

TASK-BASED LANGUAGE LEARNING IN ENGLISH FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES: AN EXPLORATION INTO THE USE OF NEWSPAPERS FOR TEACHING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE TO ENGINEERING STUDENTS IN PAKISTAN

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Abstract. *The study aims at exploring the ways in which newspapers can be used as materials for teaching English to the engineering students in Pakistan. 72 activities have been suggested in which English newspapers can be used for teaching different variations of English communication skills such as spoken English, presentation skills, writing skills, study skills, vocabulary building, etc. It can be concluded that newspapers can be employed as very effective source for teaching English as a second language because they comprise of a variety of text types.*

Key words: *TBLT, ESP, TEFL, ESL, newspapers, engineering*

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Purposes of the study

“The newspapers are regarded one of the most reliable, easily available, less expensive and effective sources of sharing information and knowledge” (Mehta, 2010). The topic under study aims at highlighting the ways in which newspapers can be utilized for teaching the subject of communication skills in a country where English as a second language is the medium of instruction as well as communication. The context of the study is related to teaching English communication skills to engineers at the university of engineering and technology, Lahore which is the most prestigious and renowned institute for engineering. University of engineering and technology, Lahore also possesses international prestige, recognition and value. The subject of English Communication Skills, focusing on an endeavor to enhance the students’ ability to communicate effectively and to improve their proficiency in spoken and written English, is offered twice to the students of B.Sc. Engineering in all the departments.

The objectives of this course are to improve the students’ communication skills required to be a competent communicator in English, to improve the students’ written communication in professional context and to apprise the students with social and business etiquettes and manners.

The course outline includes presentation skills, interviewing skills, verbal and nonverbal communication, study skills, functional English, paragraph writing, technical writing including CV and cover letter writing, report writing, proposal writing etc. As English is employed as a medium of communication and instruction, so it is also considered incumbent upon the teacher to pay immense attention to the level of fluency and accuracy

of the students' expression in English. For this purpose, grammar, vocabulary building and phonetics & phonology are also added to the outline. As the vast majority of the students belong to far-off rural and backward areas, where English is not frequently employed as a medium of communication, so to make up this deficiency of students, it is inordinately important to bring a variety in the class room activities so as to make the proceedings of the class useful as well as interesting and convenient for the students.

The methodology for teaching this course is to deliver lectures or presentations; generally, through multimedia, to discuss various topics with the class, and to bring activities for the students to make them practice public speaking, functional English, presentation skills, and technical writing etc (all in English). As it is vitally valuable to enhance the students' presentation skills coupled with spoken English, so videos, movies and newspapers are excessively used for demonstration.

The study explores the ways in which newspaper can be used for improving the engineering students' proficiency in spoken and written English. The students of engineering universities of Pakistan go abroad for further studies or jobs. They need to communicate with multiple audiences and have to get their message across to people belonging to different nations. As the newspaper contains new vocabulary and expressions, so it can help improve their spoken as well as written expression for the sake of communicating their purpose in English. Tafani (2009) while suggesting activities for teaching English through mass media, mentions "Most newspapers are linguistically up-to-date and provide valuable linguistic data. They may be used for the wide variety of *text types* and *language styles*, not often found in textbooks."

Ping (2011) in suggesting ways to use newspapers for teaching reading skills notes, "Newspapers can be very inexpensive and compelling teaching resources for advanced EFL learners. Adapting the newspaper to classroom instruction is a natural way to introduce learners to these cultural and linguistic concepts." Hence, the newspapers can be very effective resources due to the pragmatic and cultural value of their texts.

1.2. Research questions

- What are the various ways in which newspapers can be used for teaching English as a second language to engineering students in Pakistani context?

1.3. Significance and scope of the study

The results of the study are equally applicable and generalizable to all the institutes of developing countries where English is being taught to the Engineering students for the sake of preparing them for getting good jobs and admissions in European countries. The activities suggested in this study can be utilized by any teacher teaching these contents.

