

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF STORYTELLING IN ENGLISH CLASSES

Zaxro Mamadaliyeva

Teacher of Fergana state University

Madaliyeva Zulayho

Student of Fergana state University

Abstract: *Storytelling is a method of conveying information through personal words and perspectives. This activity offers numerous benefits and can inspire students within their psychological realms.*

Keywords: *storytelling, narrative, oral communication, EFL classrooms, language proficiency.*

Аннотация: *Рассказывание историй — это метод передачи информации посредством личных слов и точек зрения. Эта деятельность предлагает многочисленные преимущества и может вдохновить студентов в их психологических сферах.*

Ключевые слова: *рассказ историй, повествование, устное общение, классы EFL, владение языком.*

INTRODUCTION

Storytelling presents several advantages, particularly as a pedagogical tool. It can motivate students, assist children in retaining vocabulary, enhance their vocabulary mastery, encourage interest in learning English, promote moral values, and provide cost-effective resources for rich language experiences. Additionally, storytelling is recognized as an effective teaching technique that engages Asian EFL students in elementary and secondary schools, fostering enjoyment in reading and writing while boosting their interest in literacy and English learning. Thus, storytelling serves as an alternative approach to improving literacy in EFL classrooms. Its importance extends to ESL settings as well, where it can invigorate students' enthusiasm during the learning process.

Furthermore, storytelling plays a crucial role in developing students' listening and writing abilities. It forms a part of literacy practices that can positively affect language proficiency. These practices possess essential characteristics, such as fostering language development and critical thinking while imparting values and morals. In the context of EFL in Indonesia, it is vital to leverage English as a medium for advancing students' literacy. Therefore, EFL educators must rethink their teaching strategies to enhance literacy outcomes in Indonesia. Storytelling can be a key method for improving literacy in classrooms. Secondary students and teachers can reap several benefits from storytelling in literacy education, particularly in reading and writing.²⁷

²⁷ Khaleel, Dr. Mousa. "Using Stories In Teaching English."

Stories are excellent tools for language learning, making the process engaging and memorable. When students engage in familiar and enjoyable activities, their ability to absorb language increases. Teaching foreign languages through storytelling combines familiarity with fun, making it suitable for learners of all ages. Stories capture students' attention by addressing relatable themes like love and friendship and offering ample opportunities for creativity and imagination. They also connect English to other subjects across the curriculum, as demonstrated in my thesis, and help students develop critical thinking skills. Through stories, vocabulary, pronunciation, and creativity can all be nurtured.

Young language learners exhibit distinct psychological traits compared to adults, including unique ways of thinking and attitudes. This necessitates tailored teaching approaches. To deliver quality English education, teachers must understand their students. Preschool children, in particular, are in a critical phase for language acquisition; they naturally absorb languages and mimic speech sounds effectively. They tend to focus on activities that align with their interests, have short attention spans, yet show patience for repetitive games and activities. Preschoolers benefit from tangible experiences and kinesthetic involvement in language learning. According to Egan, this age group corresponds to the "mythic educational layer," characterized by.

Discussion: Storytelling plays a crucial role in English classes for several reasons
Engagement: Stories captivate students' attention, making learning more enjoyable and immersive. Engaged students are more likely to participate actively.
Language Development: Through storytelling, students encounter new vocabulary and sentence structures in context, enhancing their language skills naturally.
Cultural Understanding: Stories often reflect diverse cultures and perspectives, helping students develop empathy and a broader worldview.²⁸

Incorporating storytelling into English classes not only enriches language learning but also cultivates essential life skills.

- The importance of emotions in learning; students seek to understand feelings associated with their lessons.
- A tendency to grasp concepts through simple contrasts, making them drawn to polar opposites.
- A vivid imagination that allows them to engage with fantastical scenarios easily.
- A belief that the world reflects their emotions and thoughts.
- A black-and-white interpretation of the world, akin to fairy tales.²⁹

Using storytelling is particularly effective for teaching this age group, as instruction should follow a clear narrative structure and engage with strong emotional and moral themes.

²⁸ National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). (2021). The Condition of Education 2021.

²⁹ Sen, A. (1999). Development as Freedom. Oxford University Press.

Result: Enhances Language Skills: Storytelling helps students develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. When students listen to or tell stories, they learn new vocabulary, phrases, and structures in context, making language acquisition more natural and meaningful.

Boosts Creativity and Imagination: Storytelling encourages students to imagine, visualize, and create. Crafting stories pushes students to think creatively, improve narrative skills, and develop original ideas, which are essential skills in English and beyond.

Improves Retention and Engagement: Stories are memorable and engaging. When lessons are structured as stories or include storytelling, students are more likely to retain information and understand complex ideas. Storytelling keeps classes interactive, sustaining students' attention and making lessons enjoyable.

Builds Empathy and Cultural Understanding: Stories from different cultures expose students to diverse perspectives, fostering empathy and cultural awareness. By exploring characters' emotions and motivations, students learn to appreciate differences and develop emotional intelligence.

Enhances Critical Thinking and Analytical Skills: Analyzing and interpreting stories encourages students to think critically about characters, plot developments, and themes. This helps them to form opinions, recognize underlying messages, and relate the material to real-life situations.

Encourages Self-Expression and Confidence: Storytelling gives students a platform to share personal experiences, ideas, and thoughts. When students tell their own stories, they practice public speaking and build confidence, which is crucial for effective communication.

Conclusion: Evaluating various sources to assess children's progress reveals that storytelling effectively meets key educational goals: fostering a positive attitude towards English, enhancing self-confidence in foreign language participation, and making learning enjoyable. Through storytelling, children engage more fully, momentarily setting aside their fears and insecurities. Transitioning away from reliance on textbooks has allowed students to actively participate in diverse activities, such as treasure hunts and spot-the-difference games, fostering a supportive learning environment. These interactive experiences, combined with illustrated readings, encourage children to read more English literature and relate it to their lives, reinforcing the notion that learning English is vital and far from boring.

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