



“ENHANCING SPEAKING & WRITING SKILLS THROUGH ‘THE TIMES OF INDIA NEWSPAPER’: REFLECTIONS AT UPPER-INTERMEDIATE LEVEL”

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Introduction of Research Scholar

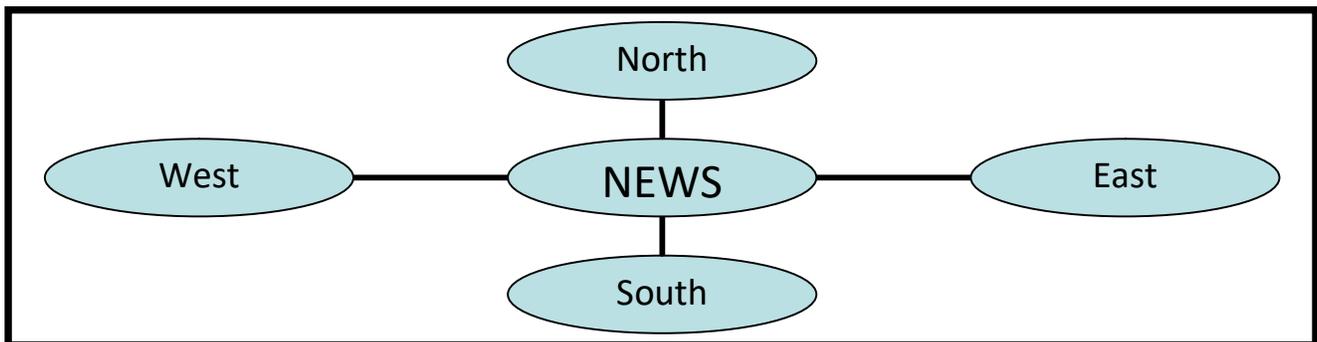
Mr. Jatin Kapadiya has been working as an assistant professor in Alpha College of Engineering and Technology, Khatraj - Gandhi Nagar. He is pursuing PhD in English Literature from H N G University. He has 3 years of experience in teaching. He has been teaching Communication skills, Soft skills and Personality development to UG and PG students since 4years. He has been presenting papers into various nationals as well as international conferences since his post graduation.

Abstract

Spreading information without any bias in order to make people aware is the primary objective of any newspaper. But alongwith the news - language being a constituent part of it- newspaper offers a range of ways to improve our English. From kids to adult people have their choice of news/column. The Times of India newspaper has taken a secured place besides morning tea of large number of homes in India. The readers' day remains incomplete without the taste of tea/coffee and news from it. Newspaper provides us with a host of news in form of different columns categorically (for example local, national and international) providing a lot of examples especially for the improvement of English. It offers a set of different sentences along with a variety of registers used in English language.

Keywords: Register, Types of sentences, Active usage of vocabulary, Interest oriented activities, Categorization of articles, Suggestions

In the information-exploded world of 21st century with new horizons like digital literacy, virtual learning, techno-socio-media (both print media and social media) have absolutely changed the approaches and methods to teach the language as far as the language learning is concerned. Being an abstract form unlike Mathematics or Physics - following only the traditional ways of teaching and explaining things - language teaching has drafted a place of honor. A large number of methods/techniques/ways have been explored and assimilated in order to teach language effectively with a course of time. As far as English language learning and teaching is concerned, a variety of platforms/software/applications are used to improve the language repertoire. But still the author feels, in many parts of the country, lack of funding, proper training and other aspects related to teaching, English becomes partly difficult especially in teaching through learning-centric methods. Although the technology engages learners in fulfilling the need of the hour, the traditional-flavored methods, especially newspapers, also widen their horizons by extending their perception. The prime objective with the reference to newspaper is the Dissemination of information without any bias and promoting social awareness among the masses. Moreover language as a constituent part of news, offers a wide range of exposure to improve English. Whatever readership a newspaper has received, it is designed to meet every individual's area of interest i.e. beginning from kids to adults and to people with old age.



What does news mean?