The study is highly useful because TBLT is an essentially required method of teaching in the developing countries. Therefore, the awareness of the use of materials such as newspapers must be spread in the form of designed activities. This research paper will help teachers in incorporating newspapers in language teaching and utilizing the activities for enhancing the effectiveness of teaching and learning process. The sole contentment of the English teachers of developing countries such as Pakistan with books and the traditional teaching methods is decreasing; therefore, it is of immense value to apprise the teachers with TBLT on a large scale so that they may utilize the activities in their classrooms.

The study is related to ESP, SLA, TESOL, EFL, etc, because it suggests ways to use newspapers for teaching English to engineering students. It is related to ESP because a

sound command on paragraph, report, proposal, memorandum, letter and email writing, as well as presentation skills and management skills in particular and study skills in general, are directly required from the engineers in their fields work/ jobs.

1.4. Delimitations

Though the study has implications and is beneficial for the global audience, yet it has been delimited to the Pakistani context so as to refer to the course contents being taught here.

It has also been delimited to the University of Engineering & Technology, Lahore, because it is one of the most renowned and oldest public sector Engineering universities of Pakistan. It is also the only public sector engineering university in one of the four provinces of Pakistan, namely Punjab. The study has also been delimited to three Pakistani newspapers in English: The Dawn, The Nation and The News.

2. METHODOLOGY

It has been endeavored to suggest ways in which course contents of English Communication Skills can be taught and practiced with the help of newspapers because the newspaper comprises of a variety of text types such as stories, narratives, pictures, dialogues, letters, reviews, articles, etc., in the form of the following: Letters to editor, Crossword puzzles, Charts, Weather Grids, Sports articles, Advice columns, Cartoons, Advertisements, Home entertainment, Theater reviews, Editorials, Cooking tips and recipes, Want ads/Vacancies, Movie & book reviews, Call for proposals, Horoscopes, Interviews of famous people, Science Articles, Pictures, Tender Notices, Quotations and verses, Personal stories, TV schedules, etc. (derived from: <http://cnx.org/content/m22498/latest/>).

It has been endeavored to assemble the designed activities which can be used to teach through cut outs from the newspaper. Seventy two activities have been suggested to teach different course contents with the help of newspapers: 'The Dawn', 'The Nation' and 'The News'. These activities may help improve the fluency of the learners of English as a second language. Extracts from the newspapers will be added where needed or where relevant. The use of newspaper for teaching different skills as well as for improving proficiency in English will be discussed under the following headings:

- Spoken English
- Presentation skills
- Study skills
- Vocabulary building
- Written communication
- Management skills

3. DISCUSSION

There are various ways in which a newspaper can be used for teaching different topics for the sake of improving the quality of teaching and education. After presenting the topic, students can be given an activity from the newspaper.

For improving spoken English:

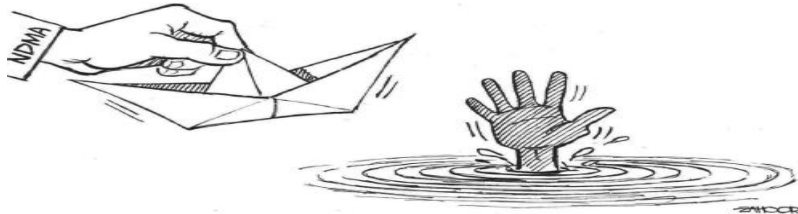
- Cut out paragraphs or headlines from a paper in local language and ask the students to translate it into English.
- Collect the same news published in English and Urdu. Get the students read both extracts in pairs and then ask them to compare both texts focusing on their mode of expression.
- Take a cartoon strip and white out the bubbles. Ask the students to fill in the bubbles on their own. Then ask them to extend the conversation in the same cartoons on their own.



- Give them a picture to discuss in pairs.
- Give a picture without a caption and ask the students to give it five different captions



- An article can be given to a pair of students to discuss its major points.
- Give a picture to a pair of students. Ask one to instruct the other to draw a similar picture in his/her notebook without seeing the picture taken from the newspaper.



