The Advancement Of Acquiring Speaking Skills From The Preliminary Level To The Higher And Standard Level Through Mirror Reflection Technique (MRT)

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Language is a process of free creation; its laws and principles are fixed, but the manner in which the principles of generation are used is free and infinitely varied. Even the interpretation and use of words involves a process of free creation.

-Noam Chomsky

“A good speech should be like a woman's skirt; long enough to cover the subject and short enough to create interest.”

-Winston S. Churchill

ABSTRACT

Speaking is a process used for the expression of thought and the effectiveness of communication is attained with the effective speech. The speech is the first criteria, which makes a man perfect. The perfection is attained through the usage of words. The well-designed usage of words differs depending on the occasions. In such a basis the usage of words play a major role in speaking. This paper is a focus on how one can develop the speaking skills from the preliminary level to the higher standard level.

Key Words: Mirror Reflection technique, Soft skills, oral fluency.

Speech has different facets irrespective of different languages. It has the capacity to change one’s mind, to turn a whole mob for or against a person. Different speech tactics are irony, satire, paradox, oxymoron, imagery, metaphor, pun, simile and hyperbole. The experts who have command over the language and language skills use these tactics. There are some basic methodologies identified by the researcher for a speaker to develop his or her oral fluency.

1. Categorizing of Students on Basic Level (CSBL)
2. Concentration on Individual students with Access to Speaking (CIAS)
3. Mirror Reflection technique (MRT)
4. Ground Argument Basis (GAB)
5. One to one Conversational Practices (OCP)
6. Individual Seminars (IS)
7. English for Special occasion and Soft skills Training (ESST)

To apply these steps and to monitor the progress, the researcher has focused on a set of MBA students from 2010-2013 batch at Kalasalingam University. The researcher has made a deep survey from their arrival into college until they completed their semester I. The time schedule for individual is four hours per week.

The researcher has used the above-mentioned basic steps to promote the fluency of the students. As they are a degree holder either Engineering or Arts and Science, the level of their fluency varies. Out of sixty, five persons with engineering degree are capable of expressing their thoughts in English. Ten students from Arts and Science are also good in expression of thought in English. A written test is conducted to segregate the students based on their level of language I as A, B, C in which

A. Good
B. Satisfactory
C. Low

The people with A level are given minimum focus on grammar where as B and C are given maximum training. In the second step CIAS, A is given lively topics and he/she has to present without any notes in hand. B is given known topics and B can present it with the help of notes. C is given very familiar topics and C will present it with the prepared materials in hand. When this practice is initiated, the following changes occur within two weeks.

A. Good Improvement
B. Improved to A
C. Improved to B

Basic Grammar, Parts of Speech, tense, articles, preposition, active and passive, reported speech are taught to C whereas B is taught from Tense forms, Active and Passive and Reported Speech. Based on the acquired grammar, he will be engaged in creative writing, which includes story, book and review writing.

When CIAS methodology is done A, B, C will indulge in error correction when each other presents. When error correction is done, the minimum errors committed by individual students become less. At this Point A-A-A will be the product. To acquire 3A’s one month time will be spent on this activity. When 3A’s are acquired, the next level is to improve the fluency. Till then they have known and learnt the language. But the tactics of acquiring command can be done in the following steps.

Mirror Reflection Technique (MRT) is an imaginative technique that involves the speaker and the reflection of the speaker in the mirror. The speaker has to assume that some people whom he likes stand in front of him. He has to ask questions and he has to answer for the same. He has to practice for one month. Afterwards the speaker has to assume that he is addressing a whole mob. Here he presents himself with the minimum effects. Simultaneously, the language of the speakers is improved automatically.
MRT method stands as the best as it is an independent method. It takes one month’s time. The speaker converses with another person in assumption and more chance is given to the speaker to speak for and against about his views. When two months passed out, he will definitely attain fluency irrespective of his vernacular medium learning at school and college levels.

After this level, the students will be made to compete with other students on Group Argument Basis (GAB). This will be done for two weeks to attain competence level with marks. At this stance, he could establish his thoughts and he could prove his assertiveness. When he is bold enough to face a group, he will be given the chance to talk with one person on the basis of One to one Conversational Practices (OCP). This is the real scenario in which, he could express his ideas and expect thoughts from others. To attain success it has to be concentrated for three weeks time. With a sense of acceptance and rejection, they share their information where he could improve his language nuances. The last method is acquiring English for Special Occasion and Soft Skills (ESST).

The training for giving welcome speech, vote of thanks, introductory speech, keynote address will be given. This will take two weeks practicing time. The usage of words in persuasive method, assertive method, the intonation, stress and pause, stress management, emotional balance will be taught in soft skills. These soft skills build a successful Manager at the end. The acquisition of English language from beginning level to the end can be acquired within 3 semesters hardly ranges for around two hundred days. The last 60 days will be given for continuous training on language proficiency leading to 100% acquisition of language.

The questions given are as follows:

a) Do you feel benefited with these methods?
   i) Yes  ii) No

b) Which method you consider to be the best?
   i) CSBL ii) CIAS iii) MRT iv) GAB v) OCP vi) ESST

c) Which method is time consuming?
   i) CSBL ii) CIAS iii) MRT iv) GAB v) OCP vi) ESST

d) Do you think that you can speak within 4 months after completing this semester?
   i) Yes   ii) No

e) Can this method be applied to everyone?
   i) Yes   ii) No

f) How much time will it take to complete this course if you practice it for 6 hours per day?
   Less than one month ii) 1 months iii) 2 months iv) 3 months v) More than 3 months

For the first question, 100% of the people stated ‘Yes’. For the second question, 80% people opted for MRT Technique and 10% opted for GAB and 10% for others. For the third question 90% of the people opted for CIAS method which they feel very difficult to get through. For the fourth question 100% of the people opted for Yes. For the fifth question, all the students opted for yes. For the last question, 70% of the students
suggested that they can complete within one month. Whereas 15% suggested that it can be done within 2 months and 55 suggested that it can be done in one month.

When a MBA graduate completes his semester, he could communicate his thoughts effectively. Though these methods are done within 4 hours per week, the students are able to acquire fluency within 4 months. However, if the same activities are done as a complete fast tract course it can be done within 2 months period. The proportionate level of staff and students in regular stream is 1:30. But in fast tract course the proportion is 1:15. If this method is followed, everyone can acquire second language in the easiest way. This paper elaborates the methods through which a person can talk in English in a fluent manner with utmost soft skills. The usage of MRT is necessary for any individual to learn a new language. The focus given on the 60 MBA students has created a major impact and they have a secured placement through their fluency.

REFERENCES