

## APPROACHES TO LANGUAGE AND CULTURE TEACHING

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### ABSTRACT

This article discusses the importance of integrating cultural study into language classroom. Implementing the intercultural approach provides ESP learners with the opportunity to learn other nations closely. In order to function successfully in a culturally diverse environment, our learners need to develop intercultural communicative competence.

**KEYWORDS:-** Globalization, Culture, Foreign Language, Represent, Misunderstanding, National Values, Teaching, Integrating.

### INTRODUCTION

With the advent of globalization today, nations are becoming closer and closer across the globe. The reason of learning language and culture has been questioned a lot recently, and it is interesting to know why culture teaching is matter today? Many educators understand that cultural knowledge and insight is necessary to use a foreign language well, that language learning can lead to meaningful intercultural experiences, and there is a need for greater intercultural understanding in a

world market by increasing conflict and division. Putting this insight into practice, however, can be challenging. It is easy to get the impression that something is missing from foreign language pedagogy—that we need cultural learning goals in addition to language learning goals. From this perspective, cultural learning represents a new dimension of learning to incorporate, a new set of skills to be practiced, or a new form of understanding to focus on.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Learning about different cultures helps us approach languages with new insight. It allows us to delve deeper into the meaning of various words and phrases helps us feel more connected to each other. Unless they understand the culture of learnt language fully learners cannot achieve success, as if they will never fully understand a culture until they've immersed themselves in a study of their language. In other words, to learn a language well requires knowing something about the culture of that language. Otherwise, during the conversation with foreigner, learners may not find appropriate cultural content and it may lead to humorous incidents, serious misunderstandings and other worse situations. As Alptekin said, it is obvious, that in order to function successfully in a culturally diverse environment, our learners need to develop intercultural communicative competence. By learning a language, a learner develop language skills in addition to this a culturally competent learner must possess sociolinguistic, pragmatic, socio-cultural

competences and intercultural awareness. To form such learners, English language teachers need to integrate language teaching with teaching cultural aspects during their lessons by using authentic and modern materials.

### Implementing the intercultural approach

Before implementing the intercultural approach, every teacher should conduct the survey to analyze his/her learners' needs, interests and language level so that he/she can teach according to learners' language preferences. It is very possible that not all students will be eager to learn about foreign cultures. And there occurs the most challenging part of teaching foreign cultures and here teachers need to convince these students that intercultural aspects are indispensable elements of today's education. The teacher may give examples of real-life situations where the lack of intercultural awareness led to embarrassing, funny or dangerous situations.

While choosing materials teachers should take into considerations that texts or activities should be interesting and updated. Teachers

should lead their lessons in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. Teachers should focus on how to keep their students interested, involved and responsible during their lessons. It is difficult for teachers to implement intercultural approach, as it demands hard work, time and patient and possessing intercultural knowledge as well.

The process may face many different problems like mistreating cultures, misunderstanding and stereotyped views. The teacher must help students fully understand and respect other nations as there can be different sets of behaviors, beliefs and values and of course, students do not have to accept inhuman attitudes towards animals or other inhuman activities. Here a teacher plays a vital role to explain that understanding and knowing different cultures are very essential for successful cross-culture cooperation (Shaules, 2019).

Another important point is the age of learners. It is easy to teach adult learners as they have knowledge about their own culture and passion learning other cultures. They have

already understood the need of intercultural communication since they are preparing to study or work in abroad. To overcome the culture shock learners need to learn a certain nation's cultural values, norms of behavior and religious views. For children it will be too difficult to understand. Teaching these younger age groups will be very challenging for EFL teachers. However, to design intercultural lesson plans can be interesting and fun, if teachers choose different activities according to the age of their learners. To implement the intercultural approach in EFL classrooms teachers can do following steps:

### **1. Teaching students' own culture.**

- Students will look at their native culture at the different point of view. Using various graphic organizers, discussion and presentations are useful activities. They will observe their culture as one of the world's cultural heritage. Students will work in teams and do research and observations, they will compare other cultures. They may watch videos and read magazines.

### **2. Introducing cultures of English-**

### **speaking countries.**

- For the beginning, teachers can begin with either UK or U.S culture. Later they may learn cultures of other English - speaking countries. Using English language textbooks, authentic materials, YouTube videos and discussions will be beneficial. Teachers can use novels, short stories or dialogues in their lessons. They will discuss the given material and compare their culture with other culture. Materials taken from newspapers, Internet and social media also can be a good resource for teaching culture as they represent real-life situations. Students will have a chance to learn verbal and non-verbal communication with foreigners. Singing song, learning poems and role-plays are handy in this case.

### **3. Expanding cultural knowledge about world cultures.**

- Having studied the native and target language cultures, students have already known how to observe different cultural aspects of other countries. Teachers can bring texts of different cultures and ask students to find similarities and differences. By dividing,

the whole group into small groups, teachers manage to inform the whole class with new information. Bringing realia such as foodstuffs, musical instruments, jewelry, and clothes teachers can explain the importance of the objects brought into the classroom. Teacher can ask students create their own personal stories for these objects. At the end of the term students can do project work. Teachers should prepare the topics for each group and ask students to do Internet or library research. The project work is very useful all types of learners. By doing their presentations learners develop their critical thinking, creativity and problem-solving skills.

### **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, I would like to say that a language learner must develop language skills and cultural awareness in order to become culturally competent in intercultural relations. As being English language teachers, we need to integrate language teaching with teaching cultural aspects during the lessons by using authentic and modern materials.

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