- Give the students a list of quotations. Students should read the article to find out who said them and in what context.
- Ask the students to read an article and underline every 7th word of it. Then substitute the underlined words with another word. Then ask them to share their responses with the person sitting next to them.

- For improving their accent which is a major requirement for teaching English as a second language, students can be asked to read a passage from a newspaper aloud. After teaching them the principles of pronunciation, they can be asked to practice them by reading in a louder volume.

Teaching presentation skills, discussions and public speaking:

- Newspapers are essentially composed of or based on current issues. Undoubtedly, they are benevolently packed with a vast variety of topics relating to the juncture of almost all walks of life. They cover compact information regarding social, political, economic, academic and professional issues and affairs of human life and consequently are reliable source of providing up-to-date information.
- Keeping this characteristic in view, they can meritoriously be used for picking up topics on which news or articles are already given in an organized way. These topics can be assigned to the students for public speaking, discussions in class, and presentations. For example, corruption, smoking, media, social media, child abuse, terrorism, unemployment, etc.
- Ask them to choose a topic from a newspaper for public speaking and support their argument with examples taken from the newspaper. For example, while speaking on terrorism, they can bring examples of news, reviews and columns written on this topic. It will help them quote others, respect others' opinion and give examples while speaking.
- As convincing power is an indispensable ingredient of an effective presentation or speech, so the students can be asked to gather different examples of persuasion techniques used in different parts of the newspaper. They can then be asked to present the effects of these techniques on the consumers.
- Another concomitant element of teaching presentation skills is familiarizing the students with the importance of 5Ws - i.e. who, when, what, why and how. The students can be asked to identify the 5Ws in an article.
- Coherently organized information is the backbone of an effective presentation or speech. The students can be asked to choose an editorial from the editorial page in a newspaper and underline each opinion and circle each fact. Then they can be asked to discuss the rationale of ideas and development and organization of the argument.
- Ask them to underline the transitional or attitude words in a newspaper article which help organize the text.
- The role of nonverbal communication for effective communication skills cannot be denied or neglected. For this reason, students can be asked to mime the characters in a picture displaying the same body language.
- For improving nonverbal communication, give them news headings to perform. They may also be given different words which may be performed nonverbally (e.g theft, help, shooting, bowling, etc). Then ask the class to guess what the performers have tried to convey.
- For teaching paralanguage such as pauses, intonation, tone, rhythm, etc., give them an article from newspaper - preferably some that advocates a specific point of view. Ask them to first whisper and then read aloud following appropriate intonation patterns.
- Give them a picture taken from a newspaper and ask them to make a presentation on the theme, points for or against the theme, or give solutions for the problem (if so) presented through the picture.



35000 walrus mass on Alaska Beach due to 'climate change'

- Ask them to make a poster presentation on a topic supporting the details with the help of cutouts from the newspaper (in the form of news, columns, reports, etc.). For example, they may make a hand-made poster for making presentation on 'the advancements of technology', 'child abuse', 'tips for personality building', 'earthquakes', 'load-shedding', 'diseases', etc. This activity will help them support their point of view with examples, facts and statistics, and delve deep into different aspects of engineering fields through newspapers.

30,000 rabies cases recorded in city every year, seminar told

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Health experts at a seminar marking World Rabies Day said on Saturday that up to 30,000 cases of rabies were reported in the city every year.

ported to brain via retrograde axonal transport and spread throughout brain via synaptic transmission.

Dr. Saeed Jaseem, deputy head of the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC), said rabies was rampant in the city.

Ebola fear grips United States

By Anwar Iqbal

WASHINGTON: Fears of an Ebola epidemic gripped the United States on Thursday as health officials warned that more than 100 people were exposed to a confirmed patient in Dallas, Texas. Dallas County Public Health Department said 12 to 18 people came into direct contact with the patient while others came into contact with this group.

