



e-patra

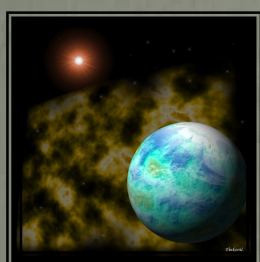


A G C E T L A N G U A G E C L U B P R E S E N T A T I O N



Editorial

You would realize that adding 'e' everywhere we are loosing 'e' of EQ.



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The Death of Distance

21st century has invented a lot to make life better and easier. One of the inventions which is the side product of many other inventions is 'The Death of Distance'. People don't write letters these days, they prefer SMS. But due to this habit we have lost the charm of handwriting of our dear ones in the form of a letter. SMS carries all the time same handwriting whoever has sent it to you. By this we are getting deprived of personal sense of attachment. We hardly go to the cashier counter in the

bank, we prefer ATM card. Further we are now even getting habituated to 'e-shopping'. We don't have a look price tags in malls.

Everything is getting prefixed by 'e', like e-mail, e-learning, e-courses, e-commerce, e-governance etc. But if you correlate this 'e' with another 'e' and that is of 'EQ' - Emotional Quotient then you would realize that adding 'e' everywhere we are loosing 'e' of EQ.

Due to the facility of this 'e' we have been successful to make the entire world an easy-to-reach

object. The globe has turned out to be a global village where whatever you think of is just one click away. These days even laptops are outdated and palmtops are there in your desire. Nano technology is growing up. But after all think about the sense of touch your palm has...is it getting affected by this 'e' everywhere.? Do you have healthy emotions or you have lost it somewhere in the midst of lots of 'e', 'e' and 'e'.....!!!

--NIKHIL JOSHI

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News

1- Department of Information Technology, G H Patel College of Engg. & Tech., Vallabh Vidyanagar is going to organize a National Conference on Advanced Computing on Dec. 12-13, 2009. More details: www.gcet.ac.in/ncac09

2-National Symposium on Recent Trends in Electrical Engineering is to be organized by Electrical Engineering Department, G H Patel College of Engg. & Tech., Vallabh Vidyanagar on Jan.7-8, 2010. More details: www.gcet.ac.in/Depts/ee/symposium10

3-Eletronica & Communication Deapartment, G H Patel College of Engg. & Tech. Vallabh Vidyanagar is organizing an International Conference on Signals, Systems and Automation. More details: www.gcet.ac.in/icssa09/icssa09

TEACHING OF ENGLISH THROUGH POETRY : A CASE OF ENGINEERING LEARNERS

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English can be taught through poetry provided the teacher is a creative writer. Creativity may be inborn or may appear by influence of the environment. In our classroom, filled with multiple learners of various abilities, it is not easier to teach English through poetry. For the purpose of executing the task of language teaching through poetry, a teacher can introduce the learners to the target poetry language. Later on, the grammar of English as used in the poetry can be introduced. The rhythm of the poetic lines is important for effective poetic mode of acquiring second language. It is not enough if the learners behave like poets, rather they have to think and emerge as the new poets of this era. In the case of learners from rural areas, a teacher must focus on the purposes of the learners in acquiring a particular style of learning. In addition to this, a teacher must pick out words and phrases as to suit the growing global requirements of the learners. In a classroom of sixty learners, a teacher must be the torch—bearer of the language skills and not the feeder of them. In a world of advancement, every activity occurs through technology and its enhancement. So eve-

rybody must have been familiar with what the language is and what type of style is required in employing it.

Introduction

English language teaching takes place through various techniques and methods. Poetry is one among the methods. Teachers of English have extempore skills in adopting the meanings and words for use at specific situations. When it is so, why not English teachers be creative writers and thinkers?

Rationale for the study

Learners of engineering usually need creative skills to excel in their field of study. To add to their existing engineering skills, poetry can be adopted. Poetic lines and words can be used for analyzing the sentence structure and sentence patterns. As of Yetino (2008) who said that poetry is an invaluable vehicle for teachers whom innovation and enrichment of classroom activities do matter, that the teaching of English through poetry will be more favorable for learners of English in an engineering context.

Teacher roles

Teachers, in this method, are creative writers and thinkers. They choose materials for classroom preparation for use in particular

contexts. They have to read the poem aloud then start giving explanations. They have to teach sentence structures using the lines of the poem chosen.

Learner roles

Learners are the consumers of excellent imaginative power pored by their teachers. They have to grasp details and think over them for rationality. They have to observe and analyze the relevance of the situation with the context given.

Instructional materials

Materials will be poems which play a pivotal role in this method of teaching. Grammar and sentence patterns are taught only with the help of the poetic lines. So poems become the instructional materials rather than any notes.

