



Using Presentation Assignment to Improve Students' English Speaking Skills

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ABSTRACT:

Presentations exist in many different forms in life, and in each situation and space, there are different methods of presentation. The presentation method plays an extremely important role for students learning English or other languages. Presentation will help students gain confidence and improve their skills, especially speaking skill. In this article, the writer will discuss the significant roles of the presentation method motivating students' English learning, and suggest certain effective solutions to improve students' English- speaking skill.

Key words: presentation skill, English speaking skill

1. Introduction

Today, English is the most popular and widely used language in the world, and is an effective means of linking social relationships. The goal of most people learning English is the ability to communicate. Communication ability plays a very important role in work and daily life, because it creates the basis for exchanging and finding information. One of the skills that contributes to improving communication ability is speaking skill. Speaking skill is one of four extremely important skills when learning English. Thanks to speaking skills, people can communicate and communicate easily and effectively. However, not all students are aware of the importance and proactively practice this skill effectively. This is considered one of the most difficult skills in the process of learning English. Therefore, how to improve students' speaking skills and help them communicate in English fluently is an important goal in today's foreign language teaching program. There are many methods to improve speaking skills. One method is not new but still proves effective along with many modern methods today, which is the presentation method. This method still holds an important position in learning English, especially in training students' English speaking skills.

2. Literature review

2.1. Presentation and communication

Presentation is a verbal presentation in front of many people about a certain issue to provide information or persuade or influence the listener. While communication is an active process of exchanging information between two or more people to achieve a certain purpose.

If we compare the two, we can easily see that presentation is also a part of communication. They have the same purpose of conveying a message to the listener and use the verbal form of information. Both presentation and communication involve real-time interaction and need to adjust to the listener's feedback such as speaking faster, slower or more expressive.

2.2. Some theoretical issues about presentation methods

The presentation method has been around for a long time, but that doesn't mean it has become outdated compared to modern teaching methods. In the past, people often had misconceptions about teaching using the presentation method, which is the method teachers will use to convey knowledge to learners. This method is only used one-way by the teacher without promoting the positivity and initiative of the learner. Specifically, in the research on method of communication in lectures, the authors Waugh, G. H and Waugh, R. F., said: "Presentation is a teaching method in which lecturers (teachers) negotiate and lecture. students do not discuss the information conveyed in the presentation or ask questions about the lecture verbally; is a one-way monologue, a straight lecture without any activities or words involving students" (Waugh, 1999). Or Author Frire - a famous Brazilian sociologist and educator, calls the Presentation Method "a system of distributing knowledge", the process of transferring information from teacher to student, with the student being the listener. , remember, take notes and think, according to Triem (2005). In Vietnam, scientists also believe that "Presentation is the

teacher's announcement and the learner's passive reception, through which learners receive information, process it cognitively and develop memory processes"3 "Presentation is a one-way communication method. The teacher raises ideas or concepts, develops, evaluates and finally summarizes the main ideas stated while students listen and take notes" (Khamkhien, 2010)

In today's era, with the development of modern science and the trend of educational innovation, the way of using presentation methods has changed. Presentation is a method of using words to present a certain issue in front of many people in order to provide convincing information or influence the listener (Hoanh, 2010). In education, presentation is a teaching method in which the presenter mainly uses words to present, analyze, and explain specific content in a systematic and detailed manner. Learners can still use the presentation method as an effective learning tool to exchange and grasp information. In this method, students can act as presenters under the guidance of lecturers. Lecturers assign students, or students can proactively choose presentation topics related to subject knowledge, thereby preparing presentations (usually in groups) before the presentation takes place (Cuong, 2014). Students search for their own materials for presentations from books, newspapers, or from related sources and reports from businesses. Some lecturers, after allowing each group to present, students in the class will comment and evaluate each other, and at the same time ask critical questions, and the presenting group will eloquently respond. This is considered a method in which the learner (presenter) plays a completely proactive role from preparing, collecting and researching documents, to presenting the presentation content to the class.

