The effect of cooperative learning and technology- based learning in acquiring the English language

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The abstract

The English language is considered the most important and dominant language in our world today. Learning the English language has become one of the major necessities for all of us. In my research I'll tackle the types of learning strategies and the types of learners in general. Also, my research states the importance of utilizing two effective teaching learning styles the co- operative learning and technology- based learning. I 'll shed light on the role of teachers in applying the two methods in their teaching process inside their classes. Then, the research will give some recommendations for all types of learners and how to apply the most effective technique that suits them most to acquire the English language perfectly.

Keywords: cooperative learning -technology based learning- kinetic learner- collaborative learning- visual- auditory.

الملخص

تعتبر اللغة الإنجليزية اللغه السائدة والاهم في عالمنا اليوم. أصبح تعلم اللغة الإنجليزية أحد الضروريات الرئيسية لنا جميعًا. سأتناول في بحثي أنواع استراتيجيات التعلم وأنواع المتعلمين بشكل عام. كما يشير بحثي إلى أهمية استخدام نمطي تعليم فعالين هما التعلم التعاوني و التعلم القائم على التكنولوجيا.ايضا سوف ألقي الضوء على دور المعلمين في تطبيق الطريقتين في عملية التدريس داخل فصولهم. بعد ذلك ، سيقدم البحث بعض التوصيات لجميع أنواع المتعلمين وكيفية تطبيق التقنية الأكثر فاعلية التي تناسبهم أكثر لاكتساب اللغة الإنجليزية بشكل مثالي .

الكلمات المفتاحية: التعلم التعاوني - التكنولوجيا القائمة على التعلم - المتعلم الحركي - التعلم التعاوني - البصري - السمعي.

The elements

- Different types of learning concerning the English language.
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- The kinds of learners and their attributes.
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- The definition and characteristics of cooperative learning.
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- The effect of co-operative learning in acquiring the English language.
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- The definition of technology- based learning and its features.
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- The importance of technology- based learning for the learners of English.
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- The recommendations.
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Different types of learning concerning the English language

(Johnson, D. W., & Johnson, R. T 2015). Many theories handled co-operative learning and studied the theory related to it as without theory any research will be mindless empiricism. Before learning the English language, we have to figure out that we have different types of learning styles which we may represent at the following: visual- audio- social- kinetic- solitary-nature -writing and reading-and analytic.

The kinds of learners and their attributes.

For visual learners: they learn better by retaining the pictures that they have seen. Teachers present all the needed information such as diagrams, pictures or charts. Visual learners retain such pictures easier than reading a book or listening to the teacher in the class.

Auditory learners: for them sounds and music draw their attention greatly as they have a sense of rhythm. They are considered good listeners, that is why the best way for learning that they prefer is listening to speeches or having lectures or paying attention to discussions and sometimes reading aloud while sitting in groups. They benefit most when they record their lectures or lessons in order to listen to them later.

kinesthetic learners: Such learners have to involve all their senses while learning (learning by doing). They prefer taking an active

role by doing the tasks themselves using their hands and their whole body. For them, sports and physical activities are an essential part of the learning process. They enjoy doing the task rather than listening or reading it.

Social learners: this type of learner prefers group work they like to work with others. They enjoy collaborating with their mates, exchanging thoughts and ideas. They are able to communicate effectively. So, teachers can ask them to role play a scene or stories to encourage them to interact in the group work or in peer work.

Solitary learners: these learners are also called solo learners. They prefer learning alone; they feel irritated when working in groups or in pairs. They like to learn individually in contrast with social learners. In this case, teachers shouldn't oblige the students to interact with their mates but should offer him some individual activities to be carried out alone, such as problem- solving tasks or writing his own diary.

Nature learners: this type of learners preferer nature and they have a good connection with the environment where they can find quietness and peace. So, they need to take their lessons outside the classrooms in an open area. In this case they will learn and acquire the language better. Teachers have to involve these students through using pictures and examples of nature while explaining their lessons.

Analytic learners: such types of learners depend mainly in their learning on analysis and logic. They tend to analyze and examine subjects to understand them well. That's why they have to search for

connections, relations of cause and effect in their learning to get the theme of the lesson accurately.

For educators who taught such learners they have to use certain skills to make their students involved in the lesson. For example, problem solving activities that require searching for facts and results to be solved. By doing so the learners will be more active and motivated.

Writing and reading learners: from the title it is obvious that such learners acquire their ideas best when they are in words. lexical items for them are the shortest way to get the meaning in writing or in reading texts. For teachers to make such learners engaged they must give them written tasks such as writing descriptions of daily events, diagrams, and making assignments including reading a passage to answer the questions.

