealing and modernized methodologies. Learning language through

Literature intensifies the learners acquisition of all the four skills. Vocabulary, pronunciation and grammar is learnt inevitably when Literature is introduced in a natural process otherwise language learning becomes hard for the new learners. As literature gives the cultural enrichment, variety and personal involvement. It proves to be powerful resource in the class rooms.

Literature – Role and its effectiveness

Literature plays a prominent role in foreign language acquisition and it is revived as a prime part of language teaching with a view of linguistic and cultural aspects. Moreover it has a reinforcing outcome in a language class. In English Language Teaching, Literature is commonly used for the enhancement of comprehending the language. Literature, a part of the whole humanity verges upon with universal issues. It paves the way to gain knowledge of multifarious structures of a language. Literature acts as a tool to widen some new methods and techniques in language teaching and learners can attain more benefits in the language learning and skills. Literature aids the learners to gain literary context and facilitate the same in their everyday usage and the characters influence and motivate to overcome various hindrances. It imparts their communicative skill of the language. Vocabulary, dialogues, poetry and prose helps the learners to communicate the language by using the new words. Literature lifts the learners to develop analytical skills. It facilitates the learners to get familiar with universal issues and motivates to read. According to Povey's (1972) observation "literature will increase all language skills because literature will extend linguistic knowledge by giving evidence of extensive and subtle vocabulary usage, and complex and exact syntax" (cited in McKay 1982: 529). Learning a language through literature enables the learners to be more creative and insightful.

Power of using Literature in Language learning

One of the main aspects to inculcate interest among the learners is to provide various techniques to enhance and enrich the vocabulary content. Reading various literary articles, reviews, short stories, novels enriches the appropriate usage of words in different contexts. Our prime motive is to develop learners ability in order that can be utilized for all purpose. Teaching literature in language class moulds the learners to learn apt vocabulary, to be professional and to facilitate everyday communication by connecting language and culture. Literature influences and induce the learners to enhance the language proficiency in an enormous way. On the other hand, learners can enhance all the four skills of English language by means of literary text, improve cultural awareness and to enhance the psycholinguistic aspect of language learning.

Literature with artistic value helps the students to understand and make logic of the world around them and it is the tool wherein we can interpret everything in society's life. Literature is a reflection of life and it aids the language learners to examine the state of the individual and evaluate their array of thoughts. Literature inspires and provide solutions to the cause and effect of the circumstances we come upon in life. It can amend the students to cope the minds systematically and persuades to accept innovative ideas and opinions. Literature is used in language teaching for the enhancement of knowledge about the language and also for the specific purposes. It is a source of learners motivation and formulates the learners to comprehend the world through the opinions of various writers and can acquire different

learning styles from them. Literature proves the mode to understand the human nature. It gains great status in many cultures and countries. As a result, the real substance of great literatures can be felt by the students. Literature sharpens and shapes learner's individuality and stimulates creativity and imagination.

It focuses on form and discourse processing skills and improves vocabulary expansion and reading skills. According to Hedge, "Literary texts can develop the student's knowledge of language at the levels of vocabulary and structure and at the level of textual organization" (1985:22). According to Hall, literature has experienced a revival with the advent of communicative approach in language teaching as it provides learners with authentic, pleasurable and cultural material (2005:47-57). While reading, learners will get the opportunity to recycle and fix the vocabulary already learnt and meet new expressions.

Literature and LSRW in Language learning

Literature plays an essential role in teaching four basic language skills in English and literary texts tender a affluent source of linguistic input and can help learners to practice the four skills namely Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing besides exemplifying grammatical structures and placing new vocabulary. Literature in language class should be taught in an integrated way. It offers a sufficient range of language structures like sociolects and regional dialects. Moreover the usage of language in appropriate contexts can also be well refined. Effectiveness of language teaching increases with the help of literature and the learners can learn many new words and phrases that can be used for communicative purposes.

Literature and language teaching involve the development of a feeling for language. Interpreting and reading the literary text will help the learners to intensify and integrate reading skills, receptive skills and productive skills. On the other hand, to enhance students language skills one of the finest methods we can imply is short stories. It is one of the most suitable literary genres to use in English teaching is supported by Collie and Slater (1991: 196) when they list advantages of using short stories for language teachers. Reading Short stories promotes learners language development. Usage of short stories in language class is one of the means to get mastery over language skills. Short stories helps the students to attain literary aspects and enhance critical thinking. Short stories are embedded with motivations and the students can learn all the four skills effectively with the help of it. Since it has limited class time readability it is not difficult for the students to learn and practice. Finally, short stories can be used with all levels, all ages and all classes.

Students can get more awareness and develop skills on the language they learn when short literary texts are implemented in the language class. Usage of short literary texts help the learners to acquire new discourse functions, sentence construction, grammar and perfect story patterns. They develop their writing skills and enhance empathy, motivation and creativity.

Learning Language skills are fulfilled by the source of short stories.The language learners are motivated by the facets of human interest in short stories and in their own way reacted to collective ideas and other individual experiences. Murdoch (2002: 9) indicates that "short stories can, if selected and exploited appropriately, provide quality text content which will greatly enhance the learners at

intermediate levels of proficiency". In his opinion, short stories are valuable materials in language teaching reinforcement. It helps to improve students reading ability. It is one of the motivating sources for writing skills too. In relation to this, Oster (1989: 85) states that literature helps students to write more creatively and effectively. Short story class can be used for enhancing the other two skills namely Speaking and Listening through Group discussions, Presentations, Role play etc., According to Povey's (1972) view "literature will increase all language skills because literature will extend linguistic knowledge by giving evidence of extensive and subtle vocabulary usage, and complex and exact syntax" (cited in McKay 1982: 529). This will aid the learners to facilitate the language learning. Selection of literary texts are easily comprehend by the students and they are able to do a collaborative work.

Learning a language through literature is not only related with Reading and writing but also speaking and listening. Work of literature centered around Role play, Oral presentation and Group discussion. Language teachers can train the students using literature by assigning listening activities like listening to the audio plays of literature, listening comprehension and pronunciation practice. Thus literature contributes the learners to enhance speaking and listening ability. On the other hand usage of poetry in language class evokes feelings in heart and make the learners to gain vocabulary and figures of speech. It also paves the way to develop a language in a well refined manner.

Reading literature texts aloud helps the learners to develop speaking and listening skills. Further, it improves pronunciation. Pronunciation can be the focused and judged before, during, or after the reading process. They assist and speed up the expansion of communication skills. It motivates the students to accomplish a clear conception of a work's intrigue and a deeper notion and perception of its characters. Through literary texts we can improve our reading ability, analyzing the text and comprehending the passage and understanding of other cultures. It improves our organizational skills and critical thinking.. Literature helps the students to deepen the writing skills and it is clearly reflects in their original work especially the content, theme, organization, and style. This shows that literature acts as a tool to learn the subject easily, to promote critical thinking and to develop skills.

Conclusion

We use literature in English classes for various reasons. Language awareness is expanded using literature and it promotes interaction. This paper reflects how literature enhances English language learning. Literature helps the learners to adopt the language as a means of communication. Language teachers can focus on linguistic, literary and cultural elements. We can make use of literary texts to cater various activities to improve listening, speaking, reading and writing (LSRW). English teachers can insist on the learners with inspiring elements from the utmost resources of English literature, which create aspiration to gain all the four skills vividly. Thus, Literature is proved as a prime tool to approach English language and culture.

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