



Methods of Teaching Pronunciation and Productive Activities and Role Plays

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Abstract: The main aim of this article is to represent productive activities and role plays in teaching pronunciation skills. The main aim of this article is to give an explanation and methods for teaching pronunciation skills. There are any kind of methods which helps teachers to teach pronunciation skills easily. The article highlights some effective methods of teaching pronunciation.

Key words: Methods of teaching pronunciation, Technique, Creating and developing pronunciation skill, the goal of teaching pronunciation.

Introduction

Pronunciation has an important role in the EFL learning process, as it leads learners to understand better native speakers and native-like speakers properly and improves their ability to communicate. It is obvious that communication provides a relationship between the speaker and the hearer. For instance, in a conversation, when the intonation and rhythm are different from what is expected, the listener can have problems about understanding the meaning. Similarly, the speaker needs to know what intonation patterns mean to interpret speech accurately and how speech is organized (Roohani, 2013). Thus, learning about pronunciation develops the learner's abilities to comprehend spoken language. When it is learned properly, the speaker can be understood by the hearer even if she makes mistakes in other areas of the language. That is, the learner may have problems about communication when her pronunciation is not at an expected level. It is evident that this may cause the learner to avoid speaking and to use the language orally. Therefore, learning pronunciation is of great importance for perfect oral communication (Gilakjani, 2012). There are many reasons underlying these problems among Turkish EFL learners. For instance, as distinct from English, in the Turkish language, each letter has just one sound and it does not change according to its place in a word or a sentence. Therefore, learners try to pronounce the sounds in the same way in Turkish. In addition, English has some sounds that do not take place in Turkish like /θ/ (Hişmanoğlu, 2009). Thus, it is hard to pronounce for learners as they usually pronounce it like /t/ sound. Furthermore, various Turkish accents may obstruct learners' pronunciation performance. Additionally, the teacher is an important factor in pronunciation learning. Since learners imitate their teachers in the early stages of the language learning process, teachers should be accurate and clear about pronunciation. Apart from these factors, the approaches that are used to teach pronunciation may also be one of the sources of the problem. For Celce-Murcia et al. (1996), there are three approaches to pronunciation instruction: the intuitive-imitative approach, the analytic-linguistic approach, and the integrative approach.

Methodology

Learning English pronunciations can be very challenging and time-consuming. And can you guess what more challenging – teaching it. The teaching process has got different objectives at each level. With this blog, you would be able to teach pronunciation by discussing different words at each level. You can easily plan out your resources and activities which would help your students to improve their communication skills. One of the best ways would be to encourage them to converse in English. You need to introduce the complete idea that while they are doing their homework by reading aloud all the words.

Here are some techniques which would help you to teach English pronunciation to the beginners and help them build a strong pronunciation foundation.

1. Initially Listen & Repeat

You might think that this is one of the common methods of teaching pronunciation in English. You will need to first pronounce the word yourself and then ask your students to repeat it in a similar way. If in case, you are working with a long word that has multiple syllables then you can always start with the final word. Working backward will help children to pronounce the word easily.

2. Isolation Of The Words

If you are about to teach some difficult words, then you need to pronounce the word repeatedly. This will help to engrain the sound pattern into the minds of the kids. This technique is helpful when you have a number of students who might be struggling with specific sound delineation.

3. Using Minimal Pairs

It can be considered as one of a great way to keep the focus on the pronunciation of the words (or just one sound). Most of the time students are not very familiar with linguistics – a **minimal pair** is a pair of words that differ only in one specific sound. For instance, you can check the words ‘rat’ and ‘rate’. They can be considered as minimal pairs. It is because there is only one vowel sound which makes the pronunciation of the words different. It will also help students to expand their vocabulary.

4. Every Student Must Record The Sound And Replay

Sometimes students feel that they are pronouncing the words correctly. But only a listener can understand whether it is correct or not. But we have a solution here. Students can easily record the words by actually saying it. Then you might have this empirical data to playback and listen to it carefully. You can encourage students to listen to what they are actually saying. Sometimes listening to the native speakers can also serve the purpose. With this technique, the students would have a more objective understanding of the words and proper pronunciation.

5. Make Use Of Phonetics

If students are struggling to pronounce the entire word, then you can always make use of phonetic symbols which help to produce sound. In addition to that, you can make use of phonetics to introduce new vocabulary. You can read our blog (Englishbix phonetic sounds) to help students understand the sound produce by vowels.

