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Role of English Literature in Enhancing Communication Skills

Dr. Sapana Pandey[1]
[1]Prof. English, Govt. Girls P.G. College, Bindki, Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh

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Abstract

Communication is an interactive process between speaker and listener. As teachers are persistently imparting new knowledge or transmitting information so there is a strong linkage between 'teaching' and 'communication'. Teaching is not just delivering lectures. A teacher should set the track right for the learners through productive environment. English Language Teaching is of utmost importance in sweeping changes brought by the intervention of multinational companies. Literature plays a significant role in the development of one's language and in strengthening the communication skills of the learners. Being a facilitator, a teacher should motivate the students to personalize the concerned text of Literature. Only a devoted effort will enable the students to be the responsible citizens of future and this moral objective must be enhanced for achieving pre-determined destination.

Key words: Communication, interactive, facilitator, destination etc.

Introduction

English literature plays a significant role in enhancing communication skills by developing an individual's ability to express thoughts, ideas, emotions, and opinions effectively. It provides a rich source of language learning through poetry, prose, drama, novels, short stories, and other literary forms. The study of literature not only improves vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, and sentence formation but also develops critical thinking, creativity, imagination, and analytical abilities. By reading different literary texts, learners become familiar with diverse styles of expression, cultural backgrounds, social values, and human experiences, which help them communicate confidently and meaningfully.

Furthermore, literature encourages students to participate in discussions, debates, presentations, role-playing activities, and group interactions, thereby improving their speaking and listening abilities. Reading literary works enhances comprehension and interpretation skills, while writing reviews, essays, and critical analyses strengthens written communication. Drama and dialogues provide practical opportunities to understand conversational language, tone, gestures, and non-verbal communication. Literature also promotes empathy, emotional intelligence, and intercultural understanding, enabling individuals to communicate respectfully with people from different social and cultural backgrounds.

In the contemporary globalized world, effective communication is essential for academic achievement, professional development, and social interaction. English literature serves as an effective medium for developing linguistic competence as well as communicative confidence. Therefore, the integration of English literature into language education can contribute significantly to the holistic development of communication skills and prepare learners to face the challenges of modern academic, professional, and social life.

Communication is an interactive process between speaker and listener. At personal as well as at professional level, its importance can't be underestimated. Oxford Dictionary defines communication as "the act of imparting especially news or "the science and practice of transmitting information". As teachers are persistently imparting new knowledge or transmitting information, so there is a strong linkage between 'teaching' and 'communication'. Teaching is not just delivering lectures. It leads to overall development of the

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entire personality of students specifically, the emotional, imaginative, intellectual, aesthetic and intuitive sides. It is the moral responsibility of the teacher to set the track right for the learners by creating an environment that is conducive for learning. However, in Modern Technical era, English is the only Lingua- franca for the entire universe but the students and teachers face a number of problems related to the study and teaching of the language. English Language Teaching is of utmost importance in sweeping changes brought by the intervention of multinational companies. Literature plays a significant role in the development of one's language. One's language can be improved by strengthening all the four skills ie; listening, speaking, reading and writing. Literature not only helps one to gain knowledge but also to learn the language skillfully. As it has been said, "good leaning need no push". Even in this universe of technology and knowledge revolution, literature should be welcomed as a pleasant route to learn language.

Literature encompasses varied vicissitudes of life, multifarious perspectives, a vast panorama of views and contributes mainly for the growth of man's mind. It makes us aware of:

1. The psychological stress of human mind
2. The philosophy of the universe
3. The existing reality of life
4. The inborn goodness of man
5. The historical truth of life

Dr. Johnson rightly says "Literature has imagination, truth, fancy and reason." Literature makes even dumb people speak. Really, Drama, Prose, Poetry and Fiction all contribute in strengthening communication skills. In Plays, characters' verbal and non-verbal expression improves voice projection and also listening skill. Rehearsal of dialogues improve articulation, volume control and pronunciation. Acting needs intentional use of facial expressions, gestures, body language and all these help in strengthening communication skills. Performers listen carefully to their partners to respond naturally, thus sharpening listening skill.

However, Play assists students in exploring their imaginative universe to understand relationships and practice communication in such decorative ways, that are beneficial to them. For example, when students pretend to be a doctor, a superhero - they automatically begin to use more complex sentence structures. Dramas bring self confidence in the students as they trust their own views. Strong co-operational and social bond that is the need of hour is also developed. Plays foster teamwork, encourages empathy and creative activities. Overall, drama creates such a healthy environment where communication skills-both verbal and non verbals are practiced, refined and integrated. Here lies the moral responsibility of a Teacher. A teacher should create such a healthy environment where students can express freely without any pressure. A teacher should be a minute observer of each and every activity and should understand the psychology of learner and guide him/her optimistically in order to obtain desired destination.

