THE APPLICATION OF PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING IN SPOKEN ENGLISH TEACHING FOR COLLEGE EFL LEARNERS

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ABSTRACT
Problem-based learning offers an efficient method of teaching spoken English to EFL students at colleges. By utilizing communicative and problem-solving techniques, learners are able to acquire the language through immersive exercises. Students would have the chance to collaborate while studying and customize the curriculum to fit their unique needs and objectives. They can learn a language more deeply by combining real-world discussions and language learning activities.

Key Words: Problem-based learning (PBL), Spoken English Teaching, EFL, college students.

1. INTRODUCTION
English proficiency is essential for college students to gain the skills needed to succeed in a variety of fields. Learning English as a Foreign Language (EFL) can be a challenging process, especially for college students who may lack the necessary language skills to effectively communicate in English. To help students overcome this challenge, educators are increasingly turning to Problem-Based Learning (PBL) as an effective teaching strategy (Preeti et al., 2013). PBL is an educational approach that has been gaining popularity in recent years due to its potential to facilitate effective language learning (Othman & Shah, 2013), which is an instructional method that encourages students to learn through solving complex, real-world problems in a collaborative setting. It has been used to great success in the teaching of English as a foreign language (EFL), as it enables learners to gain communicative competence in the target language by engaging them in immersive activities. Through the use of PBL, students can learn to think critically, identify patterns and solutions, and improve their English language fluency (Cosgun & Atay, 2021). Spoken English offers authentic dialogues to help students practice real-world conversations. Through a combination of problem-based learning and spoken English, college students can develop fluency in English and improve their ability to use English in real-world situations. This paper will discuss strategies for using PBL to teach spoken English to college EFL learners and examine the ways to promote language acquisition, communicative strategies, and collaborative learning.

2. LANGUAGE ACQUISITION
2.1 Immersive Activities
Language acquisition is an important part of learning English as a foreign language, and one of the best ways to gain proficiency is through immersive activities (Supriyono et al., 2020). Immersive activities provide a unique opportunity for learners to engage in meaningful interactions with native speakers in a variety of contexts. Immersion activities allow learners to gain a better understanding of how language works and how to communicate effectively in English. Through

these activities, learners can gain confidence in their language skills and learn to communicate effectively in different contexts.

In addition to providing an immersive experience, engaging in immersive activities is also beneficial for developing communicative competence. Learners can learn how to effectively use language to express their ideas and opinions, as well as to interact with others in English. Immersion activities can also help learners to develop their listening and speaking skills, as they are exposed to different accents, vocabulary, and language structures. Furthermore, learners can learn how to use appropriate gestures and intonation in different contexts.

Moreover, participating in immersive activities can also help to build confidence and self-esteem. Learners are able to gain a better understanding of their own abilities and the confidence to express themselves in English. By engaging in meaningful conversations with native speakers, learners can gain a better understanding of the culture and customs associated with English-speaking countries. As a result, learners can become more confident in their ability to use English in a variety of contexts.

2.2 Engaging Activities
Problem-based learning (PBL) is an effective method of teaching English as a foreign language because it encourages active student participation through engaging activities (Ali, 2019). Through PBL, students can explore and discuss real-world scenarios and problems related to the language, allowing them to develop deeper understanding and build language proficiency. By engaging in activities that require critical thinking, students are able to practice their spoken English and become more confident in their ability to communicate.

In PBL, activities can be tailored to the needs of individual students or groups of students, allowing for a more personalized learning experience. For example, activities can focus on developing specific language skills such as pronunciation, listening comprehension, or vocabulary. Alternatively, activities can also focus on more complex topics such as reading and summarizing a text, debating a topic, or discussing a real-world problem. Through these activities, students are able to practice their spoken English in a meaningful and engaging way.

Engaging college students in language learning activities is essential for them to become proficient in English as a Foreign Language (EFL). It is important to create meaningful learning experiences that are enjoyable and engaging for students to participate in. There are various activities that can be used to help engage students in language learning, including games, quizzes, discussions, role-plays, and writing activities. These activities can be tailored to the individual student's needs and preferences, and should be designed to allow for meaningful practice and discussion.

When designing language learning activities for college students, it is important to consider their level of language proficiency, as well as their interests and motivations. For example, students who are more advanced in English should be challenged with more complex activities, while those who are still in the beginning stages of learning should be given simpler activities that focus on building basic language skills. Additionally, it is important to ensure that activities are designed to motivate and engage the students, rather than to merely present them with a task to complete.