Study design and results

Method

This paper reveals the outcome of the oral study conducted, at one of the engineering institutions in Tamilnadu, for bringing out the relevance of the employment of poems for teaching English in engineering context. It consists of three levels of analysis. First level deals with the finding of the existing knowledge of the learners in poems. Second level introduces

the poems to the second language learners and deals with the enrichment of language skills. Third level lies with the mutual exchange of materials among the learners of what they learnt throughout the class.

Participants

Participants of this study were 60 first year second language engineering learners. They were between the age of 17 and 21 years. They were from both urban and rural areas.

Procedure

Learners' existing knowledge of language as well as poetry were checked with a stage performance. They were asked to present a poem of their own and pattern the sentences on the board. Later on, they were given poems dealing with actions and were given explanations on sentence structures as follows:

The following is the first stanza from one of the selected poems of Emily Dickinson.

**It was not death, for I stood up
And all the dead lie down;
It was not night, for all the bells
Put out their tongues, for noon.**

Nouns:

Singular nouns: death, night, noon

Plural nouns: bells, tongues

Pronouns: It, their, I

Articles: the

Prepositions: Up, down

Conjunctions: For, and

Negative words: not

Adverbs: Out, all

Verbs: Past verbs:

Singular verbs: Was

Present verbs: Plural Lie

Regular verbs: unchanged Put

Another passage from Emily

Dickinson:

**My nosegays are for captives;
Dim, long-expectant eyes,
Fingers denied the plucking,
Patient till paradise.**

Nouns:

Singular nouns: patient, paradise

**Plural nouns: nosegays, captives,
eyes, fingers**

Modifiers: dim, long-expectant

Conjunctions: till, for

**Verbs: Present verbs: Are Past
verbs: Denied**

Articles: the

Gerund: plucking

Pronouns: my

**The last stanza from Carl Sand-
burg**

I ask you

To witness--

The shovel is brother to the gun.

**Direct speech: I ask you to wit-
ness**

**Statement: The shovel is brother
to the gun**

After teaching the sentence structure and grammar through poems like these, learners were asked to discuss among themselves forming a group having a brighter learner as the head.

Results and discussion

This study revealed the fact that the teaching of English through poetry has more impact upon engineering learners who enjoy creativity of their own and others. Among the sixty learners, 50 learners were able to pick up new words by noting down the meanings of them. The remaining 10 learners were not able to cope with this type of English language teaching for they needed excessive practice and exposure to using English. To suit this, those 10 learners were taken separately and were put in a separate special class outside the regular class hours.

Conclusion

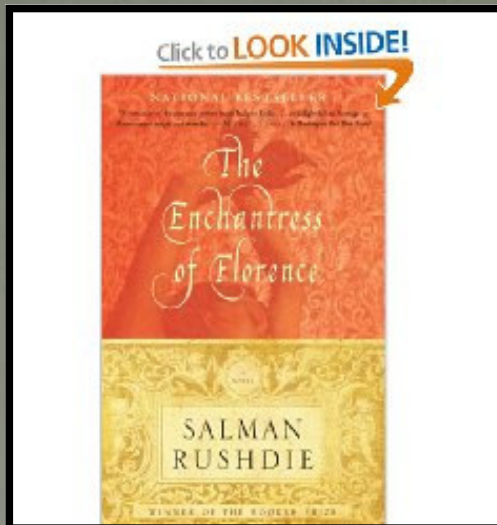
Instead of teaching in a ready made form, learners of a second language can be taught to think in terms of creativity not only in poetry—creation but also in their field of study. Poetry showers both the moment of enjoyment and the moment of rationalizing capacity on the part of the consumers. Any teaching involves a spark of capacity improvement and poetry is a case for it.

References

Yetino, (2008). Teaching English through poetry to adolescents. Retrieved <http://www.oppapers.com/essays/Teaching-English-Through-Poetry-Adolescents/151626>, on Monday, April 20, 2009. •

Books-Buddy

The Enchantress of Florence: A Novel (Paperback)
 by **Salman Rushdie**
 (Author)



List Price: \$14.00
 Price: \$10.98 & eligible for FREE Super Saver Shipping on orders over \$25
 You Save: \$3.02 (22%)

(Courtesy: www.amazon.com)

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gcet-languageclub.blogspot.com

Words of the Month

When I do good, I feel good; when I do bad, I feel bad, and that is my religion.

-Abraham Lincoln
 (1809 - 1865)



Useful Websites:

www.mit.gov.in

www.ciol.com

www.itaa.org

www.educause.edu

www.iiit.net

Note: To publish the paper on page-2 & 3 in this issue, we are sorry that we could not accommodate regular sections of 'Prose', 'Verse' and 'Language Corner'.

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