Besides Plays, Novels also play important roles in the expansion of vocabulary, building empathy and at the same time students as well as readers are aware of different social settings, their culture etc. Innovative words, common and easy sentence structures and clear dialogues help the readers to express their thoughts explicitly. Novelists like Jane Austen and George Eliot provide deep studies in domestic matter, social behaviour, humble conversation and sharp verbal intelligence.

In "Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austen, communication skills are strengthened through the use of language devices as a means of communication among the characters in the story. In the novel, Darcy's letter to Elizabeth gives a vivid presentation of important events of the novel. Learners through the activities of the

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characters are themselves involved actively in all the incidents resulting in improving verbal and non-verbal communication skills. A proper understanding on the hidden meanings, literary genres depicts characters' intentions and attitudes and thereby creating some sort of communication between the writers or readers.

Besides Play and Novel, Prose also helps in strengthening communication skills by refining sentence structure and expanding vocabulary. Through the invention of new words and multiple ways to express complex emotions or ideas, the communication skills are developed. Prose teaches very beautifully the organization of arguments, transition of ideas, Emotional intelligence and active listening skills. Prose improves contextual learning. Persistent reading of prose trains students' mind to recognize correct sentence structures, syntax and punctuation. Presentation on any topic, reports, emails are all forms of prose.

Really, the main purpose of teaching English prose is for language as well as for literary development. A teacher should enable students to understand the ideas properly to get the exact sense, to enrich their vocabulary, to develop their passion for reading and of course to write the content perfectly. Moreover, to develop students' imaginative spectra and love for natural objects should be one of the noble goals of reading prose. A teacher should do Pronunciation Drill. A teacher should give the opportunity to students for silent reading. Home Assignments should be given to retain learning. Such type of questions should be given-

a) Make a list of words associated with a particular topic.
b) Use the new words in their sentences.
c) Some project work may also be given.

Besides Drama, Novel and Prose, poetry is the most powerful medium in developing all the four Communication skills ie, listening, speaking, reading and writing. Poetry improves mental health and has the power of healing. It reduces stress, depression and post traumatic stress symptoms. Poetry serves as a model for teaching skills of language such as reading and writing. It helps people in understanding the cultural values. Vocabulary, sentence formation, fluency, syntax and creative skills are promoted when poetry is read aloud. It is truly said that poetry is the soul of literature. It helps in awakening the emotions, feelings and thoughts. The aesthetic sense of the students find expression at the time of reading poetry.

Moreover, A teacher should promote practical activities in poetry classrooms. A student should participate actively in the classroom. English poetry classrooms should be very active. A teacher should not deliver lectures but should try to make his/her class lively, energetic and interesting through various modes.

Moreover, instead of dull and boring style of sitting arrangements, students should feel free in sitting. A teacher in the very starting of the poem should create interest in the mind and heart of the students for the poem they are going to read. Their imagination must be given new feathers through which students may fly high. A teacher should read the poem with proper rhythm and pause. This tendency will develop listening skill. Incorporating literature in language classrooms can make the students feel lively and motivating.

Teaching poetry makes the students learn diction, figurative language and style. Another appreciating feature is that it promotes creativity in students. Poetry is such powerful medium through which language proficiency is developed. Through various types of activities, a teacher can get success in achieving pre-determined objectives.

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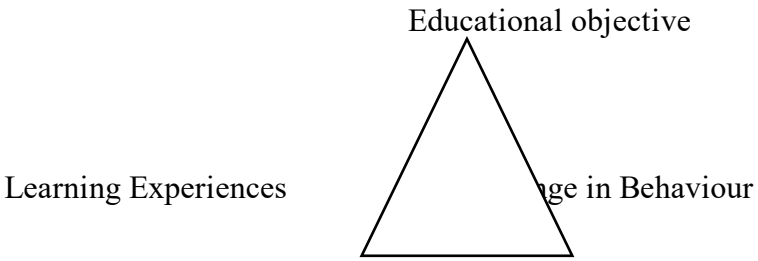
Classroom Activities should be based on these