Generally NEWS stands for North, East, West, and South i.e. in terms of providing information regarding the things happening around the world. Being a well-established newspaper, The Times of India, is facilitating the masses with varied exposure to different levels of readers for tending and nurturing their language repertoire (LSRW). It is evident in earlier context and in the present

that a day without newspaper is a day wasted. Newspaper provides us with a host of news in form of different columns categorically (for example local, national and international) providing a lot of examples especially for the improvement of English. It offers a set of different sentences along with a variety of registers used in English language. Communication being concurrent trend is to be adopted/acquired for effectively represent one self in the competitive world. Communication, by and large, involves development of LSRW as acquired in a naturally in L1 acquisition process. Designating LSRW in categorized manner, one can identify productive i.e. speaking and writing and receptive i.e. listening and reading. However newspaper may not enhance listening skills, nonetheless it is certainly advances their speaking, reading, writing.

Why The Times of India newspaper?

The basic rationale behind selecting 'The Times of India' is due to its extensive reach and stylistic approach (both formal and informal). The different columns beginning from Editorial to Astrological suggestions provide us an ample amount of varieties of different sentences and registers as far as language is concerned. Not only students can learn the language from the same but also can learn and understand through visual aids. (Chris Watkins, 2007) From easy to difficult words, sentence patterns, voices and presenting chronologically and cohesively things, can provide opportunities to language enhancement through newspapers.

Choice oriented and Interested Articles

Reading newspaper not only can pacify the hunger of curiosity of students but also it can improve our speaking as well as writing skill. Through focused-study on choice based articles students can do learn a lot many things from simple words to difficult to abstract words. With a proper use of dictionary they can change the way through words are learnt. The pre-requisite of learning words without getting monotonous is to learn them through interesting areas. This sticks to basic principal as choice is indicated and teacher need not to make any extra effort to inspire them.

Providing need based assignments to learner

A particular student being a great fan of cricket and Sachin Tendulkar may choose any sport article. In the article he enjoys the words which are not used in day to day life though, after a period of time he will begin to forget some of the words not using them daily. If the level of student

is so poor he may select the easy sentences. Now that depends on the level of student. But at the end of the day those easy words appearing numerously build unconsciously active vocabulary.

Proposed exercise 1

- Students are asked to have a vernacular and English to English dictionary.
- Students are instructed to identify words and framing the sentences in their own words using other words or the words with they are more comfortable with. After that they are asked to read them and classify them as per their level. As every students has different level of understanding as well as intelligence they will learn the words which they like most and start using in their day to day life because the article is chosen by them which they will learn and use unconsciously and the speaking skill will get improved. Many a times it has been depicted that unconscious learning is one aspect where the learning process gets never stopped. Here, teacher only has to lead them to the choice based article.

Proposed exercise 2

- Students are asked to identify the types of sentences and asked to jot down the easy one/ understandable one and use the same to make new sentences. Slowly and gradually students will be able to improve their sentences and start learning words as they will have an ample number of ways to learn the same word differently. After that they will asked to write down the articles with which they are comfortable and this is how speaking and writing gets improved.
- Students are asked to classify words as formal and informal words.
- Students will be given a role of reporter and each teacher will teach them the sentences and briefing articles with the help of newspaper. After that students are asked to write the report or column in their own words.

Proposed exercise 3

A particular student selects the article of any food recipe and learns the words not only he/she will get introduced to a different register but also of the words of spices and utensils/equipments used through the process of making.

- Students will be asked to make the list of words along with the difficult one too.

- Students will be asked to create the new recipe using the same words.

We can do the same with any story books/magazine/novel. However, these books if written by the same author may increase the monotonousness and get them distracted. Sometimes merely by just simple approach in learning can lead them to a greater level of understanding. This is what a news paper can do in better way. The unconscious learning takes place.

Suggestions

Teachers are requested to identify the level of understanding of the students and limit the students' selection for article. Students are also to be requested for not losing the interest in the same and in case they lose then there is need of changing their articles. The local news containing the news related to a college nearby their location or the news or of their favorite actress/actor should not be missed by teachers. As many a time, most of the students turn to the same pages which a teacher doesn't want in the classroom.

Conclusion

At the conclusion researcher finds that newspaper works comparatively faster. Other materials like books/magazines/journals require you to have a certain level of understanding as far as language is concerned. Whereas with newspaper neither teacher nor student has to worry about the outcome.

Works cited

Chris Watkins, E. C. (2007). *Effective Learning in Classroom*. london: Paul Chapman Publishing.
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