

## INFORMATIVE LANGUAGE TEACHING: AN INTRODUCTION

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### Abstract

Communicative activities allow the student to focus and participate in activities that impact their effectiveness in communication. Students should have proper awareness which is the starting point of giving us wisdom and courage. Poor listening is the key to misunderstanding and the role of a teacher is to educate the student to be a good listener. The demand for appropriate teaching methodology is strongly required. The most of the teachers of English feel that to teach the communicative language to engineers or professional they must be taught English grammar. But there are teachers who feel that the grammar is no longer important in language teaching. Teaching English to engineers is quite a challenging job. It capitalizes on the interests and needs of the learner, where communicating information have taken a new considerable ground. CLT can play an important role in education. Learning a language means being able to express one's views fluently and accurately. Children first learn to listen and speak. Therefore children should be taught to listen first as listening paves the way for speaking. This paper introduces communicative language teaching, its objectives, and practices.

Keywords: communicative language teaching, activities, fluency, objectives, listening skills, communicative activities.

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The globalization has created a huge demand for communication skills in English. Further, this promoted quality English teaching around the world. Today, people want to learn English, those who know it wants to improve their command of English. If they feel that they are not well versed in English, they want to ensure that their children must have a good command of English. There are open opportunities to learn English in many different ways such as the internet and the media. The worldwide demand for English has enhanced the demand for quality language teaching but the number of quality English teachers are still insufficient. The number of teachers, students and institutes have increased but the quality is not of that level as it must be. Even the English teachers don't have that high level of accuracy and fluency. There is a huge demand for English teachers around the world but, employers are not insisting on good communication skills command over vocabulary and fluency in English.

Fluency means the ability to speak the language easily and accurately. Learning the basics of a new language is quite challenging, but mastering the fluency of a new language is difficult. It is, however, possible to develop fluency in a language that is not our native language with little practice determination, hard work, and learning. To achieve the required fluency and mastery on English language one has to possess the following qualities. You should be comfortable with English by taking classes from a qualified teacher. Get a good translation dictionary from English to the native language. Expand your vocabulary. Watch movies, documentaries and other material from the television or from the internet. Try to listen as much as you can over the radio or other media. Find an English learning buddy and start speaking to him/her in English thereby practice together makes more comfortable. Don't translate. Study irregular verbs. Learn and study phrases. By doing the above-mentioned things one can really improve their command over the English language and fluency. Fluency in English is like a passport for success and advancement in many academics and professional fields of today's job market. The demand for appropriate teaching methodology is strongly required. The most of the teachers of English feel that to teach the communicative language to engineers or professional they must be taught English grammar. But there are teachers who feel that the grammar is no longer important in language teaching. Teaching English to engineers is quite a challenging job. There are some fellow teachers who feel that English is an easy subject or sometimes they underestimate both the subject and subject teachers. But perhaps they are mistaken here.

Learning a language means learning how to understand and speak it. This is because only a minority of the world's languages is written. A child can write language normally when he is able to speak it. Almost all the children learn to speak their first language well before they go to school. They learn it by listening and interacting with the parents and siblings. In the words of Holliday, we use language to:  
get things,

to control behavior,  
to create interaction with others,  
to express personal feelings,  
to learn, to create a world of imagination,  
to communicate information.

Then what should one do to become a good speaker of English? The following are some of the suggestions to students of ESL to attain the language.

- \* One must have a good knowledge of grammar.
- \* Should have confidence and excellence in pronunciation.
- \* Should possess good knowledge of English and be a good listener
- \* Good writing and reading skills. Communication skills. Fluency of speaking English.
- \* No fear in speaking English. Should not hesitate in speaking English.
- \* Should have good listening skills.

A successful communication conveys something to someone. It needs a communicator, listener an idea to convey. If somebody has information he needs some medium to convey the message. If communicator chooses the wrong medium to convey the message the listener can't make any sense. Hence the basic purpose of communication is not fulfilled. Perhaps the majority of language teachers today feel that it is a herculean task to teach communication skills to the students. The teachers employ different methodology in their classroom to develop the skills and abilities for communicating successfully. The effective communication has to be the sole aim of any course in speaking. Communicative language can be taught effectively by developing communicative competence and grammatical competence in students. Grammatical competence means knowledge of a language i.e. ability to frame sentences in a language. It means to have knowledge of tenses and sentence patterns. Grammatical competence is an important component of language learning but it is not necessary that one who masters the rule of grammar or sentence formation in a language can be a successful and meaningful communicator or speaker. To express one's thought or views one needs communicative competence.

Communicative competence means to know how to use language for various purposes and functions, use language according to the situation when to use formal and informal speech. CLT is understood as a set of principles and goals of language teaching. It is about how learners learn the language, classroom activities, facilities of learning, and roles of the teacher in the classroom. Communicative language teaching makes use of real-life situations that make communication. Here the teacher sets up a situation to the students some of the objectives headed by communication through conversation, reading, listening and writing. The teacher asks the students to expound some opinions, information, notions of social, cultural, political, sports and other aspects of everyday life. Sometimes the teacher expects a

surprised, smile, nervous movement, frozen and angry faces from the student as well. But it is required that the teacher should properly motivate, encourage, strengthen and uplift the student's spirits in these situations. The method of teaching includes the practice of conversations with classmates, in pairs, repetition of sentences, drills, activities etc. Berns suggests that "language is interaction; it is an interpersonal activity and has a clear relationship with society." (Berns 1984: 5)

Some of the objectives of communicative activities

The success of a communicative activity will be determined by the extent to which learners are dependent on the teacher.

Tasks should be made in a manner that learners gain individuality and independence while learning.

Teacher's role is to give clear and to the point instructions.

The teacher should provide the appropriate environment for learners to interact and exchange information.

Activities should be focused on the multi-dimensional nature of language.

Communicative activities examples

Information gap: this activity involves two or more participants. Each student has some information.

Letter writing: learners may be asked to write a letter, example- seeking loan, permission, and information of any kind.

Note taking: students are involved in a listening activity in which they have to take notes, example- write a report.

Communicative Language Teaching Merits

CLT is a holistic approach. It capitalizes on the interests and needs of the learner, where communicating information have taken a new considerable ground. CLT can play an important role in education. Learning a language means being able to express one's views fluently and accurately. Children first learn to listen and speak. Therefore children should be taught to listen first as listening paves the way for speaking. The good principal of such teaching is not to force the pupil to speak before he is ready for it. On the positive side, adequate practice must be provided in the making of sounds (vowels and consonants) and patterns of stress, rhythm, and intonation. Equally important is providing varied opportunities for listing purposefully to the flow of speech.

Conclusion

Communicative language teaching was developed by teachers and applied linguists in 1970s, and has passed through many different phrases. In the beginning, the primary concern of the

teacher was to develop a syllabus and teaching approach that was easy for the student to learn the language. It also focuses on communicative activities that promote language learning. Later methodologists developed some activities that could be used in the classroom such as group work, task work, information, planning, suggestions, task-based activities, role play etc. The teacher uses real-life situations to start communication. They also encourage the learner to speak and listen to the other learners. Learners find and exchange information through activities. Today CLT has become one of the principles of teaching language to the students. In addition, it has influenced many other languages that apply teaching approaches to the students.

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