WORLD CONFERENCE ON STUDENT - CENTERED LEARNING APPROACHES

USING STORYTELLING TO IMPROVE YOUNG LEARNERS' SPEAKING SKILLS

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Abstract

This article is about the importance of storytelling in improving young learners' speaking skills. Nowadays many pupils feel shy or nervous while speaking English. Storytelling can help them speak more confidently and actively in the classroom. During my teaching practice, I observed that storytelling activities made lessons more interesting and enjoyable for pupils. This study is based on classroom observation, questionnaires, and students' speaking activities. The results showed that storytelling has a positive effect on learners' fluency, vocabulary, pronunciation, and confidence. Speaking is one of the most important skills for young learners in language learning, but many children find it difficult to express themselves confidently. This article looks at how storytelling can help improve their speaking skills in a more natural and enjoyable way. When children listen to and tell stories, they become more interested in the lesson and are more willing to speak. Activities like retelling stories, role-playing characters, and sharing their own ideas give learners more opportunities to practice speaking.

The article shows that storytelling helps children learn new words, speak more fluently, and feel more confident when using the language. It also encourages creativity and makes the classroom more interactive. Based on these ideas, storytelling can be considered a useful and effective method for developing speaking skills in young learners.

Introduction

Speaking is one of the main skills in learning English. However, many young learners have difficulties in speaking because they are afraid of making mistakes or they do not know enough vocabulary. Some students understand English but cannot express their ideas clearly while speaking.Today teachers try to use interactive and interesting methods in lessons. One of these methods is storytelling. Storytelling helps learners use English naturally and freely. It also makes lessons more enjoyable and motivates students to participate actively.I became interested in this topic during my teaching practice because I noticed that pupils enjoyed storytelling activities more than ordinary speaking exercises.



Research Context

This research was conducted during my teaching practice at school.

Institution: Namangan State Institute of Foreign Languages

Group: XTA-23-JU

School Number: 20

Grade: 5th

Number of Pupils: 16

The purpose of the research was to observe how storytelling activities influence pupils' speaking skills and classroom participation.

Research Questions

The research was based on the following questions:

.How does storytelling help young learners improve speaking skills?

.Does storytelling increase students' confidence in speaking English?

.What problems do learners face during storytelling activities?

.How can storytelling make speaking lessons more interesting?

Data Collection Tools

To collect information for the research, I used several methods:

.Teacher reflection journal

.Student questionnaires

.Students' recorded speaking samples

.Classroom observation

These tools helped me understand students' progress and participation during storytelling lessons.

The Importance of Storytelling in Speaking Lessons

Storytelling is very useful in language learning because it creates a natural speaking environment. When students listen to stories, they learn new words, pronunciation, and sentence structures more easily. After listening, they try to retell stories in their own words, which improves fluency and speaking confidence.I observed that storytelling activities helped students become more active in class. Even shy learners tried to speak and share their ideas. Visual materials and pictures also helped students understand stories better and speak more comfortably.

Storytelling improves:

Vocabulary

Pronunciation

Fluency

Confidence

Creativity

It also develops learners' imagination and communication skills.

My Own Observation

Through this research, I understood that storytelling is not only an entertaining activity but also an effective teaching method. During the lessons, students became more interested and motivated. They participated actively and were less afraid of making mistakes.I noticed that role plays, picture-based storytelling, and story retelling activities were especially effective. Some learners who usually stayed quiet during lessons also started speaking more.Of course, there were some difficulties such as limited vocabulary and different speaking levels among students. However, storytelling still created a friendly and positive classroom atmosphere



Discussion

The results of the research showed that storytelling had a positive effect on learners' speaking skills. Most students improved their fluency and pronunciation after regular storytelling activities. They also used more vocabulary while speaking.

Questionnaires and classroom observations showed that students enjoyed storytelling lessons because they were more interactive and less stressful than traditional speaking tasks.

The findings proved that storytelling can make English lessons more effective, enjoyable, and student-centered.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this research showed that storytelling is a very useful and effective method for improving young learners' speaking skills in English lessons. During my teaching practice, I observed that students became more active, interested, and confident while participating in storytelling activities. Compared to traditional speaking exercises, storytelling created a more comfortable and friendly classroom atmosphere where learners were not afraid of making mistakes.The research findings also proved that storytelling helps learners improve several important aspects of speaking such as vocabulary, pronunciation, fluency, and self-expression. Through listening to stories, retelling them, and participating in role plays, students had more opportunities to practice speaking naturally. Even shy learners tried to communicate more actively during storytelling lessons.Another important point is that storytelling increased students' motivation and classroom participation. Visual materials, pictures, and interactive tasks made the lessons more enjoyable and interesting for pupils. As a result, students paid more attention and became more engaged in the learning process Of course, there were some challenges during the research process, such as different language levels among students and limited vocabulary. However, these difficulties did not reduce the effectiveness of storytelling activities. With teacher support and

simple storytelling techniques, learners were able to participate successfully.Based on my own observation and teaching experience, I can say that storytelling should be used more often in English language classrooms, especially with young learners. It not only develops speaking skills but also improves creativity, imagination, communication, and confidence. Therefore, storytelling can be considered one of the most practical and motivating methods in teaching English to young learners.

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