Congo fever: cattle buyers advised to wear shirts with long sleeves

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Two deaths from the Crimean-Congo fever within the span of a few weeks, with the latest

goggles," he says, adding that they need to ensure no droplet of animal blood enter their eyes or mouth. However, the expert makes it clear that an infected animal's most can

October 03, 2014

Pakistan set to record highest number of polio cases

AFP

ISLAMABAD - Health officials in Pakistan on Thursday said the country was set to break its record for the highest number of polio cases in a year, as militants continue to prevent vaccination efforts.

"The number of polio cases, recorded this year has reached 187 and if it reaches 200, we will cross our

Role play is used as an activity to improve their spoken skills, as well as the ability to interact and connect with people which is inordinately valuable for improving their communication and personal presentation skills in real life contexts. That is why they can be given situations taken from the news to perform them in groups. They can also create situations by reading an article/news or watching a picture and then acting it out. They can act out the characters of different political figures or showbiz stars as well.

10/3/2014

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- They can be given cut outs from the dialogues given in a newspaper to rewrite and perform them.
- To give the students an opportunity to voice their opinion, ask them to read news on a specific current issue and then give their own views on the news.

Bomb attacks kill seven soldiers at airport in Libya

CAIRO: Two suicide car bombings near an eastern airport in Libya killed seven troops and wounded 12 people on Thursday, a spokesman for a renegade general said, as fierce clashes erupted nearby between the general's forces and the extremist militias trying to take over the airfield.

- Ask them to write a new caption about a picture and then make presentation justifying the caption in relation to the picture.
- As giving reasons and putting valid arguments is an essential part of public speaking, so the students can be asked to find and gather articles on social problems, political issues, business and industry related issues, educational matters, etc., and then list some reasons behind carrying these articles in the newspaper.
- For improving their speaking skills and making the proceedings of the class more interesting, students can be given the first line of a story from a magazine. Then any one of them can be asked to expand the story by adding another line to it. Then that student names another person to move ahead with the story and so on and so forth. Afterwards, they can be told the original story from the newspaper.
- In the beginning of the class, the teacher can spend ten minutes in making students come in front of the class and make a mini presentation for two to three minutes about the article he or she has read formerly. Students should be encouraged to read newspapers regularly.
- They can be asked to make a multimedia presentation out of an article adding visuals to it.

For teaching study skills:

The following study skills are also added in the course outline to prepare the students for learning effectually. Brainstorming, note-taking, organization, summarizing and reading strategies are included in this portion in the course outline. Newspapers can definitely be used to all intents and purposes for practicing study skills.

- Ask them to brainstorm a topic by giving them headings of newspaper articles.
- Ask them to make clusters, maps, flow charts out of an article given to them.
- Give them strips of a newspaper article to arrange them in the most appropriately organized and coherent way joining the threads of the article.

- Cut the strips of an article apart until you have panels for a group of students; then, ask them to look for a person who is carrying a panel of the same strip. After they have found them, ask them to organize it.
- Give them articles to summarize them or to compress the information by extracting one-third of the original text.
- Give them an article to take notes from it, i.e. to jot down the most important points.
- For quick note-taking while attending a lecture, it is immensely important for a student to use abbreviations. The students can be asked to underline the abbreviations in the classified section of the newspaper.
- Effective reading skills can indubitably be taught through newspapers because newspapers are enormously colossal storehouse of reading material which can be used for practicing all reading strategies (skimming, scanning, intensive and extensive reading). For this purpose, ask them to skim and scan the newspaper and gather different beats covered by the reporters. If you were a reporter, which beat would you like and why? They can also be asked to scan for a particular current affair.
- After giving them an article, they can be forbidden to read it until and unless they predict the content of the article. Later on, they can be allowed to read it intensively to gather the important points as well as the differences between what they predicted and what it actually was.
- They can be asked to read a story extensively in the Sunday magazine.
- In addition, for improving their critical thinking and questioning skills, give a short newspaper article to a pair of students and ask them to form two questions individually and share them with their fellow. In this way a pair will form four questions and answer them as well.

For teaching vocabulary building:

- Give your students an article to find out difficult words for making a word list with the meanings of words written in it.

