

# ROLE OF ‘NEWSPAPER’ FOR LANGUAGE LEARNING

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## Abstract

Language plays a vital role in everyone’s life. It is a need of a society. Teaching a language is not that much easy. It includes various methods and principles. It is part of education system. The teaching methods start from Grammar translation method, direct method, eclectic method and so on. This article explains a method of language teaching through the new papers. Newspapers give scope for readers to understand the content better, easier and interesting as they have lot of choice in reading. Data are collected from the daily newspaper The Hindu published in the year 2008. A sample of 2 main word classes such as noun and verb are collected as data. Moreover, phrases and idiomatic expressions are collected. This article explains how to use these word classes and other language essentials in language teaching. Several activities can be given to the language learners. The findings of the study is that, mere repetition of looking at particular vocabulary, phrase, sentence structure which helps the learner to develop the habit of learning automatically that sentence or phrase which will help them in producing and understanding similar sentences and phrases in actual communication situations.

**Keywords:** language, grammar, newspaper, vocabulary, teaching.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Learning a language involves the establishment of the links between the language forms and their meanings. The three factors involved in the process are the form, the content or meaning and their association. Language is a skill rather than a subject. Though a skill does not altogether prelude intellectual activity, it is more a matter of ‘doing’ than of knowing’. This skill of learning second language can be acquired by providing the students sufficient opportunities to hear / read the language being used in meaningful situations and to make them use it. The process may be summed up in the words of M.A.K.Halliday (2016): ‘Teaching a language involves conjoining two essential features: the first, the learner must experience the language being used in meaningful ways, either in its spoken or written form, and the secondly, the learner must himself have the opportunity of performing, of trying out his own skills, of

making mistakes and being corrected. Those are the essence of language learning.’

## 2. Language Learning

Language learning strategies have crucial values for second language learners because they are means for activity and self –evaluation (Lavasan and Faryadres (2011).

Though there are various methods to improve the two essence of language learning, the researcher tries to enforce the use of authentic material “The News Paper” to improve the skill of learning basic skills in second language.

This paper outlines a few exercised that can be designed to make language learning happen in the classroom and also help learners to enhance their vocabulary, grammar and idioms and phrases. Newspapers give scope for readers to

understand the content better, easier and interesting as they have lot of choice in reading.

One of the most important principles of teaching is any teaching which links the teaching item with life. As the newspaper contains the details of day-to-day happenings, the pupils may show interest to read it with involvement. Involvement makes them to acquire the language learning faster. It also involves physical activity. The pictures in the newspaper will also drive home its meaning without explanation.

### 3. Using Word-Class

All the words in a particular language belong to categories called as word classes and some call as parts of speech. The word classes play a main part in a sentence. The main word classes in English can be listed as noun, verb, pronoun, adjective, adverb, preposition and some more. Word class is most easily incorporated into the SL student's short-term memory (Alicia San-Mateo-Valdehita & Carmen Chacón-García, 2019)

At the initial level, the class teacher should make the students to read the headlines only for a week. By using dictionary, they themselves have to find out the meaning for the vocabulary. The students might be asked to pick out the words according to their word-class.

For example, there are some of the words and phrases listed below from the headlines of THE HINDU newspaper in India dated 20 January 2018.

#### 3.1. Nouns

The following list of words belong to Noun word class

Sl.no	Words	Interpretation
1	Sentence	Three get life sentence.
2	Train	Man run over by train
3	Sand Quarries	HC confirms orders to close down all sand quarries
4	Human chain	RJD, Cong. To skip human chain.

5	Proposal	'Will consider proposals on animal safety'
6	Laxity	Laxity in examining witness of '84 riots:SC
7	Civilians	Jawan, 2 civilians killed on border.
8	Refugee	Rohingya refugee leaders list demands ahead of repatriation.
9	Spurs	Why the spurs are a sporting marvel

#### 3.2. Verbs

The following list of words belong to Verb word class

Sl.no	Words	Interpretation
1	Hike	After a gap of six years, State government hikes bus fares.
2	Uphold	SC upholds Farooqui acquittal
3	Await	Thoothukudi seaport waits outer harbour project
4	Stage	Fishermen stage protest with damaged nets.
5	Hoist	Inspector hoists party flag, lands in trouble
6	Evacuate	Goa Village evacuated.
7	Resolve	Differences over Doklam resolved.
8	Hammers	India hammers Zimbabwe.
9	Case	Third SC judge recuses himself from Chandy case.