It is important to create an atmosphere that is conducive to language learning. This means creating an environment where students feel comfortable and safe to practice their language skills. It is also important to provide opportunities for collaboration, so that students can practice their language skills with their peers. This can be done by having group discussions, projects, and other collaborative activities that are designed to promote active engagement and collaboration among the students. By creating an engaging and supportive learning environment, college students will be more likely to succeed in their language learning journey.

2.3 Authentic Dialogues

Authentic dialogues are an important part of learning English as a foreign language. They provide an opportunity for students to practice real-world conversations in a safe and supportive environment. Authentic dialogues allow students to develop their conversational skills, by engaging in conversations with native speakers and other students. Authentic conversations are a great way to incorporate real-world language into the classroom. By allowing students to engage in conversations with each other, they can practice their spoken English and become more confident in their abilities. Authentic conversations can also provide students with a better understanding of the nuances of the language, such as slang, idioms, and colloquialisms, which are not typically taught in the classroom. Through engaging in real-life conversations, students can gain a more comprehensive understanding of the language and develop greater fluency.

Authentic dialogues are an important part of problem-based learning (Akcay, 2009). They offer students an opportunity to develop their problem-solving skills by engaging in conversations with native speakers and other students. Authentic dialogues help students to practice their language skills in real-world contexts and to better understand cultural norms. Through authentic dialogues, students are able to explore different perspectives and ideas, and to practice their negotiation and critical thinking skills.

Authentic dialogues also help college students practice spoken English in real-world situations. Through authentic dialogues, students can gain an understanding of native speakers' accent, expressions, and cultural norms. Authentic dialogues also provide an opportunity for students to practice their pronunciation and intonation. Authentic dialogues can help college students to become more confident and competent in their spoken English skills, thus enabling them to communicate effectively in a variety of contexts.

Incorporating authentic conversations into the classroom can be achieved through a variety of activities. For example, teachers can encourage students to ask each other questions about their lives and opinions on various topics. Through these conversations, students can gain a better understanding of each other's cultures and beliefs, as well as their language. Additionally, teachers can assign topics for students to discuss with each other, such as current events or popular culture. This allows students to practice their English in a more structured environment, while still engaging in real-life conversations.

In addition to structured activities, teachers can also incorporate authentic conversations into the classroom by allowing students to simply talk to each other. By providing an open forum for students to interact with each other, they can practice their spoken English in a more natural setting. Furthermore, this gives students the opportunity to make mistakes and learn from them, while

gaining confidence in their abilities. Ultimately, by incorporating authentic conversations into the classroom, students can become more proficient in their spoken English and develop greater fluency.

3.COMMUNICATIVE STRATEGIES

Communicative strategies play an important role in developing effective strategies for language usage, particularly for English as a foreign language (Rabab'ah, 2016). As language learners, it is important to be able to understand the communicative strategies that are used in various contexts and to use them in order to engage in meaningful conversations. By understanding and using communicative strategies, language learners are better able to express their ideas, understand the meanings of words and expressions, and interact with others.

In order to develop communicative strategies, learners should first be aware of the types of language strategies that are available to them. This includes both verbal and non-verbal strategies. Verbal strategies involve the use of grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and intonation. Non-verbal strategies involve the use of gestures, facial expressions, and body language. Both types of strategies are important in order to be able to communicate effectively in English.

In addition to understanding the various types of strategies available, learners should also focus on developing their own communicative strategies. This includes developing strategies for problem solving, expressing opinions, and negotiating with others. It is important for learners to practice using these strategies in different contexts in order to become more confident and proficient in their language use. By learning how to effectively use communicative strategies, language learners will be better able to engage in meaningful conversations in English.

4. COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

Collaborative learning is an effective approach to language learning, particularly when it comes to English as a foreign language (Rao, 2019). By engaging in group-based problem-solving tasks, learners can explore language in a meaningful way. The tasks offer an opportunity to practice and develop linguistic skills, while simultaneously deepening understanding of the language's structure and use. Through collaboration, learners can draw on each other's knowledge and understanding, creating a more dynamic learning environment.

