



FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING IN THE GLOBAL WORLD

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Abstract

In this paper we try to show the importance of foreign language teaching in this globalized world and to show the importance of foreign language in people's daily life. Actually, these days there is no denying the fact that, the knowledge of foreign language is important in many aspects of life. In fact, our world became a kind of global world, which is one of the important factors that must be considered in the development of foreign language teaching and learning. As well known, this new world has many political, cultural, scientific social developments according to the globalization. In order to be involved in all these innovations people have to start getting knowledge of foreign language. Other way this communication will be impossible. Language is so integral to every aspect of our life that understanding it is not only instantaneous communication but also is accepting and acting on the reality of our environment.

Keywords: Foreign Language, Global world, Students, Culture, Communication, Teacher.

1. Introduction

Firstly, we would like to have a mention shortly about the language as we are going to present the foreign language teaching. Actually, a language makes human society possible. It holds a very important place in human life. Without language society and culture would no be existed. It provides the interaction and communication between the individuals and the groups. We live in the global world nowadays. Because of the changes over the world, everything is changing as well. Therefore, the language is changing continually. Language attitudes are changing all the time, and more and more people are discovering to their great delight. First, we can just summarize the meaning of the global world. So, term of the globalization is not new today for thousands of years, people in corporations have been buying and selling to each other in lands at great distances.

The people of the world are unified into a single society and function together by a process. It is a combination of economic, technological, sociocultural and political forces. Globalization is often used to refer to economic globalization, that is, integration of national economies into the international economy through trade, foreign direct investment, capital flows, migration, and the spread of technology. Graham identifies globalization in this way: "A set of processes by which the world is rapidly being integrated into one economic space via increased international trade, the internationalization of production and financial markets, the internationalization of a commodity culture promoted by an increasingly networked global telecommunications system." (Cited in Stromquist, Mankman, 2000, p.4).

1.Global world

The profound forces of globalization are influencing all aspects of our life such as our jobs, our culture, and our relationships with one another. This process has effects on the environment, on culture, on political systems, on economic development and prosperity, and on

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human physical well-being in societies around the world. It has a very big impact over the education system today. Actually, the force of the globalization transforms all aspects of our modern life such as culture, jobs, and relationships with one another. Bloom states that the globalization brings opportunities for education particularly that the new technologies can improve both quantity and quality of the education worldwide. Therefore, in this paper we are going to discuss the methods and techniques, which are applied in the foreign language education nowadays in the global world. It is not surprisingly that there is a big inseparable connection between English and globalization as English today is called as an International language, Worlds English or Global English. Today in classrooms around the world, young people or adults are very involved in the language learning.

“Study of another language allows the individual to communicate effectively and creatively and to participate in real-life situations through the language of the authentic culture itself. Learning another language provides access into a perspective other than one’s own, increases the ability to see connections across content areas, and promotes an interdisciplinary perspective while gaining intercultural understandings”(Moeller, Catalano, 2015, 327).

Starting from early age, every healthy society tries to supply their children with a good education. The interest of the study English is increased as it is well known that English language is considered as a kind of global language in the world. The majority of all resources on the internet are in English, affecting people to learn English to take full advantages of it. Above all, learning English is important for being able to exchange views and make friends with people all over the world. English has an official or special status in more than 70 countries with a total population of over two billion. Wherever we travel, we can see English signs and advertisements. When we enter to the famous hotel or a restaurant, it is usual to see nowadays-English menu and the staff can know English as well. We can say that the globalization has a great impact over economy, policy and grassroots circles but the education is at the heart of this continent. English language means a power. English is the first language of politics, business, science, sport and entertainment. Most of the medical reports nowadays are provided in English as well. Language makes human society possible. Without a language, society would not exit. *“Language provides the means of communication and interaction between individuals and between groups, and the means by which individuals and groups of individuals and groups of individuals cooperate and live together in society”* (Cornelius, 1953, 44).

When we are learning a language, we are opened to a new world. English has become a global language because it use all over the world. There is no doubt that we are living in times of great change. Changes are always present in human lives and in social groups so because of these changing language changes as well. Every social group has different attitudes and believes. Where Walsh defines a language and shows its power in this way. Language is more than a model of communication or a system composed of rules, vocabulary, and meaning; it is an active medium of social practice through which people construct, define, and struggle over meanings in dialogue with in relation to others. Nowadays the need for foreign language education is more urgent than ever. There are many purposes to learn a foreign language. Usually young people try to learn a foreign language to supply them with a better future. We can say that the global world is changing day by day and the reasons are changing as well. Fluency in another language especially English, empowers people to be stronger and active in the world. Actually, it is well known that one of the important factors in the language learning to learn to communicate. We can say that learning a foreign language is a kind of great understanding of other people and other cultures. *“Bringing a foreign language to the classroom means connecting learners to a world that a culturally different from their own”* (Sercu, 2005, 1).

