

Effectiveness of ICT in attaining the Learning Outcomes on speaking skills

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Abstract- Experts say that kids should begin to learn a foreign language from a young age; the younger the better. “A child is born with the ability to learn any language in the world,” explains Caryn Antonini, creator of Early Lingo. Here, in bilingual scenario, pupils find difficult in speaking English as it is a language of foreign land, which in due course emerged as the inevitable language of this land for acquiring knowledge and employment. Learning Outcomes prescribed by NCERT for class VII includes various L. Os on speaking skills. There is fear factor among the children obstructing them from speaking in English. A study is carried out to find the impact of using ICT for developing speaking skills of students studying through their native language (Tamil Medium) along with students learning through English Medium. The performances of the students are evaluated by considering the following parameters viz. Vocabulary, sentence formation, relevance and fluency. The evaluation was conducted at the start and end of the project. Each parameter has 5 rating scale. Poor, fair, Good, Very good and Excellent. It is observed that there is least difference in speaking skill of Tamil Medium students with that of English Medium Students. Though there is vast gap in exposure of English is concern, English medium students had normally an upper edge over Tamil medium students in exposure to English. But using ICT in enhancing the speaking skills, filled the gap, aroused the curiosity to speak in English and showed ample improvement in speaking skill of Tamil Medium Students. ICT helps in attaining Learning Outcomes on speaking skills.

Introduction

Experts says that kids should begin to learn a foreign language from a young age; the younger the better. “A child is born with the ability to learn any language in the world,” explains Caryn Antonini, creator of Early Lingo. Here, in bilingual scenario, pupils find difficult in speaking English as it is a language of foreign land, which in due course emerged as the inevitable language of this land for acquiring knowledge and employment. There is fear factor among the children obstructing them from speaking in English. A study is carried out to find the impact of using ICT for developing speaking skills of students studying through their native language (Tamil Medium) along with students learning through English Medium.

Learning Outcomes prescribed by NCERT for class VII includes various L.Os on speaking skills as follows:

- Answers questions orally and in writing on a variety of texts.
- Participates in different activities in English such as role play, poetry recitation, skit, drama, debate, speech, elocution, declamation, quiz, etc., organised by school and other such organisations.
- Engages in conversations in English with family, friends, and people from different professions such as shopkeeper, salesperson etc. Using appropriate vocabulary.
- Responds to different kinds of instructions, requests, directions in varied contexts viz. School, bank, railway station
- Speaks about excerpts, dialogues, skits, short films, news and debate on TV and radio, audio-video programmes on suggested websites
- Asks and responds to questions based on texts (from books or other resources) and out of curiosity.

Objective of the plan

- To motivate the students to listen to English speech
- To encourage the students to speak in English
- Facilitate the students to come out of fear factor while speaking in English.
- To have a positive attitude towards speaking English. To make the students to encounter real time situations without hesitation

Aim of the research project

- Motivating the students to listen
- Encouraging the students to speak without hesitation
- Involving the students to narrate on seeing video clip.
- Recording the performances of students for reinforcement.

Reasons for choosing the project:

- Students hesitating to interact in English (both English and Tamil Medium Students)
- Better communication skill will boost the confidence.

Strategies developed for the project:

- Encouraging the students to narrate stories on seeing videos clips.
- Improving the listening skills using Audio.
- Increasing visual perception by Audio Visual aids.

- Encouraging the students to narrate on their own on watching video in mute mode.
- Recording the speeches of students for evaluation and reinforcement.

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Project site:

M.T.V.S Government High School is selected for the study. It is an urban school with 170 students from VI Std to X Std. Most of the students are from economically weaker section. This study is conducted among VII-A (English Medium) and VII-B (Tamil Medium) Students.

Sample Size

20 students from English Medium (VII-A) and 20 students from Tamil Medium (VII-B)

Listening is complementary for Speaking. Better ears compliment worthy mouth. In order to improve the listening skill, audio with different accent is played. The audio includes the speech of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Barrack Obama, Australian Cricket player Ricky Ponting, audio version of DD National news and BBC. After listening, questions were raised to evaluate the depth of listening. Some audios were repeated twice and thrice for better understanding.

The researcher showed a video of wild animal and the narration of the same, including the name of the animal, its habitat, food and characteristics. It is a model video to learn the art of speaking/ narrating the visual.

Later on, a video is shown without narration. Students are given freedom to speak whatever they think on the video. The narration of the students was recorded individually and they are given freedom to interpret the visual on their own.

The performances of the students are evaluated by considering the following parameters via. Vocabulary, sentence formation, relevance and fluency. The evaluation was conducted at the start and end of the project. Each parameter has 5 rating scale. Poor, fair, Good, Very good and Excellent.

Data analysis

Quantitative data was collected by means of the each parameter and the rating scale. Descriptive results (percentages, frequency, and mean) were used in analyzing the data.

Report of the project

1. At the start of the Project: (English Medium)

S.No	Parameter	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
1	Vocabulary	8	10	2	0	0
2	Sentence Formation	11	8	1	0	0
3	Relevance	11	8	1	0	0
4	Fluency	12	8	0	0	0

2. At the end of the Project: (English Medium)

	Parameter	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
1	Vocabulary	5	5	8	2	0
2	Sentence Formation	7	7	6	0	0
3	Relevance	6	7	6	1	0
4	Fluency	8	9	3	0	0

3. At the start of the Project: (Tamil Medium)

S.No	Parameter	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
1	Vocabulary	10	9	1	0	0
2	Sentence Formation	14	6	0	0	0
3	Relevance	15	5	0	0	0
4	Fluency	16	4	0	0	0

4. At the end of the Project: (Tamil Medium)

S.No	Parameter	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
1	Vocabulary	5	5	9	1	0
2	Sentence Formation	5	8	6	1	0
3	Relevance	5	7	7	1	0
4	Fluency	8	9	3	0	0

Findings and Discussion

Listening skill is to be made strong for improving speaking skill. Integrating ICT in developing speaking skills will benefit the students learning English through Tamil medium. The performance of English medium students increased by ICT.

Conclusion

It is observed that there is least difference in speaking skill of Tamil Medium students with that of English Medium Students. Though there is vast gap in exposure of English is concern, English medium students had normally an upper edge over Tamil medium students in exposure to English. But using ICT in enhancing the speaking skill, filled the gap, aroused the curiosity to speak in English and showed ample improvement in speaking skill of Tamil Medium Students. ICT helps in attaining Learning Outcomes on Speaking skills.

Final constructive suggestions and ideas

- Listening skill can be strengthened for improving speaking skills.
- ICT can be used for attaining Learning Outcomes with regard to Reading and Writing.

References

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