

THE IMPORTANCE OF MACRO SKILLS IN LEARNING LANGUAGE

P.J.Chinnappa

Assistant.Professor of English, Dept of A S&H

Sri Mittapalli College of Engineering,

Tummalapalem, Guntur Dist, Andhra Pradesh.India,

Abstract:

In the globalized world using the English language plays a pivotal role. English language aids as a weapon to improve a set of macro skills (LSRW) which are fundamental skills in learning the English language. The IT revolution and globalization of business brought communicating in English to the forefront of academia and industry, with the whole world becoming a global market. A learner who gets a lot of proactive in listening becomes good in the spoken aspect of the language. As speaking and listening are inter-related so are oral-aural skills, the speaking abilities of a learner depend considerably upon his listening ability. Writing is the last of the four language skills which follow listening, speaking and reading. Writing is the communication of ideas in a written form. It is a productive skill involving manipulating structuring and communicating. Success in the highly competitive environment of today will depend not just on one's professional knowledge and the four skills (LSRW) should be developed in a balanced and integrated way so that they are well co-ordinated and each helping to improve the other. Then learner can understand and enjoy the four macro skill of language. This paper aims to pinpoint the relevant role of macro skills, means make the learner develop skills in all four dimensions of communications, namely – listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Keywords: listening skill, speaking skill, reading skill and writing skill

Introduction:

The IT revolution and globalization of business brought communicating in English to the forefront of academia and industry, with the whole world becoming a global market. Professionals and technocrats are facing new challenges in communication every day. Success in the competitive environment depends not just on acquiring a little knowledge in the language but it also badly focuses on obtaining the four language skills (LSRW)

I. Listening skill:

"Listening is an important communicative process and is critical to effective communication" because unless you are a good listener, you cannot be a good speaker. It also involves recognizing what is said and in comprehending the matter that understands the main and subsidiary points as well as the links between the different parts of speech. This means that effective listening involves not only identifying unit boundaries phonologically, but also the recognition of false starts, pauses, hesitations, and stress, intonation, and rhyme patterns.

There are two types of listening:

- a. Intensive listening: Intensive listening involves listening to the radio and T.V programmes, discussions, lectures conversations, speeches, seminars, debates etc. Listening is purposive like listening to the teacher's instructions in the classroom. With the help of intensive listening, one gets to learn vocabulary, word order, and standard pronunciation.
- b. Extensive listening: Extensive listening involves enjoyment not purposeful, but general. The activity of listening reflects on the following skill, speaking. One in listens carefully so that one would be able to learn to speak and also understand what is being spoken.

Listening is a unique skill and ability that enables us to experience a language and develop in many areas like emotional, psychological, intellectual and social. It develops a learner's concentration and attention hence enables a systematic listening passing way for systematic speaking.

II. Speaking skills:

We say, "Language is a means of communication. English is increasingly used in science and technology, education, politics, travel, and media. English is perceived to become a global language with many countries switching over to English for their trade and commerce. In fact, it is helping Indians to improve their business, education, bilateral relations with other countries and employment opportunities.

A learner who gets a lot of proactive in listening becomes good in the spoken aspect of the language. As speaking and listening are inter-related so are oral-aural

skills, the speaking abilities of a learner depend considerably upon his listening ability. The person who speaks has to express his ideas so that the listener may be able to listen and understand, what was said. Speaking which is oral communication is largely dependent on various audio-lingual activities like - personal, social and mass communications

Speaking skill consists of two main sub-skills

1. Linguistic skills: It consists of phonology or the sound system. That includes pronunciation of sound, stress, and intonation.
2. Communication skills: It includes fluency, the power of expression and thought. Fluency is the ability to express the outset spontaneously and easily.

A person who is able to speak well will be able to hold the attention of his audience and will be popular too. The speaking ability can be developed through some activities like – dramatization, dialogue conversation, role play etc.

Reading skill:

“One, who learns to read well, will later read to learn well”

. The ability to read is the foundation for growth and success. The more one reads the better inform he is reading is a torch that lights the mind. One should understand ‘how’ and ‘what’ needs to develop the reading ability by following the sub-skills one can understand the mechanics of reading. They are

Skimming: It is looking quickly over a text to get a general idea of the content as we skim through books in a book shop (or) book exhibition.

Scanning: It is looking quickly through the text searching for a specific piece of information. We scan through telephone directories, dictionaries etc. the reading is also classified as intensive and extensive.

Intensive reading: It is done when one reads anything for extracting specific information. This type of reading the readers gain detailed comprehension, textbooks are meant for intensive reading.

Extensive reading: It is done when one needs longer texts like novels or short stories for pleasure. This type of reading is done rapidly and for the general understanding. Nondetailed readers are meant for extensive readings.

III. Writing:

Writing is the last of the four language skills which follow listening, speaking and reading. Writing is the communication of ideas in a written form. It is a productive skill involving manipulating structuring and communicating.

Writing is much more than symbolization of speech, it is a purposeful selection and organization of experience, that is thoughts, facts, opinions, ideas etc.

- Writing is an important ability which aids learning as no other skill does.
- It helps to learn the motor skills of good handwriting
- To learn spelling, punctuation, use of capital letters etc
- Reinforces vocabulary and structure already mastered
- Proactive for tests and examinations
- Keep a written record of what has been learning, besides writing, is needed in everyday life to
- Conduct personal and business correspondence
- Take notes from books, newspapers, lectures etc
- Keep records and to maintain a diary
- To express our self in prose and poetry

Good writing skill should be distinctive legible and should have qualities like simplicity, uniformity, spacing, speed, and correctness.

Conclusion:

Success in the highly competitive environment of today will depend not just on one's professional knowledge and the four skills (LSRW) should be developed in a balanced and integrated way so that they are well co-ordinated and each helping to improve the other. Then learner can understand and enjoy the four macro skill of language.

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