Therefore, the students gain essential academic benefits from the foreign language study. They will have the opportunity to compare their own language and culture with others and participate in multilingual communities at home and around the world.

Widdowson states that: *“the traditional approach to language learning may have been valid at some time in the past, but that the world has changed in the meantime. Changing teachers’ beliefs and practices is notoriously difficult. For one reason or another, even young aspiring teachers with new ideas are domesticated very quickly into the culture of the school at which they teach. Teachers’ beliefs seem to be*



based more on their own practices and experiences as learners than on what they learned in teacher training (Bot, 2007, 275)

Hence, there is no denying that foreign language education is intercultural. Bringing a foreign language to the classroom means connecting learners to a very different world

from their own world. The teachers should possess with a number of intercultural competencies and strategies. They should be helpful to their students to be familiar with the levels of communication in which misunderstanding can arise, where they will be able to negotiate the meaning and resolve misunderstanding. Fantini states: *“Entry into another world view, hopefully, will help individuals develop an appreciation for the diversity and richness of human beings”* (Fantini, 1991, 118).

2. Ethnic groups and backgrounds

Contact with individuals of other ethnic groups and backgrounds opens a door to a different worldview. However, it gives the opportunity to question our own culture and understand it more nicely. Together with this, the learners gain a greater understanding of grammatical structures and syntax and surely, they increase their knowledge of vocabulary. Actually today the students not just the repeaters of the artificial textbooks they are the producers of the real language. Therefore, they are not just simply memorizers of vocabulary and grammar rules as it was in the previous times. Here we can give an example from one of the studies where the learners who studies foreign language took notes. These notes one of the Malay participants, whose name is Mariam:

“I think English has also made me healthily ambivalent as it awoke my more abstract side that enabled me to assert and respect my individuality without harming the bubble of others. It has made my view of life richer and multi-faceted and I would erase any part of it in my life”.

Where other participant, Rosie believes that she has become a different, more openminded person. *“Ya, I’m still Rosie the Malay girl but somehow I have changed, in the sense that I have changed a lot in my thinking”* (Kim, 2003). Hence, knowledge of English enables them to reflect and make comparisons. It takes them away just from one cultural worldview. Where other example can be given related to this issue from one of the books called *“Language as Cultural Practice”* It is mentioned about one Mexican family that it came to the United States 18 years ago. Both of the parents had not completed elementary school in Mexico and they were not able to continue with their studies in the United States. A father of the family works in a bakery at night where he spends his day by sleeping. Where a mother of the family is on disability leave, without any benefits from the job at the factory, where she has worked for 18 years. She states:

“If I had known English I would have had more schooling, I would have another type of work but because of my situation of limited English, I didn’t go to school. I just worked 21 years up until now. I don’t what my future will be” (Schester, Bayley, 2002, 67).

By this example, we can see the picture that the lack of the knowledge of the foreign language will lead to bad results. The lack of English has impaired her ability to support her family and leads to not successful future.

According to Chapelle *“Increasingly, language educators contend that foreign language learning should increase students’ intercultural competence (IC) which would allow them to see relationships between different cultures, mediate across these cultures, and critically analyze cultures including their own”* (Moeller, Catalano, 2015, 331)

The role of the teacher in the foreign language classroom should be very active. The teacher is here is a kind of instructor in which the students are the actors. One of the important materials in the classroom is realia. The teacher organizes the lesson according to the specific situations such as the home, the supermarket, the beach that are full of the cultural patterns. Also others materials like pictures, slides and word charts are used. Hence, the learners can learn culture of the studied language easier in these particular situations. The materials will be helpful in discovering culture of the studied language. The teacher organizing the lesson according to the students needs and interests. Materials come from realia rather than from the textbooks. Games are seen is a very useful material in the classroom. Where according to Terrell



“Games by their very nature, focus the student on what it is they are doing and use the language as a tool for reaching the goal rather than as a goal in itself” (Richards, Rodgers, 1986, 138).