1-



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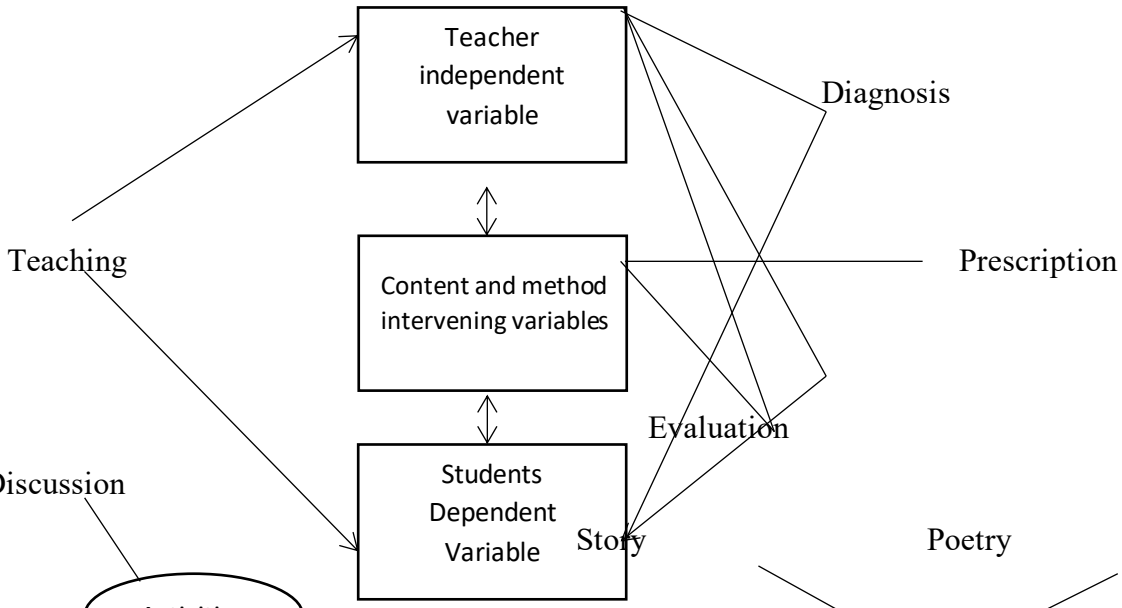

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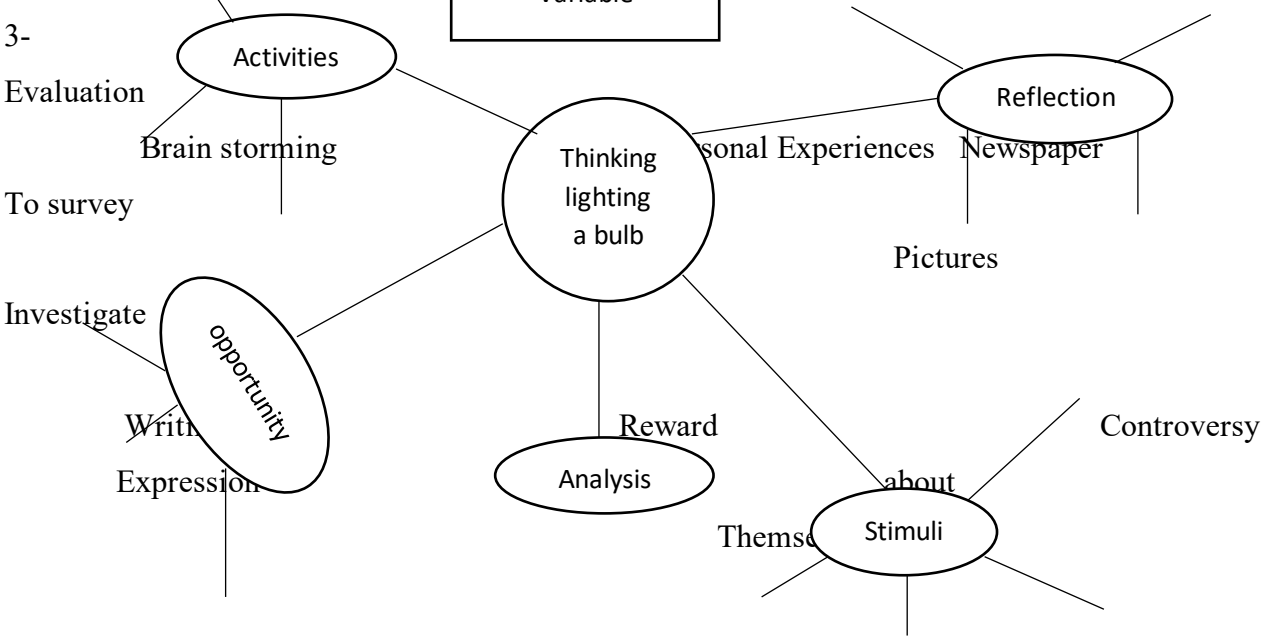

To sum up, it may be stated that Literature plays a vital role in strengthening the Communication Skills of the learners. It is the vast arena with all possible and plausible communication in the present global universe. Through Literature, critical thinking, analysis and writing all the skills are developed. Study of Literature builds thinking skills that are native to the subject but applicable outside the subject also. Being a facilitator, a teacher should motivate the students to personalize the concerned text of Literature. Only a devoted effort

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will enable the students to be the responsible citizens of future while enhancing their critical skills to communicate with impressive effect and to be innovative and creative human being in such a dynamic global universe.

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