Learners and educators must know the different styles of learning and each learner should recognize which type he belongs to in order to get the benefit of his studies. Moreover, teachers shouldn't stick to one learning style as they have mixed types of learners inside the same class. So, to reach a bigger audience teachers can help their students to figure out their own type by allowing them to try different styles to choose the best ones suitable for them in their study. Once they get the best style for them, they can adjust their studies to fit their objects and needs.

The definition and characteristics of co-operative learning

After having an idea about different types of learning styles, we realized that the common Dominant style used by teachers as it achieves the best results is co-operative learning.

Some learners sometimes misunderstand co-operative learning and collaborative learning. So, we have to define co-operative learning to recognize the difference between both of them.

Co-operative learning is the learning style which was presented in the early 20th century in America that works in groups of learners who have mixed and different abilities. The main aim of this learning style is to achieve success through cooperation among all the individuals inside the group. So, it is essential to teach students how to cooperate effectively in group work. Co-operative style is considered a type of collaborative learning as each member inside the group has a separate task to do, but the whole group should work as one unit to achieve success. (Felder, R. M., & Brent, R. 2007). According to many scholars co-operative learning has been defined as the structure to involve students to work in teams to carry out certain missions.

scholars stated that in using this learning style we are preparing students to take part in social situations and interact with others.

Let's shed light on the elements, benefits, and types of co-operative learning.

The benefits of cooperative learning:

cooperative learning has many benefits for students such as the following:

* Adding fun and enjoyment to the learning process.

* Develop students critical thinking through cooperative skills.

* Qualifying students to be involved successfully in working in teams in their future career.

* Helping learners to retain the new taught material easily.

* Allowing shy students to feel accepted by taking apart and doing the tasks in the group.

The elements of co-operative learning

Co-operative learning style include some elements such as:

The interaction in this type must be face- to- face. It is also called promotive interaction, where students are engaged together to talk about the taught material and new concepts to link them with their previous knowledge. They can exchange experiences and thoughts which strengthen the ties among them and unit their goals.

Helping students to have positive interdependence. As the success of the group is determined according to the performance of the group as one unit, they fail or succeed not as individuals but as one

group. Sharing the same objects aiming at denying the individual role will definitely promote positive interdependence.

Personal accountability regarding different needs of students. When working in a group some individuals are put in less effort. so, to prevent this, individual accountability Is needed to put each one in the right place. Moreover, it will enable teachers to measure the achievements of each member individually and the group's achievements in reaching the aims of the learning process.

Having collaborative activities and skills. To improve such skills in the lesson taken, the teacher must give clear instructions and guidance to his students. These skills such as decision- making and communicating with each other would be developed in co-operative learning through the skills given in the lesson under the supervision of the teacher.

Group processing. It is used to show how the effectiveness of accomplishing the tasks in the group. This will enable the group members to evaluate their work related to the social activities and skills they have carried out. So, we can figure out the points of weakness in their work to avoid or improve them in the future.

By applying these five elements of cooperative learning teachers will get their students involved in the lesson unlike other traditional group work learning styles.

Co-operative learning types

There are three major types of co-operative learning which are formal, informal groups and co-operative based groups. The purpose of cooperative learning decides which type will be the best one for the group.

For formal cooperative learning groups, the most common aim is to work for specific time starting from one period to weeks. The groups must work together harmoniously to carry out projects and learn topics that will enhance their collaborative skills.

For informal groups it can be done now without being rearranged to break the monotony of long lectures. So, they can have co-operative periods in between a long session, or can be divided into small periods to follow long direct teaching. This will help students to recall the pre-taught knowledge and interact effectively with the group members.

Co-operative base groups. This will last for a long time maybe one year. Members in this group will assist each other for many branches including the academic one. This attempt to be connected for a long time in order to realize how far members are achieving their goals or making progress in their learning.

The effect of cooperative learning in acquiring the language

In fact, teachers have to be aware of the characteristics and types of co-operative learning to utilize it effectively in their class through the following:

Problem -based learning

In this learning students have to search for special problems which they have been exposed to in the past to get a suitable solution. This will help them to deal with similar problems in real life or in their future workplace. Learners have to follow certain steps to find the solution like reporting back their research after Proposing their compromises.

Think- pair- share

The teachers must propose a question or a topic asking students individually to response to it, then students will in turn pass their Responses in pairs to exchange information. At the end the students will be asked to sum up the main points of their discussion to the whole group. In this way the teacher can save time and effort for his students.

Jigsaw method

According to this strategy the teacher have to divide the problem into small parts giving each group a part of the issue, offering them time to discuss to find a solution for their part. Finally, each group will present their contribution through reading the articles to get the final solution from the whole group collectively.

Peer teaching

In this type the benefit will be for both learners and students to acquire new concepts or old ones. The teacher can ask one of the

students to guide and help a newcomer student in his learning, which will be a good opportunity for both learners to communicate and transfer their learning experience to their peers. (Slavin, R. E.2014). As explanation will be easier for student to get when it comes from their mate so he will be willing to understand the task.