***The Good Lie* — an absorbing story of Sudanese refugees**

By Ann Hornaday

THE title of *The Good Lie* refers to those instances when deception may be the morally right recourse; it turns out the movie is something of a good lie itself. From its poster and promotional materials, which prominently feature Reese Witherspoon gazing beatifically over a vista of an African savannah, viewers might think that this will be yet another uplifting tale of a white woman coming to the aid of desperately needy people of colour — in this case, south Sudanese refugees escaping genocide and teeming refugee camps in the early 2000s.

Happily, that isn't the story line in *The Good Lie*, in which Witherspoon tamps down her inborn perkiness to play Carrie, a hard-edged, unsmiling employment agency executive. When she's called upon to drive to the Kansas City airport to retrieve Mamere (Arnold

comes midway through *The Good Lie*, which spends most of its time tracing the early life of the three protagonists, first as kids escaping the torching of their village and the brutal murder of their families. After walking hundreds of miles from southern Sudan to Ethiopia and finally Kenya — suffering unimaginable danger, loss and hardship along the way — they finally end up in a camp outside Nairobi where, over 13 years, they grow into strong, resourceful young men. Mamere, by this time, has begun nurturing dreams of becoming a doctor.

It's the great strength of *The Good Lie* — which has been directed with sensitivity and simplicity by Philippe Falardeau (*Monsieur Lazhar*) from a script by Margaret Nagle — that it's told from the point of view of Mamere and his compatriots. By the time they finally make it to Kansas City (where they wondrously behold running water and offer prayers of thanks for "this miracle food, pizza"),

and homes to Africa's tired and poor: the reception the refugees get isn't particularly compassionate, understanding or goopily self-righteous. ("So what brings you to America?" a Waffle House manager chirpily asks a south Sudanese refugee looking for a job. "My parents were killed in a civil war and my sisters were taken as slaves," the young man replies, to his interlocutor's quizzical stare.)

But if the *Lost Boys*' welcome isn't always enthusiastic, neither is it hostile; the tone of the movie may be gentle, but it's never pandering or simplistic. When Witherspoon's character inevitably softens (somewhat abruptly), *The Good Lie* takes an unexpected but welcome turn into genuine heart-warming territory. But that emotional payoff feels honorably earned, not by Carrie's conversion but by Mamere, Paul and Jeremiah, who have made a sacrament of survival by way of steadfast faith, shared memory and their own reserves of extraordinary

- Give them a list of six to seven words picked up from an article to write a paragraph fitting all these words in it.
- Ask them to guess the meaning of a word from the context and then match it with the actual meaning by consulting the dictionary.

- Make them observe the varied use of language for different purposes e.g. narrative, advertisements, letter, informal dialogues, etc.
- Make them identify the verbs and nouns by scanning the headlines or titles of the articles and then find out the synonyms and antonyms of these nouns and verbs in the dictionary. Ask them to then copy the words in their diary in an alphabetical order.
- Crossword and teleword puzzles can absolutely be used for vocabulary building.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Climbed down (9)
- Jealousy (4)
- Aquatic birds (5)
- Lettuce (3)
- Fashions (6)
- Keeper of official records (9)
- Subtract (6)
- Still (3)
- Make corrections and revisions to a text (5)
- Mix with a spoon (4)
- Goes to live elsewhere (9)

DOWN

- Warship (9)
- Main course of a meal (6)
- Colour type (4)
- Not old (3)
- Propriety (7)
- Soldiers who run away (9)
- Unexpected but welcome thing (7)
- Nutlifies (7)
- Collins, novelist (6)
- Household dirt (4)
- Single number (3)

TELEWORD

By David Quillet

HOW TO PLAY:
All the words below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward.
Find them and circle their letters. The leftover letters spell the Teleword.
A REALITY CHECK
Solution: 6 letters