Group-based problem-solving tasks can range from simple conversations to more complex activities, such as writing a newspaper article or role-playing a customer service scenario. In each case, the tasks should be designed to stimulate active engagement, encouraging students to use language in a meaningful and purposeful way. The tasks should also be tailored to the level and abilities of the learners, ensuring that they are adequately challenged while still feeling comfortable with the activity.

In addition to providing an enjoyable and interactive learning environment, collaborative learning also offers learners the opportunity to develop important social and communication skills. By working in a group, students must learn to communicate effectively, negotiate, and compromise, which can be highly beneficial for language learning. Furthermore, students can learn to appreciate the perspective of their peers, helping to foster an environment of mutual respect and understanding.

5. DEVELOPING ENGLISH FLUENCY

PBL is an effective tool for college students to develop fluency in English as a foreign language. PBL provides a real-world context for language learning, allowing students to apply the language in meaningful, authentic situations (Chen et al., 2021). PBL enables students to use the language with peers and to negotiate meaning. By engaging in the problem-solving process, students are exposed to a variety of language expressions, which helps them to become more fluent in their use of the language.

PBL helps college students become more confident in their ability to speak English. By using the language to solve a problem, students gain confidence in their ability to communicate and understand the language. Furthermore, PBL encourages students to take ownership of their learning, as they are actively engaged in the learning process and are able to use the language to solve real-world problems. As a result, students become more comfortable using the language in social settings and become more fluent in their use of English.

In addition, PBL helps college students to improve their pronunciation and intonation. By speaking with peers, students gain an understanding of the nuances of the language. Furthermore, PBL encourages students to use the language in real-world situations, which helps them to become more comfortable with their pronunciation and intonation. As a result, students are able to communicate more effectively in English, as they are able to produce the language more accurately and fluently.

Problem-Based Learning (PBL) is an effective and engaging way to develop English fluency among college students. PBL encourages students to think critically and work together to solve a problem, which can be done through activities like discussions and simulations. Through these activities, students are able to hone their communication and problem-solving skills, as well as become more confident in speaking English. This helps them develop fluency and be able to apply their knowledge of the language in various contexts.

In PBL, English language learners are given a problem to solve that is related to their studies, such as a scenario in a course they are taking. They then work together to brainstorm and develop a plan of action to solve the problem. This involves using their knowledge of the language to communicate and collaborate with each other. This gives them the opportunity to practice their English in a real-world context, which helps them become more confident in speaking and using the language.

PBL also encourages students to explore different ways of expressing themselves in English. For example, they can use metaphors, similes, and other figurative language to explain their ideas. This helps them to think critically and creatively, as well as to practice their language skills in a more meaningful way. Through these activities, students can develop their English fluency and become more confident in their ability to communicate effectively.

6. PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGIES

Problem-solving strategies are essential for English as a Foreign Language (EFL) students in order to succeed in their language learning (Iyitoglu & Aydin, 2015). A variety of strategies are available to assist EFL learners in overcoming language barriers and making progress in their learning.

Problem-solving strategies can help EFL students to develop their understanding of the language and how to apply it in different contexts.

One of the most important problem-solving strategies for EFL students is to focus on the process of learning. This means that students should not focus solely on the results of their learning, but rather on the process of learning and how they are applying the language. It is also important for EFL students to reflect on their learning and identify where they need to make adjustments and changes in order to improve their understanding of the language.

Another important problem-solving strategy for EFL students is to actively seek out feedback and guidance from both teachers and peers. By engaging with their peers and teachers, EFL students can receive advice and guidance on their language learning and be able to reflect on their progress. This is a great way for EFL students to identify areas of improvement and adjust their strategies to ensure they are making the most of their learning.

7. CONCLUSION

Problem-based learning offers an effective approach to teaching English as a Foreign Language, particularly when it comes to developing communicative competence. Through engaging activities, learners are able to develop effective strategies for language usage, as well as practice their speaking skills. It provides an opportunity for learners to engage in collaborative learning, as well as tailor instruction to their specific needs and goals. In this way, problem-based learning can be an invaluable resource for both teachers and students, creating an immersive environment for language acquisition and providing the necessary tools for effective communication. Additionally, by incorporating authentic conversations and language learning activities, students can gain a deeper understanding of the language and learn how to use it in real-life situations. With problem-based learning, college students can develop their fluency in English and become more comfortable with the language. By engaging in problem-based learning activities, college students can gain valuable language skills to help them succeed in their future endeavors.

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