### 3.3 Phrases

The following list belongs to the phrases used in the newspaper.

Sl.no	Phrases	Interpretation
1	Open up	U.S gymnasts open up on abuse.
2	Run over	Man run over by train.
3	Close down	HC confirms order to close down all sand quarries
4	Dropouts-	In Odisha, schools are the dropouts.
5	Calls in	Voice calls in Indian airspace soon
6	Crossfire	I had become victim of corporate crossfire: Raja
7	Packs off	Kyrgios packs off Tsonga in electric clash
8	Rub of the green (Word Play)	It is phrase commonly used in sport to suggest that an athlete or a team has been touched by good fortune

By making the students to do the activity of collecting words and grouping them according to their word-class and finding the meanings either by reading the content or by referring the dictionary, the skill of reading can be enhanced. Picking out verbs, nouns and phrases help the learners to enhance their vocabulary and use them in other contexts creatively. If the word is continuously done for a week, definitely they will come across repeated words. That will be helpful for better understanding.

When students read, it intuitively leads them to read which attracts more. According to their interest, they will choose and try to get the news on the particular day. Their curiosity on the content may help them to acquire the language. The reading material goes in automatically and lays a foundation on vocabulary, phrases and sentence construction. It becomes an inbuilt lay out in their mind.

### 4. Idiomatic Expressions

It is evident that the pupils can enlarge their usage of idiomatic expressions by reading the

content after getting a proper training for a week in Headlines Comprehension. Some of the idioms used as the headlines of THE HINDU newspaper in India dated 30 January 2018 are given below.

- a) Spill the beans – When the police enquired him, he spilled the beans, which means he uttered the truth when the police enquired.
- b) Make a beeline – As the rural and urban local bodies in the two districts started receiving applications since last week, women in large numbers made a beeline to the RTO and their unit offices, which means there is a long queue.
- c) To and fro – Last fortnight, I travelled by Pearl City Express to and fro from Thoothukudi.
- d) Bring to book – A 48-year-old widow doused herself with kerosene and “attempted” self-immolation at the main entrance - on Monday accusing the police of failing to bring to book those responsible for her daughter’s death two years ago.

Through this Newspaper reading class, a teacher can use their innovative methods to enhance other skills of learning. They can have debate, group discussion, questioning time and paragraph writing by using the same sentence structures and vocabulary on their own which may help them to master the structures and use them confidently in their writing. They will be creative, expressive, and confident in using words in a different context. If they are in need of vocabulary list instead of referring to the dictionary, it can be provided.

### 5. Activities

Many activities can be conducted by making them to read newspaper. The students can be asked to imitate the content of the newspaper by writing news report of an accident, or an inaugural ceremony of a shop, film review, Common issues such as Growth of Economy, Education, Women Empowerment etc. Through these exercises, all the four skills will be improved, in addition to this, their IQ will get sharpened. The teachers have their own liberty of designing activities based on the necessary skill they want their learners to improve in.

Though a particular syllabus is followed in colleges systematically, it is necessary to make them to develop reading skill by having newspaper as the resource material. It motivates them without our drive. Our education system should provide opportunity for reading newspaper at least one hour daily in a semester.

## 6. Conclusion

By making the students to apply their mind, they may be able to grasp the mechanics of various constructions but to use these constructions naturally, which is equivalent to automatic response, they have to make language production and language comprehension a matter of automatic habit. As the staunchest advocates of the 'mentalist' school of language learning admit the importance of habits in mastering a language. Habits can be developed only through practice. Mere repetition of looking at particular vocabulary, phrase, sentence structure may help the learner to develop the habit of learning automatically that sentence or phrase which will help them in producing and understanding similar sentences and phrases in actual communication situations.

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