Advance, Agree, Amass, Aware, Bonding, Career, Chat, Clash, Course, Dreams, Drive, Enor, Fato, Fiasco, Foros, Forge, Friend, Grasp, Human, Issue, Jit, Lack, Learn, Lesson, Life, Limited, Mastery, Occur, Politics, Polis, Progress, Proof, Reason, Refrain, Relationship, Restraint, Revive, School, Sincere, Situation, Snag, Sporn, Staler, Student, Think, Trust, Valid, Value, Vastness, World.
Answer: TRUTHS

P	S	T	F	E	T	N	I	A	R	T	S	E	R	A
N	I	A	R	F	E	R	O	H	F	R	I	E	N	D
E	T	H	K	I	J	G	S	M	O	E	E	L	V	
E	U	C	S	L	A	A	T	A	S	R	R	R	S	A
V	A	S	T	N	E	S	S	L	A	E	O	G	S	N
L	T	L	S	T	O	T	U	C	D	W	L	A	E	C
B	I	S	H	I	E	I	R	E	O	A	W	A	R	E
J	O	I	S	R	H	S	T	U	D	E	N	T	G	N
S	N	N	Y	A	U	I	L	A	I	R	S	O	O	N
K	T	C	D	F	M	P	O	L	L	S	E	S	R	G
N	D	E	O	I	A	O	R	A	E	A	A	P	R	
R	T	R	L	U	N	R	H	U	V	E	R	U	M	A
A	C	E	I	L	R	G	C	C	R	T	H	R	S	S
E	U	L	A	V	A	S	S	C	I	T	I	L	O	P
L	E	V	I	V	E	R	E	O	P	R	O	O	F	R

- They can be given an article to read and underline the difficult words. After the teacher has told them the meanings of those words, they can be asked individually to make a sentence on any of the words. They tell that sentence to the class in a loud voice.
- Ask them to make a list of vocabulary items such as idioms, phrasal verbs, technology related words, to observe their contextual use and use them in their own sentences.

For teaching writing skills:

Writing as a skill has also been incorporated with other skills so as to improve the written communication skills of the students. Newspapers can also be employed to teach various modes of writing.

- Students can be given the title of an article to write an article on it. These titles can also be used for getting the students make shorter or longer reports or write essays.

Encouraging tax recovery

Deforestation

- Ask them to read an article and then re-write it either in their own words or by using the vocabulary employed in the article.
- Ask a pair of students to collect 30-40 articles per semester collectively and make a scrapbook. They should discuss the articles with each other, write down difficult words and their meanings, and write down one paragraph summary or review of each article. By the end of the semester either organize an exhibition of these scrapbooks, or conduct presentations on them and evaluate them through grading/marking. This activity involves improvement in listening, reading, writing, speaking, vocabulary building, analyzing, critical thinking, problem solving, working in a team, etc. As the students work on their own, they also enjoy it.
- Give them a picture to change its caption and write an article on it accordingly.



OWING to an unexpected closure of CNG supply and consequent public transport woes in the city on Friday, commuters were compelled to risk their lives by crowding the rooftops and clinging to the sides of buses.—AFP

- Make them write a review either on a particular article or on a specific section of the newspaper.
- Give them the first/any paragraph of an article and given a task to write the rest of the article.

Deforestation is a global concern as regards natural and man-made disasters, land erosion, draught, flooding, agriculture, urbanisation and global warming.

- They can be given headings of news to write stories on them.

**Man found shot
dead in his house**

**Man, woman
killed for
'honour'**

- Make them pick up and read a story and rewrite it afterwards.
- Give them lines extracted from an article, news or stories to write an article or story on them.

The state must open up and adopt an integrative approach embracing pluralism.

People have multiple identities: race, gender, ethnicity, political beliefs, profession, language, religion, tribes and sub-tribes etc.

Betrayed by false within, we have given room to all kinds of lunatic beliefs in the national discourse.

- They can be asked to make a report in the form of a scrap book made out of the articles and news on a particular topic such as cars, engines, bridges, interesting/surprising facts or happenings, climate change, etc. After collecting the scraps, they can be asked to write their review in the report as well.
- They can be demonstrated the use of graphics in a formal report by showing them illustrations from the newspaper section related to economy.