Presentation is considered an art of public speaking with a strict structure, requiring formal language with a clear and scientific - professional presentation method. With a quantified time, the presenter will proactively make presentations in an easy-to-understand, attractive, and logical way to convey all necessary content (Tuyen, 2010). Presentation methods must always mobilize the presenter's combined strength such as; Profound knowledge and vivid language with good inspirational power also attract listeners. Therefore, the presentation method will develop critical thinking skills, practice and develop public speaking skills for students.

2.3. The role of presentation method in practicing English speaking skills

Our country is in the phase of international economic integration, more and more foreign businesses are investing in the Vietnamese market, bringing many job opportunities for young workers. The opportunity to work at multinational companies is great but not simple. Because the requirements of these companies require workers in addition to professional skills, they also require workers to be fluent in other foreign languages, especially English (Van, 2012). English is considered a linguistic bridge between countries around the world, having a positive effect in exchange and cooperation with people from other countries. If in the past learning English only focused on grammar and vocabulary, today listening and speaking skills play an important role for workers.

There are many methods to improve students' English listening and speaking skills. But an indispensable method can be mentioned as the presentation method. For learning English, especially improving speaking and presentation skills, it is one of the extremely necessary and important methods for students. The presentation method when learning English is that the presentation is 100% presented in English. This highly applicable method will train students' soft skills and language skills. These two factors are extremely important and will complement each other. This helps students be confident, brave and practice speaking skills accurately and fluently.

When presenting in English, students will use 100% English to express the content they present. This requires students to have a large vocabulary and a clear understanding of knowledge. During the presentation, students must choose words that are highly expressive, but more valuable than regular words.

In the long run, this will help students grasp more words and how to use words to suit specific situations.

When discussing speaking skills in English, it is the ability to effectively convey verbal information to the listener, helping the listener grasp the information accurately. Speaking skill is a special type of human skill. It is not something that is inherited but is formed and developed during the communication process. Therefore, presenting in English helps students practice their style, speech, and gestures when standing in front of a group, helping them confidently communicate with others or express their own opinions. In addition, through presentations in English, students can correct errors in word usage and pronunciation.

With the great roles analyzed above, the presentation method is an indispensable method in teaching and learning English, because it will help students confidently develop their speaking skills fluently and coherently. . Through the presentation method, students not only master the knowledge of the topic, but it can improve their listening skills to complement their speaking skills. This can be considered an interesting method for students to practice English skills, especially speaking skills.

2.4. English speaking skills of Vietnamese students today

English is a bridge language (lingua franca) - helping people communicate easily no matter what country you come from. In recent years, English communication skills have become an important soft skill that helps students have many opportunities to find jobs and advance in their work. To communicate in English fluently and confidently, right from school, students constantly practice their speaking skills. This is one of four important skills in learning foreign languages in general and learning English in particular.

Speaking skill is the skill of using sound to express one's thoughts, opinions, and words for the purpose of expressing opinions, chatting, and communicating with listeners. Through conversation, the speaker and listener exchange information with each other. However, a sad reality today is that besides listening skills, students' English speaking skills are still very limited and do not meet the needs of employers (Triem, 2005). Vietnamese students

may be good at reading and writing skills, but very poor at listening and speaking skills. Many students find it difficult to fully express their thoughts in English, and they even feel afraid to speak even though they have learned a lot of English since high school. The above sad reality can include some of the following reasons:

- The English learning program in Vietnam from elementary school to university is influenced by traditional teaching and learning methods, which are too heavy on grammar and vocabulary. This leads to students' English learning habit of focusing on learning grammar to easily pass exams, while learning and practicing speaking skills is neglected. Vietnamese students can master English grammar - the foundation for practicing other skills such as listening, speaking, reading, but cannot turn them into tools for communication.
- Students don't have much time to practice speaking skills. Most students only focus on practicing speaking skills in speaking lessons in class and usually use simple, common sentences. cabinet" to be able to pass final exams without aiming for a long-term goal.
- The English practice environment in schools today mainly takes place in the classroom, with not much time spent practicing speaking skills. The lack of a practice environment means Vietnamese students have few opportunities to use English to communicate. That's why students often lack confidence, are timid, and don't know where to start the story when applying it in practice. Over time, students are afraid and do not dare to take the initiative to communicate in English. This more or less affects the improvement of the quality of speaking skills for students.
- Input quality is uneven, students in cities are exposed to more English than students from rural and remote areas. Therefore, the difference in English proficiency among students leads to difficulties when practicing speaking skills in lessons. Specifically, those who are not confident in speaking English will push those who can speak and I will just listen, or if they do speak, they will babble and say a few simple sentences for formality. This causes good students to have no training environment, weak students to have more opportunities to give up and lecturers to have difficulty in teaching and giving exercises to suit all students.
- Inertia is too great, most students are not bold, always afraid of making mistakes, afraid of being laughed at, afraid of pronouncing incorrectly when speaking, making the listener not understand,... This gradually causes students to become withdrawn when practicing speaking skills. Besides, many students are not really aware of the importance of English in the current era. Others have the mindset of "standing on this mountain and looking at that mountain", feeling that they are not weak in English, so they switch to learning another language, thinking it is easier, but do not know that no language is easy to learn.

3. Improve the effectiveness of presentation methods to improve speaking skills for students

Improving students' English speaking ability is a big problem for most Vietnamese universities today and requires a long time and persistent efforts from learners, teachers and schools. Therefore, the author recommends some suggestions to improve students' speaking skills through presentation methods as follows:

* *For lecturers*

- Lecturers need to help students realize the position and role of theory methods in improving English speaking skills, there are methods to stimulate students' need and passion for presenting in English. Lecturers must be guides and create conditions for students to boldly present to promote speaking skills, and at the same time overcome students' reluctance to speak.
- In the first lesson, the lecturer can divide the class into small groups equivalent to the number of topics and provide many topics for the groups. The lecturer absolutely does not print out reference materials for students. Only provides information and materials, giving students a certain amount of time to go to the library to read and photocopy. Members of the groups will be assigned specific tasks and during presentations, the lecturer requires group members to work together, avoiding pushing responsibilities to one or a few members.
- During the presentation, the lecturer asks the remaining groups to comment and ask critical questions. The presenting group is responsible for eloquent feedback. During the debate, teachers evaluate and correct students' mistakes in word usage and pronunciation..

* *For students*

- Students must be aware of the importance and benefits of English speaking skills for their careers during the period of international integration. Improve self-awareness, overcome fear, ignorance, and lack of confidence when speaking English in front of groups.
- To have a good English presentation, students need to prepare presentation content selectively, determine a reasonable structure to avoid complexity, wordiness, rambling and giving unnecessary information. set. Groups that do not present pay attention and learn how to remember all the content of the presentation, and at the same time form appropriate criticism in just a short time. The group presents how to form a good argument to counter opposing ideas.
- Presentations can be shown using Powerpoint. However, students need to comply with the regulations and minimize the presentation of all information in the presentation on Powerpoint and should only include main ideas or keywords. Students need to break away from the words and sentences they have prepared and must master the knowledge of the topic to be presented, remember vocabulary, sentence structure and speak based on their understanding.
- To be bold and confident when presenting in English, you can't wait until you have a presentation to practice. This only makes students become "parrots" who know how to speak English, without training themselves to be reflexive and confident when speaking. Therefore, students themselves should

constantly practice and make efforts, so they should spend at least a few minutes to practice every day, proactively study in all situations, come up with a topic for themselves and present it to the audience. self. This is a method that will help students become familiar with presenting in English

*** For the university**

- In the training program, schools need to pay attention to the amount of time spent in classes to practice students' speaking skills. Organize a number of extracurricular activities with presentations in English to help students improve their speaking skills. In addition, collaborating with foreign businesses to organize exchange sessions so students have the opportunity to practice.
- The school needs to invest more in facilities and equipment for learning and research, creating a favorable environment for students to be able to apply the knowledge they have learned into practice..

4. Conclusion

Currently, there are many methods applied in teaching English, but the presentation method has not lost its role in promoting the initiative of learners and teachers. This is a method that helps students mobilize all the combined strength of their skills (listening, reading, writing) to be able to confidently perform speaking skills to help their presentations achieve good results. Thus, to improve students' English speaking skills, lecturers are required to research and exploit the advantages of this method.

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