Standards for Foreign Language Learning for the 21st Century

The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages developed some standards for foreign language learning for the 21st century. The standards are not a curriculum guide. They support students to achieve the high standards and provide with the ideal sequences of the study that begin in the elementary grades and continue through high school and beyond. This National Standards in Foreign Language Education identifies five goals areas in order to reach high standards in the language learning. These standards are:

1. Communication

Surely nowadays in our global world, the one of the important reasons to learn a foreign language is how to communicate. It is a process of transferring information from sender to a receiver. This process is at the heart of second language study. Today in the classrooms, teachers are usually trying to develop speaking skills in the most of the cases. The main objective is to teach pupils to communicate in a foreign language teaching.

2. Culture

Students gain a knowledge and understanding of a particular culture during the language learning. We can consider language learning as a useful tool in adapting to a new culture and society. Nowadays standards claim that language and culture are inseparable. Culture relates to not only the cultural content of the course L2 educators teach but also the subtle practices that are characteristic of their teaching: the way they arrange seating in their classrooms, the questions they ask, the stories they tell, the exercises they set. The National Standards for World Language Learning document states (2000) *“To study another language and culture gives one the powerful key to successful communication: Knowing how, when and why, to say what to whom”*

3. Connections

Students can relate the information studied in another subjects to their learning of the foreign language and culture. Students can differentiate and recognize the distinctive points that are only available through the foreign language and its cultures.

4. Comparisons

Students demonstrate the understanding of the nature of the language through comparisons of the language studied and their own. They can compare their culture with the studied language's culture. All these analyzing can help to develop their abilities to think critically about how languages work.

5. Communities

If the students may have the opportunity to travel to communities and countries where the language is spoken, they can develop their language skills and understanding of the culture. The students who study the language can use these skills to enrich their lives if they are able to use the language outside of the classroom they will be able to communicate easily in that particular language which will provide specially for the children a kind of enjoyment of the learning a new language in the future.

Cates (2000) divides the goals of global education into the four domains of knowledge, skills, attitudes and action:

- knowledge about world countries and cultures, and about global problems, their causes and solutions;
- skills of critical thinking, co-operative problem solving, conflict resolution, and seeing issues from multiple perspectives;
- attitudes of global awareness, cultural appreciation, respect for diversity, and empathy;
- action: the final aim of global learning is to have students ‘think globally and act locally (Yakovchuk, 2004, 31).

3. Conclusion



So according to all summarizing the language situation system nowadays we can start our chapter about educational system today. Therefore, in this chapter we are going to discuss the factors, which are underlying the educational system nowadays, such as schools, environments, teachers, students, materials, techniques and approaches. So we are going to analyze in this chapter the particular details which drawing the educational system today. First of all according to all above information we can say that one of the important factors to learn a foreign language which starting the learning process at an early age. Therefore related to this issue we can say that today many of the scientific studies reported that beginning foreign language study early promotes achievement of higher levels of language proficiency. We can say that the age of the students is a major factor in a teacher's decisions about how and what to teach. Because people of ages have different needs, competences, and cognitive skills, we can expect that children at the elementary grade can acquire much of foreign language through play, where from adult learners we can reasonably expect a greater use of abstract thought. As an example of nowadays can be given of some countries at which age the learning is required. Actually most of the parents nowadays trying to give their children the best education as our world became global even to have a good education and the knowledge of one of the languages not enough nowadays.

Language study introduces you to new realms of ideas, customs, habits, and values. In both professional and personal ways, the twenty-first century places demands on people's global knowledge. As the Internet has changed the way we think about the transfer of information, so has it eliminated the sense of distance between us and the citizens of other countries (Ivan, 2010, 81).

People try to study many languages as they can. Multilingual people are more likely to achieve a success and to find employment in thriving companies, which will offer them lucrative posts. So in order to provide a good education at language firstly, we have to choose the school and the age should be included.

The study of a foreign language increases understanding of the interaction between language, thought and culture. Knowing the language can also help us to gain the cultural insights. Learning about other cultures will help the students expand their personal horizons and become a responsible citizen. Our ability to talk to others and gain knowledge beyond the world of English can contribute to our community and our country. . The study of another language provides the most effective tool for penetrating the barrier of a single language and a single culture. Furthermore, experience with another culture enables people to achieve a significantly more profound understanding of their own. Therefore, we can consider language learning as a useful tool in adapting to a new culture and a society

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