

Teaching of Prose

The teaching of English prose is important for teaching the pupils, not only the English language, its grammar, new vocabulary and pronunciation but it is side by side very helpful in providing the new information and knowledge about the past historical events, current happenings in the world, lives of great personalities. Pupils also develop keen interest in reading more and more literature and also acquire the capability of imagining, thinking and expressing themselves freely.

The factors that are considered in exploiting a prose passage for teaching are: linguistic complexity- a simple text is more suitable for listening comprehension rather than a text is full of difficult words, length of the passage the length of the passage should not be too long or too easy it should be suitable for reading a lesson, interest level-text book should have interesting stories as it is easily read by the students without much help, aims of teaching the particular passage- the teacher should have a mental plan about the purpose for which the passage is to be used.

The aims of teaching prose the aims of teaching prose can be divided into two parts: (1) General aims. (2) Specific aims.

General aims: -

These aims are related to the whole subject. The general aims of prose teaching are as below:-

ÉTo enable the students to understand the meaning of a passage.

ÉThe enable the students to read the passage loudly with correct pronunciation, intonation, stress, articulation of voice and modulation etc.

ÉTo enable the students to express fluently their ideas, feelings or thoughts orally as well as writing.

ÉTo develop their power of imagination.

ÉTo enrich their vocabulary.

ÉTo enable them to enjoy reading and writing.

ÉTo enable them to use the punctuation marks in writing.

ÉTo enable the students to get the knowledge contained in the passage.

ÉTo enable the students to understand the passage by silent reading.

ÉTo prepare them for world citizenship.

ÉTo enable the students for self-study and literature.

Specific aims:-

These are decided according to the subject matter of the prose lessons. The specific aims according to the subject of the prose lesson may be as follows for different type of prose material ó

1. Specific aims for teaching Descriptive Prose

ÉTo develop imaginative power of the students.

ÉTo develop the habit of free thinking among the students.

ÉTo develop their love for natural objects.

ÉTo develop their aesthetic sense.

ÉTo acquaint pupils with the style of author.

Planning a lesson for teaching of prose

While dealing with the prose passage there are four major steps these are: introduction and task setting; reading and listening; exploiting the text orally- it includes reproduction, limited responses, grammar awareness, scanning, dictation, query time, discussion and review; Finally writing and going beyond the text book which includes writing and communication.

The teacher must be careful and well prepared before hand while presenting the prose lesson and take the following steps: -

1. Previous knowledge: - The teacher should impart new knowledge to student by linking it to their previous knowledge. So he should know and assess for himself beforehand, how much knowledge students have gained. It facilitates the teaching learning process.

2. Teaching aids: - The teacher can use different material aids to make his teaching interesting and effective. These aids also help a teacher in creating real class-room situation. They motivate the students to learn with ease and enjoyment. The teacher may use ordinary class-room equipment, for instance-duster, chalk, black-board etc. He can also use other aids like- tape-recorder, T.V., radio, chart, map, model etc. But he must be careful while using them.

3. Introduction/Motivation: - Introduction should be very interesting and it should be based on the previous knowledge of learners. It should not be too short or too long. It should be in the very beginning of the lesson. It may be done in number of ways. For example: by putting questions, by narrating an interesting story, by showing model or chart, by showing slides on projector, tape recorder etc. In this way, the teacher can make his teaching learning procedure interesting effective and can give a practical shape to his planning

4. Declaration of Topic: - After introduction the teacher should declare the topic. At this stage the learner should have clear cut objectives before him. Therefore, the teacher should state the aim of his teaching.

5. Presentation: - The teacher should try to present the lesson in an effective and interesting manner. He should try to teach the lesson in units, so that the students may easily understand the topic. Presentation is the main part of the lesson plan. So, it should be presented efficiently before pupils. The following sub-steps should be followed for effective presentation:

Model Reading/Reading loud by the teacher: - It is to be done by the teacher. The teacher reads the passage loudly, so that the students may understand the exact way of reading. The teacher should himself be careful about his pronunciation, intonation, modulation or stress etc. while reading the passage. He should also be particular about his own expression. Before doing 'model reading', the teacher should ask the pupils to open their books at a particular page and to look into it attentively and do silent reading while he reads the passage loudly. While reading, he should also keep a watch on the students and may hold the book in his left hand only.

Model Reading/Reading loud by the students: - This model reading will be done by students. The teacher will ask the students to read out the passage loudly. One student will read at one time and other students will look into their books and read silently along with the student reading loudly. The teacher will correct the errors of pronunciation. The teacher can also write these difficult words on the black-board and ask the students to pronounce one by one.

Detailed exposition: - The teacher is clear to the meanings of difficult words, phrases or idioms etc. The teacher may write the words and their meanings on the black-board. The teacher can adopt different methods for explaining the meanings. These may be:

ÉThe teacher can tell the meanings by showing the object, model, pictures of charts.

ÉThe teacher may take the help of pupils' mother-tongue.

ÉThe teacher can explain the meaning by using those words in sentences.

ÉThe teacher can also take the help of the words of similar meanings or opposite meaning words.

ÉThe teacher can also draw a sketch of figure on the black-board.

Explanation: - The teacher will explain the passage in brief. Any method of teaching English can be adopted by the teacher like direct method, bilingual method, communicative method, constructive method etc. The students will listen carefully.

Silent reading: - The teacher will ask the students to read the taught unit silently. The teacher must be careful that:

ÉThe class should be quiet and actually to silent reading.

ÉThe students should be attentive and their lips should not move while doing silent reading.

ÉThe teacher should supervise the class carefully, by taking rounds of the class room.

ÉThe teacher should fix the time limit for silent reading.

Evaluation: - After silent reading some questions may be asked by the teacher. These questions should be, from the unit taught in the class. The language of the questions should be easy. Questions should be properly distributed among the students. Questions should be asked in order to know that all the students have followed the passage or not. The teacher may write the questions either on the black-board or on the roller-board.

Home assignment: - Adequate home assignment must also be given. It is given to test whether the students have learnt the lesson and have got the idea. Home assignment may be given in different forms like fill in the blanks, gist of the passage, answer the questions etc.

A teacher should take certain precautions while teaching prose: -

ÉThe teacher should pre-plan his lesson every day.

ÉHe should try to present the material in the most objective form.

ÉIntroduction of the lesson should be interesting.

ÉTopic should be declared at correct time.

ÉHe should ask some intelligent students to read the passage loudly, so that the slow readers may also understand how to read the passage.

ÉEach day's lesson should be made known in advance to the pupils, so that they should read it at home, before it is taken up in the class room.

ÉQuestions should be asked on language, as well as on thoughts and ideas contained in the lesson.

ÉBefore asking pupils to read, the teacher should explain the new vocabulary.

Self Reflection: - It is one of the important aspect of a lesson plan which each and every teacher after accomplishment of his/her class should go through so that the teacher can reflect upon the strength and weaknesses of their class which lead to further improvement of the class.