

EFFECTIVENESS OF VISUAL AIDS IN TEACHING LANGUAGE

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**Abstract:** This article is devoted to the using of visual aids and IT in teaching process. We know, there a lot of visual aids and IT in teaching foreign language: pictures, graphic organizers, presentations, charts. The importance of visual material and IT in the process of language acquisition was researched by scholars belonging to the Cognitive approach. Some of the theories that these scholars have developed are related to the importance of the input, dual-coding theory and image schema theory, which are deeply linked with the visual and experimental relationship of the human being with the world. Visual aids and IT help teacher's presentations and objectives by placing emphasis on what on whatever is being thought. Clear visual aids and IT multiply learners level of understanding of the material presented, and they can send clear messages and clarify points from teachers.

**Key words:** diagram, differences, graphic organizers, presentations, similarities, cultural background, projectors, multimedia classrooms, information technologies and communications, new technologies, visual aids, cognitive approach, visual material, creative, critical thinking skills

We cannot imagine teaching process without visual aids and IT. Using visual aids and IT such as pictures, graphic organizers charts, video, and computers can help students easily understand and realize main points they have learnt at the lesson. For each visual aids and IT students have different responses, and expressions because of their different educational and cultural background. Using visual aids and IT can help learners understand the deep meaning of a topic and realize similarities and differences between each topic. In learning foreign language using visual aids and IT are main strategy. We know that memorizing language forms and words is a difficult process. In ELT classroom using visual and IT can help students strengthen and reinforce what they have learnt. The reason may be that they allow students to absorb the information through an additional sensory perception.

If teachers use visual aids and IT regularly, students will expect to learn the next language topic by using visual aids and IT because each visual aid and IT for them an interesting learning tool. Facilitating an interesting learning environment can enhance students' English abilities and this major goal for English teachers. These aids and IT allow students to have a chance to brainstorm and present their ideas or thoughts. They can create their own stories in which there no right or wrong answers.

Furthermore, they can also participate in group work such as paired reading or

small activity. They will have the opportunities to create their own stories that depend on their background experience. In group work they can discuss the similarities and the differences between each person's interpretation of a picture.

Visual aids and IT help teacher's presentations and objectives by placing emphasis on what on whatever is being thought. Clear visual aids and IT multiply learners level of understanding of the material presented, and they can send clear messages and clarify points from teachers. As for me, in my lessons I try to use various visual aids and IT graphic organizers is a very effective in our lessons.

Nowadays, paying attention and using the new technologies such as computers and interactive whiteboards, teachers have new possibilities increase every year. Nowadays the character of a teacher has changed a lot in the previous decades a teacher function is to fill the mind of learners with true knowledge, but now according to modern trends and theories a teacher has different roles as a monitor, adviser, and councilor in order to negotiate the meaning with students while learning English. More and more, it is a certain type of individual teacher who takes the initiative and implements technology into their classrooms.

New technologies have opened new possibilities in order to integrate multimedia visual aids in the language classroom, but these aids are not being fully exploited. The aim of this paper is to clarify the reasons why teachers at schools use them infrequently and to prove that visual aids should be integrated in the language classroom due to the positive effects they have on students.

Visual aids, when integrated into the lesson plan through media, attract students' attention to the topic presented in the class, enhance and facilitate comprehension of grammar and language, increase students' motivation, as well as help students to memorize the new vocabulary and structures. Apart from being an excellent tool to improve the language acquisition, the use of visual in the classroom provides a more meaningful context for the students. All these factors lead students to become more participative and communicative members of the class group.

Video tapes were considered the most appropriate visual aid when the teachers were not native, as the Comprehension-based Approach claimed. This method was also based on the idea the 2L learning was similar to 1L acquisition, so students received a lot of audiovisual input in the first stages of the learning. Against the trends that gave prominence to the stage of receiving input, in the recent years, language teaching has been enhanced by a number of different communicative approaches. They have had as their main objective to enable students' communication in the real world. These approaches have pointed the importance of bringing the real world into the classroom to make the learning more

meaningful for students.

The importance of visual material in the process of language acquisition was

researched by scholars belonging to the Cognitive approach. Some of the theories that these scholars have developed are related to the importance of the input, dual-coding theory and image schema theory, which are deeply linked with the visual and experimental relationship of the human being with the world.

Teaching aids are an integral component in any classroom. The many benefits of teaching aids include helping learners improve reading comprehension skills, illustrating or reinforcing a skill or concept, differentiating instruction and relieving anxiety or boredom by presenting information in a new and exciting way. Teaching aids also engage students' other senses since there are no limits in what aids can be utilized when supplementing a lesson.

As students are reading less and less on their own, teachers are finding reading comprehension skills very low among today's students. Teaching aids are helping teachers to close the gap and hone the reading comprehension skills of their students. Using magazine and newspaper articles, prints ads and even comic books are viable teaching aids that assist in helping students comprehend text.

Teaching aids prove to be a formidable supplement for teachers when the reinforcement of a skill or concept is necessary. Not only do they allow students more time to practice, but they also present the information in a way which offers students a different way to engage with the material. Of course, this is important in order to reach the various learning types in the class. As previously mentioned, it is

important for teachers to reach all learners in a classroom. Therefore, the use of teaching aids facilitates this objective by assisting teachers in differentiating instruction. Using aids such as graphs, charts, flashcards, videos, provides learners with visual stimulation and the opportunity to access the content from a different vantage point. This gives each learner the opportunity to interact with the content in a way which allows them to comprehend more easily.

Teaching aids help to make the learning environment interesting and engaging. As we move toward a more digital society, kids are being exposed to technology and digital devices at a younger age. Video games and iPods are now what's exciting to students, so when they come to school they have little patience for lecture style teaching. Students are seeking constant excitement and simply have no tolerance for boredom. Teaching aids are improving the quality of education in today's schools while also providing students with the sense of excitement they desire.

To sum up, we may say that an appropriate use of visual aids can give your presentation a really superior turn. On the other hand, if you pay more attention on

Nowadays, one thing that cannot be denied is that our students live in a media world, in which most of the information is provided by visual input, through different technological devices. As scholars have always argued, in order to make the acquisition of the language more meaningful for the students, teachers must bring the real world

into the classroom. Visual materials work as a powerful tool in this aspect, as far as they give teachers the opportunity to show the culture of the target language, the habits and the body language that lie behind the language transactions. All this makes students understand that the use of the target language has a purpose: the real purpose of real communication.

Nowadays, thanks to the new technologies such as computers and interactive whiteboards, teachers have new possibilities in order to integrate visual materials inside the classroom. Even though these possibilities increase every year, they are not fully exploited in the language classroom, due to a number of reasons. During my practice in the teaching center I became aware of this situation. After the first period of observation in the high school, it was clear that the use of visuals, apart from those included in the textbooks, was not an integral part of the everyday lessons. The use of multimedia visuals, such as slide-presentations or video based activities was relegated to special occasions, or not even used at all.

Visuals have been an important component of the language classes over the years.

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