

TEACHING ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION AT SCHOOLS

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Abstract: *This article is devoted to the analysis of methods and approaches to teaching English pronunciation to students of secondary school age. In this, modern techniques of teaching pronunciation, especially phonetic exercises, the use of audio-video materials, as well as the role of such methods as interactive games in the development of students' pronunciation are considered. The article analyzes the methods of organizing interesting classes, taking into account the age of the students and overcoming the problems.*

Key words: *phonetics, language exposure, accent influence, intonation, prosody, practice and feedback.*

INTRODUCTION

English is now being studied with interest not only among adults, but also among school aged children. In this, not only English grammar, but also the correct pronunciation of words is important. That's why, good pronunciation helps our speech to be more understandable and clear. In this scientific work, we will consider the students to learn the rules of correct accentuation, correct pronunciation of words through interesting games and video materials. In addition, effective methods and strategies to improve pronunciation are also discussed in this article. Working with a vocabulary or grammar rules in learning English are the main pillars of language learner must know not only these, but also how to pronounce them correctly. According to Hewing's conception difficulties with pronunciation might mean that students fail to get their message across even when the correct words are being used, or they might fail to understand what is said to them (2004).

The importance of pronunciation: Kenworthy emphasized that, pronunciation is a key factor in ensuring effective communication in language learning. Pronunciation determines not only how words



are pronounced, but also their correct use. Below we can see the importance of pronunciation.

1. Clarity of communication .

Mispronunciation of words in English leads to misunderstanding of the meaning in the conversation. For example: it is very important to distinguish between words with the same meaning, but similar pronunciation .Therefore, correct pronunciation helps to communicate clearly and effectively with another person.

2. Increase self-confidence.

Correct pronunciation of words allows learners to feel good and confident in the conversation . Also, it helps the speaker stand out from others , because , in this case they can speak fluently and clearly.

3. Successful participation in the global network.

We know that, the English language is developing day by day. As a result, millions of people are interested in learning the English. That is, because English is an international language, correct pronunciation plays a big role in business and academic fields, as well as, in everyday life with accurate pronunciation, it will be easier to participate in global conversations and meetings.

4. Improves listening and comprehension skills.

Correct pronunciation is of great help in developing listening and comprehension skills. For instance, watching different movies is useful for learning a language. If we know, the correct pronunciation of the words, we can easily and correctly comprehend the texts in movies or official messages.

The importance of English pronunciation for school-age children.

English pronunciation must be correct not only for older people, but also for school-age children. Children will have the same studying time between the age of 14 and 18, which means that, they will be able to learn quickly at this age, and it is at this time, that it is important to improve their pronunciation skills. In addition, if they learn to pronounce words correctly in the future, they will be able to speak English clearly and fluently in the future. This will help them to express their thoughts correctly and understand what is being spoken. We know that, some school-age students have a high



sense of shyness. As a result, it becomes somewhat difficult for them to get into communication. In this, by knowing how to pronounce correctly, students can gain self-confidence and strength. For example: the child is not afraid of being embarrassed by incorrect pronunciation of words. As a result, speech becomes beautiful and fluent. Hinofotis and Baily noted that up to a certain proficiency standard, the fault which most severely impairs the communication process in EFL learners is pronunciation, rather than vocabulary or grammar(1980).

METHODS

Using a variety of methods in the process of teaching students will help make the lesson more interesting.

1.Shadowing. For this method to be more interesting, we will need to divide the students into two groups and organize karaoke for them. The songs will be sung in English. Then, two students from each team are selected and they compete against each other. If a learner mispronounces a word or can't pronounce it at all, he or she is excluded from the game. I think, this method comes into play in the development of children's pronunciation. Another good thing about this method is that, the melodies or soundtracks they are playing are sung from native speakers, which is a great help to students to further improve their pronunciation skills.

2.Tongue twisters.

Thesis statements, considered a "language exercise", is another effective way to improve pronunciation. Let's take a look at a few tongue twisters now:

Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.

I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream.

Fuzzy Wuzzy was a bear, Fuzzy Wuzzy had no hair, Fuzzy Wuzzy wasn't very fuzzy was he.

The above thesis statements have not only helped several students improve their pronunciation, but have also been quite helpful to me.

3.Phonetic games.

In this game, students will have to record a transcription of the words that have been spoken. With the help of this game, students become more familiar with the reading of words.



4. Interesting watching videos and cartoons.

At the same time, students will see interesting cartoons and movies along with subtitles, and once they see it, they will be able to pronounce the words without subtitles themselves. This method is much more fun and effective for students.

Taking everything into account, the purpose of this article is to explore pronunciation challenges faced by school-aged children during the process of learning a new language and to offer solutions by presenting engaging methods for children. It also aims to review modern techniques and practices that can assist educators in effectively improving pronunciation. All the skills are improved through a good knowledge of pronunciation (Levis,2005;Howlader ,2011).

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