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ТЕОРИЯ, ПРАКТИКА И МЕТОДЫ ОБУЧЕНИЯ

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IMPORTANCE OF ENGLISH LESSON PLANNING

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While planning an English lesson we are well aware of the content and the materials to be employed in the teaching learning process. Since we are ready, we have a good ground to present the lesson successfully. Several scholars agree that a teacher who hasn't planned the process of teaching becomes emotional. And these emotions are the results of poor preparation and readiness [1, 2].

There is a saying which says that well planned is half done. Planning is the initial step in teaching learning process in which the teacher designs his learner's activities, prepares and decides the methods to be used and the materials that would be employed in the interaction with his students.

As Aggarwal stated that one of the most important elements in good teaching is good lesson planning: "Lesson planning is the mental readiness of the teacher to present an effective and valid lesson. A teacher who is not well prepared becomes deficient and targetless in the presentation of a given content" [1].

The belief that teachers give effective lesson without formally written or prepared plans is quite controversial and questionable. Unless these teachers decide what sort of content and points to present, methods and materials to be employed, it is very difficult for them to make wise use of the allocated time, ensuring the understanding of content on the part of the learner.

Methods and materials that have been used in previous years may not work at present. Psychological and physical conditions may interfere with the attention of the teacher to present a lesson effectively.

Many reasons can be mentioned why planning is more powerful than experience. According to Aggarwal [1], prior planning avoids needless repetition, delimits the scope of the activity to be done in the learning situation, saves time, indicates objectives to be achieved by the learner as well as methods appropriate to the content and the learner, gives the teacher the confidence to face the class.

Therefore, lesson plans indicate the overall process in the learning situation. They show not only the activities to be done but also the alternatives for possible problems and failures.

Careful planning is the foundation of a good teaching from the first day to the last day of student teaching. Lesson planning performs some specific functions:

• It forces consideration of objectives, the selection of subject matter, the selection of procedure

• It keeps the teacher on the track; ensures steady progress and a definite outcome of teaching and learning procedures

• It is essential for effective teaching. It requires the teacher to look ahead and plan a series of such activities and progressively modify children's attitudes, habits, information and abilities in desirable directions

• It prevents waste; it helps the teacher to be systematic and orderly; it encourages good organization of subject matter and activities

• It gives the teacher greater confidence and therefore greater freedom in teaching. It can ensure that the teacher does not forget a vital point. It can remind him of the telling phrase, the effective illustration at the moment in the lesson [1].

As for Clark, he perceived good teachers as the ones who plan their teaching. They associated planning with familiarizing oneself with textbooks, resource materials and innovations in one's field [3]. In the process of planning the teacher gets the chance to make a good glance at the resource materials in order to present a fruitful lesson. According to Clark, a well written lesson plan:

- gives an agenda or outline to follow as one teaches a lesson
- gives substitute teachers a basis for presenting real lessons to the class
- is certainly useful when one is planning to teach the same lesson in the future
- provides the teacher with something to fall on in case of a memory lapse.

So, the components of a lesson plan has to contain the following elements that are agreed by most scholars: the objectives to be achieved (products of the learning), the content of the presentation and the procedure (i.e. activities and methods).

Some key questions should be listed in planning:

- 1). What kinds of things do you want the students to learn?
- 2). What are your main instructional objectives?
- 3). What are the most appropriate methods?
- 4). How should the teaching and learning be evaluated?

Good lesson planning is the art of mixing methods, activities and resources in the way that an ideal balance is created for the class. Since there are individual differences, the knowledgeable teacher should seek ways and strategies that may meet different needs of the learners.

Lesson plan make the teaching easier. It is the guidance of teaching from the very beginning until the end of teaching. "Lesson plans also provide records that allow good, reflective teachers to go back, analyze their own teaching (what went well, what didn't), and then improve it in the future" [4]. It helps the teacher conduct her lesson in an orderly manner and it allows students to know what they are going to learn.

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