The definition of technology- based learning and its features

learning a new language especially English needs practice. Learners have to practice speaking, listening, reading, and writing to be fluent in English inside the classroom and outside. Nowadays we are exposed to many technological apps and tools that could be beneficial to students in learning the English language. Technological devices and computers in specific can play an integral part of the teaching process by providing a variety of chances for the learners to improve their learning even outside their classrooms.

Students can enrich their learning experience of the English language by doing activities with their mates or family members. So, we can consider technology as a supplemental teaching aid for learners to acquire the language. In addition, we have to take into consideration that technology is not a magic tool for solving problems, but we need to realize which teaching methodologies to use related to technology. This is called technology- based teaching which we will discuss its definition, reasons for using, and its activities. (Krause, U. M., and the others

2009) Technology- based learning at first was made for statistics education especially for university students.

To begin with technology- based learning is defined as the type of learning style that depends mainly on all kinds of technological tools to assist the learner in his learning process and help teachers in their teaching for the language.

The importance of technology- based learning

This kind of learning is very essential as it can help learners to carry out their tasks in an easy way using any technological device. For example, a learner can do his assignments like describing something, record that then at school his teacher will listen to the recorded material. So, technology -based learning offers many opportunities for learners to learn tasks in an interesting way.

The majority of students will feel motivated and involved when working on computers or even on any technological device unlike reading or answering questions in their textbooks. In addition, this type is beneficial for teaching young students who always feel energized and need an enjoyable atmosphere to learn a new language.

Technology- based learning strengthens learning by applying new resources that all the learners will be interested in. Also, this learning promotes equality as it gives all the students the same opportunity to participate, sharing their own ideas regardless of their abilities. Students are highly motivated while using technology as it helps learners to demonstrate independence.

Teachers also are given the chance to communicate with their students under any circumstances. For example, the period of the pandemic COVID-19 technology was the only solution for the learning process to keep going.

The use of multimedia in the class will enhance the acquisition of the linguistic knowledge than using traditional printed books. It is a good chance for students to gather more information about any topic through offering valuable information and valid materials.

The importance of technology- based learning for the learners of English

After discussing the features and importance of technology - based learning we are going to discuss this importance especially for learners of English language and how they can apply this method in their learning process

Teachers should realize that applying this learning style is not just using computers in their classes or laptops to show slides to their students, but it's further than that. Teachers must use technology to make students more involved using their favorable device in the class.

Technology based learning can be applied through different tools such as the following:

* Quizlet: it is an important learning tool. When students use it they will listen to new lexical items then they repeat and make sure of the

pronunciation. Moreover, they can use it to play many games to enhance their vocabulary through games like Scrabble or crossword puzzles or spelling bee.

* Creating videos for short lessons: teachers can search for relevant videos to their lessons. Also, they can use it for reviewing or previewing for example, they can use teacher tube to get videos or even special lessons and exams. Such a method suits visual learners and makes them responsive. The teacher also could use cartoon films especially for young learners, it will have positive effects on them.

* Play podcasts: This method is appropriate for auditory learners as they can act while playing and learn at the same time. we can create podcasts Including lectures from the teacher or Some interviews with famous figures like authors they know. Also, they could deal with explorations of their syllabus or relevant topics. The teacher can motivate the learners to create their own podcasts to play and have fun with just a device and strong speakers.

* Sharing an online calendar: This calendar the teacher can create to inform his students about important dates and their lesson schedule. We have many programs concerned with such calendars like Google Calendar. By doing so, learners could prepare in advance the next lesson and feel that they are organized. This will help teachers to balance their timetable with their lesson plan.

Actually, we can apply other methods like providing online activities for brilliant students. Also, we can use hashtags to form

questions or offer open-ended tasks and projects. In fact, educators should decide according to the level and ability of their students which task to use to work effectively and achieve the learning goals.

Recommendations

1-Teachers have to utilize co-operative learning to develop in their students critical thinking and help them to accept criticism.

2- Educators should encourage students to use technology in their learning process to be up- to -date and they get knowledge about our digital world to communicate with others safely.

3- Educators have to realize that technology nowadays acts as a backbone to the learning process to facilitate difficulties facing learners of the English language.

4 - The government must equip schools with technological devices to achieve equality between learners in private schools and public ones.

5- Appropriate training should be held for teachers to be familiar with technology to be able to utilize it effectively.

6- While using technology- based learning special training should be done for students to teach them how to use technology to improve their language skills.

7- Educators have to apply co-operative learning especially in mixed class ability, as students will work in groups as one community.

8- Schools must adapt traditional methods and teaching the English language in line with modern technology that cope with the modern requirements.

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