

## THE IMPORTANCE OF SPEAKING IN LEARNING AND TEACHING LANGUAGES

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**Abstract.** This article gives information about skills in languages emphasizing the role of speaking and writing skills in languages, especially in English language, which are considered very actual in the modern world.

**Key words.** Speaking, writing, speech.

In this globalization era, there have been drastic changes taking place all over the world. These tremendous vicissitudes occur when people have a strong desire to achieve something. People's desires are fulfilled when they clearly express their ideas and opinions with others. Thus, they need to learn communication skills in order to fulfill their ambitions, desires, and goals. In this modern world, communication skills play a vital role and one must have mastery over these skills to get success in their respective fields. So, speaking is the most important skill among all the four language skills in order to communicate well in this global world. As English is widely used all over the world, there is a need for learners to acquire the communication skills of it to get success in their respective fields. Thus, the classroom is the ideal platform to acquire good communication skills, especially, speaking skills. The teachers have to understand the problems of the ELLs (English language learners) and try to implement various teaching strategies in their classrooms in order to develop their learners' speaking skills in English classrooms. This is possible for the teachers when they change their methods and materials and by using the latest techniques of teaching speaking skills. Therefore, the teachers should introduce some group and pair activities in their regular English classrooms that the ELLs can develop their speaking skills enormously. This paper sheds

light on the importance of speaking skills in English classrooms. First of all, this paper discloses the significance of the basic language skills of English. Later, this paper also explains the importance of speaking skills in English classrooms in a comprehensive way. It also explains the need to teach speaking skills. Then the kinds of speaking situations and the main advantages of speaking skills are explained elaborately. Furthermore, this paper also supplies several techniques to develop speaking skills among the EFL/ESL learners in the English classrooms. Finally, this paper suggests some useful tips for the teachers to introduce various activities that involve the ELLs more on practicing their speaking skills in English classrooms. Moreover, it also suggests the ELLs improve their speaking skills as these are very useful for them to build their future career in a perfect way.

In these modern days, the whole world has become a global village and people communicate with each other in a common language, i.e. English. The English language is spoken all over the world and it has attained the status of the global language. English is the language widely used in the field of scientific research, education, business, the internet, travel and tourism, media and newspapers, software, medicine, engineering, information and technology, entertainment, banking and so on. English is the language that is used mostly for business correspondence and internet purposes. It is the only major language used in writing scientific research articles as more than 85% of the research publications are in English. It is the international language used for trade and commerce. Even in the IT field also, most of the programmes are written in English and even they communicate with their colleagues or other software professionals those who work around the world in English. Furthermore, most of the books related to higher education are published in English. Due to several advantages of English, many people are learning the English language to attain fruitful results in their respective fields. Listening and reading are considered to be passive or receptive skills as the learners do not show their talent in exhibiting these skills. They just listen to the language or read it without producing anything. Whereas, the learners have to produce sentences on their own and they need a lot of practice and learn many things related to grammar, vocabulary, sentence

structure and usage. Therefore, speaking and writing are considered to be active or productive skills.

In the present global world, communication plays a vital role in getting success in all fields. Language is used as a tool for communication. Perfect communication is not possible for people without using a language. Moreover, people cannot achieve their aims, objectives, and goals without using proper language to communicate. Therefore, there is a need for a language to communicate with others those who live all around the globe. As English is considered the international language and it is spoken all over the world, it serves the purpose of communicating with the people who live in different regions, states, countries, and continents of the world. Speaking skill is the most important skill to acquire foreign or second language learning. Among the four key language skills, speaking is deemed to be the most important skill in learning a foreign or second language. Brown and Yuke (1983) say, “Speaking is the skill that the students will be judged upon most in real life situations”. Regardless of its importance, teaching speaking skills have been undervalued and most of the EFL/ESL teachers have been continuing their teaching of speaking skills just as memorization of dialogues or repetition of drills. Nevertheless, the modern world demands for the requirement of communication skills for the learners and the English teachers have to teach the ELLs the needed skills so that they will improve their abilities in speaking and perform well in real-life situations. In the present EFL/ESL teaching environment, oral skills are completely neglected whereas employability depends more on communication than technology. As very less priority has been given to the important elements of language such as phonological, morphological, semantic and syntactic aspects, it has become a major impediment for the ELLs to acquire the speaking skills among the learners of English. So far, more concentration has been given to reading and writing skills. After realizing the importance of oral communication skills, more emphasis is now laid on developing the speaking skills of the learners to pursue their studies successfully and excel in their fields once they finish their education. Moreover, English is the language of getting opportunities for employment and getting success to achieve the desired goals in life.

Among the four basic skills of the English language, speaking seems to be difficult because the speakers have to produce sentences on the spur of the moment. It is quite difficult for foreign or second language learners to produce sentences without learning the grammatical structures and having proper knowledge of adequate vocabulary. Therefore, the English language learners of EFL/ESL face many problems in speaking grammatical sentences in English. Since speaking skills play a dominant role in communication, people try to learn these skills in order to communicate well with the entire community all around the world. Moreover, these speaking skills are also useful for learners when they have to settle down well in their professions. In the modern world, it has become quite common to prove the candidates' talents at the time of their job interviews and many of the selections are based on the performance of the interview. The job aspirants have to participate and prove themselves in debates and group discussions where the performance or oral communication skills of the candidates are primarily measured. Besides, the professionals have to give oral presentations as they have to promote the products or their companies or give training to the other colleagues. Furthermore, an effective speaker can inspire the audience a lot and gain the complete attention of the audience and maintain the same tempo until the end of his/her speech. So the audience involves completely in the speaker's speech and they sometimes forget the real world and put their complete concentration on the speech. So, speaking skills play a vital role as everything depends on the way how people communicate their messages with others. Speaking skills are the most essential skills for all the learners who wish to learn English to enhance their career, improve business, build confidence levels, get better job opportunities, make public speeches, attend interviews, participate in debates and group discussions, give presentations and so on. In the present modern world, everything is linked with speaking skills. One who has good talent in speaking can conquer the whole world. Having good communication is the passport to get better employment opportunities. In the modern interviews, the real talent of the job aspirants is tested through their performance in group discussions, debates, presentation skills and so on. Therefore, job seekers have to acquire good oral communication skills in order to grab better opportunities. Once the learners practice these speaking skills in their EFL/ESL

classrooms, they get the mastery of these skills and perform well in the activities in and outside their classrooms. Let us discuss the purpose of teaching speaking skills in English classrooms.

Speaking skills are the most important skills for ELLs as they are very useful for them in exhibiting their communication skills for various purposes. Hence, the teachers have to take a special interest in improving the speaking skills of the ELLS. For this purpose, the teachers have to refer to the latest material related to and try to adopt several techniques and approaches to develop the speaking skills of the learners in the English classrooms. The teachers should also choose appropriate material suitable for the level of the learners. Moreover, the teachers should encourage the learners to participate in the classroom discussions where the learners improve their speaking skills tremendously. Also, the learners have to create situations themselves to speak not only in the classroom but also outside the classroom. Furthermore, the learners have to follow the instructions of their teachers in improving their speaking skills. Since the tips given by the teachers benefit the learners, they have to implement them sincerely to communicate well at all circumstances. Therefore, the EFL/ESL teachers have to implement different strategies and techniques in their teaching in order to make their learners proficient in their speaking skills. In this regard, the ELLs have to put their whole efforts to practice speaking skills and allot more time to such activities in order to prove themselves in the contemporary world.

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