6. Application Of Fun Tongue Twisters

We already know that tongue twisters are very popular among kids. They can be useful in consonant pronunciation and considered as a valuable resource. These twisters would pose a test to check the pronunciation abilities of a child. The tongue twisters have a fun element that would help you to make your class interactive.

Result and Discussion

*in this part, we will consider the methods of improving students' pronunciation in the process of language learning, and we will provide information about the results. First, I will tell you about the methods and activities used in the process of achieving results. these methods and activities were used only to improve the pronunciation ability of 3rd and 4th grade students. **Listen and read***

A great way for students to improve their pronunciation is to listen to a text and notice the way the words are pronounced rather than just listening for meaning. There are lots of stories with audio on YouTube. Ask your students to watch and read some of the stories several times and to comment on the words they learned to pronounce. we know that the biggest problem in the process of learning any language is pronunciation, for learning pronunciation easily I used listen and read activity, this activity and method was very useful and helped a lot to improve students' pronunciation ability. I used a text that was easy and not difficult to read at the beginning. To develop this activity, I made the text sound through the audio recording equipment. After that, I played the recorded audio to the students. Of course, in this situation, the students look at the text while standing, they also heard the audio, because the form of reading all the words in the text was recorded in the audio. this process lasted about 3 months, because this language was new for all learners. but even so, we did not stop working. During the lesson, the children first looked at the text and then listened to the audio version of the text. instead of relying only on the audio form itself, I read the text aloud while they were observing the text, and they were observing the text with me.

Activities for Teaching pronunciation

ESL pronunciation activities for young learners

Kids tend to be enthusiastic learners who aren't afraid to try out new sounds or mimic language, or they love the opportunity to get up and move around during class activities.

ESL song sing-along

ESL songs work well to practice pronunciation with young learners. The students can move and dance with phonics songs, which allow a total physical response and, therefore, better retention of the material. A sing-along is a simple activity for young learners and can be adapted for use with older students as well.

By learning a song in English, and practicing it over and over, students become familiar with the sounds of English and imitate the singer, practicing correct pronunciation in a fun and interactive way.

Pronunciation bingo

One effective game for teaching ESL phonics is "Pronunciation Bingo." To play, prepare Bingo sheets with sample words for each of the phonemes (individual sounds) you want to review. Take a sound flashcard from a bag and say the sound, such as /e/, while showing students the card. Students must find the word on their Bingo sheet that matches that sound (such as "bet") in order to cross it out. This game can be played individually or in pairs.

If this is too advanced for your students' level, you can modify the activity by saying the sound and then giving them a sample word: /e/ – *let*. Students must then find a word with the same sound: *step*.

ESL pronunciation activities for teenagers and young adults

Teenagers and young adults are often quite self-conscious and shy, so preparing some fun but appropriate ESL phonics games, as well as some ESL pronunciation worksheets, is a good idea.

Rhyming pair memory game

After some repetition drills on the target words and sounds, you can try a "Rhyming Pair Memory Game." Make cards with words that rhyme, like *man/can*, *bit/sit*, *fame/came*, and so on, and place them face down. Students take turns turning over the cards to find the pairs that rhyme.

Correct the teacher

If you are teaching your students stress and intonation, you can try “Correct the Teacher.” You say a sentence in a natural or unnatural rhythm and your students have to decide if you said it right or wrong. If they say that you were wrong, they have to say the sentence with the correct intonation.

CONCLUSION

The students the sounds first, that is, the pronunciation of each letter in the English language, and there are also compound letters so that their reading rules are perfect. I tried to teach! and then I used the TPR method to develop the pronunciation ability of the first group, I used this method for almost 1 month, and as a result, I found out that the students' pronunciation ability was developed. To develop this method, I translated the necessary words and told the students to memorise them. If this word is related to movement, they will have to show the meaning of this word without saying it through body movements. The main fact is that when a learner hears a word, if he hears it correctly, then his pronunciation ability is a manifestation of the presence of the quantity. Because when the learner learns the rules of pronunciation, he will know that the words are read differently, not as they appear in English, and when he hears the word, even if the pronunciation of the word changes, he knows which word he is hearing. because the learner can pronounce and understand that word independently. For example: if we take the word "lough" this word is not exactly lough, it is actually pronounced as "law". If the learner knows how to read such words, he will use the same form when he speaks.

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