- They can be asked to write a letter to an editor based on an incident or problem, they have observed in their vicinity. It is a good idea to allot extra marks to getting their letters published in the newspapers.
- For improving the paragraph writing skills of students, give them newspaper articles and ask them to underline different parts of a paragraph, such as topic statement, supporting details, concluding statement, transitional words, etc.
- Write an editorial - students write a short editorial on what they think the major problems facing the country are at the present.
- Make them write a letter or memorandum to the chairman of the department after reading a letter to the editor.
- The recipe section can be used for teaching 'how to write instructions'.
- There are sometimes quotations given in the newspapers, especially in Sunday magazines. Students can be asked to write an article applying a quotation on the situation of the country. They can also be asked to simply write a few paragraphs while using the quotation as a title.
- For teaching them how to write a cover letter and CV, students can be asked to select a job in the classified section and write a letter to the human resource director of their chosen jobs stating what qualities make them perfect for that job. Similarly, they can be asked to make a CV for their chosen job.

Assistant Engineer at Districts /Tehsil level

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

Bachelors of Engineering (Civil / Elect / Mechanical / Environmental) with 03 years of capital project & construction supervision experience.

Research Associates

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

Must Have Master Degree in Economics / Public Policy / MBA / MPA / BBA (Hons) / Law / BE (Civil / Electrical / Mechanical / Environmental) from an HEC recognized university with 1-2 Year Experience in relevant field along with excellent presentation and computer skills.

Program Officers

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

Must have sixteen years of education in Engineering (Civil / Electrical / Electronics / Mechanical / Environmental) IT / MIS / GIS / Space Sciences / Geography / Economics / Social Sciences / BBA(Hons) HR / MPA / MBA from an HEC recognized university with 1-2 Year Experience in relevant field along with excellent presentation and computer skills.

**Sub Engineer
(field Based)**

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

DAE (Civil / Elect / Mach) with relevant experience of onsite supervision / service delivery of water supply system of 05 years in the field.

- Advertisements of 'Call for proposals' or 'Tender Notices' given by companies and organizations are often published in the newspapers. Use them as prompts for writing proposals.

For Teaching Management Skills:

- They can be given quotations or facts extracted from the newspaper to speak both for and against the statement. It will enable them to analyze a fact or situation from different angles and will consequently improve their problem solving skills.
- Ask them to find out a comic strip or news in which two or more persons have a conflict or dispute. Rewrite the script of the news and suggest ways in which conflict could be resolved in a better way. They should also respond as to how they have responded, had they been in the same situation. It will teach them conflict management.
- They can be taught time management by allocating time for every activity designed from a newspaper.

- In local newspaper, news about murders, killings, violation of rules are given. Ask the students to suggest ways in which such extreme steps could have been avoided. They should also prescribe measures in which anger or frustration could have been controlled. It will enable them to vent their feelings appropriately, specially, they will learn how to control anger. It will also develop critical thinking in them.

4. CONCLUSION

Hence, newspapers can be utilized in different ways for teaching spoken, written, study and management skills as well as for vocabulary building and improvement in accent. According to Mehta (2010), learners can “improve their vocabulary, grammar and thinking skills as regular reading of newspapers can provide them an opportunity to express and exchange their ideas on a wide variety of issues”. The use of newspapers and other materials other than text books adds variety to the teaching and makes the learning of English more interesting, useful and applicable to real life contexts. To meet the challenges of professional life, get their messages across, learn the 21st century skills and excel in life, it is important to learn English language, and for this purpose, the teachers need to take calculated risks. They should be innovative in using materials in the classroom, and for that matter, the use of newspapers can be one of effective materials to be benefitted from in the classroom.

4.1. Suggestions and recommendations

The following suggestions can be made for teachers and researchers:

- Further research can be conducted on the use of other materials such as videos and screen literature for task based language teaching.
- Teachers may make their teaching more interesting and beneficial with the help of such activities.

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