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Communicative Approach

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Abstract

This paper begins with an introduction about communicative approach, the definition of this approach, its importance. Also it talks

about the principles ,characteristics and techniques that used in this approach, then refers to the role of the teacher and the learner .finally refer to the advantages and disadvantages of the communicative approach.

Introduction

The communicative method to language teaching focuses on improving learners' communication skills in real-life situations. This approach prioritizes functional and meaningful language use over mastery of grammar and vocabulary.

The communicative approach is based on the idea that learning language successfully comes through having to communicate real meaning. When learners are involved in real communication, their natural strategies for language acquisition will be used, and this will allow them to learn to use the language

The communicative approach evolved in the 1970s to address the flaws of traditional grammar-translation and audio-lingual systems, which focused on rote memorization and accuracy above meaningful communication. The communicative method focuses on language as a tool for communication, with the ultimate goal of achieving fluency and appropriate use in authentic contexts .



Definition of Communicative Approach

The communicative approach, also known as communicative language teaching (CLT), is a method used in language learning that emphasizes interaction and communication as the primary goals of teaching. Rather than focusing on grammatical accuracy and rote memorization, the communicative approach prioritizes the ability to use the language effectively in real-life situations. This approach is learner-centered, encouraging students to actively participate in meaningful conversations and problem-solving activities that mimic real-world language use.

According to Nunan (1991), this strategy claims to encourage learners to incorporate their personal experience into their language learning environment and to focus on the learning experience in addition to the learning of the target language.

The principles of communicative approach:

To enable students to communicate in the target language to do this , students need

knowledge of the linguistic forms , meaning , functions ,given the social context and the role

of the interlocutors

2-Students used target language in the classroom

3-The teacher facilitates communication in the classroom, he may . present some part of the lesson activities

4-students interact a great deal with one another. They do

this in various configurations: pairs, triads, small group, and whole group

5- Language is for communication

communicative competence ,have two aspect

linguistic competence , the knowledge of forms and their meanings is knowledge of functions that is language is used for.

language functions might be emphasized over forms . typically ,

6- although not always

a functional syllabus is used.

7-Students work on all four skills (reading, writing, speaking and

.listening) from the beginning.

8-judicious use of the students native language is permitted in CLT .

However , whenever

Possible.

9- A teacher can evaluates not only his students performance informally in his role as advisor

or co – communicator ,for formal evaluation , a teacher use an integrative test

By observing their students actions

10-Teachers may note the errors during fluency activities and return to them later with an accuracy-based activity.

The Characteristics of Communicative Approach

- 1- Almost everything that is done with a communicative intent.
- 2- Communicative activities; games, role-play and problem-solving.
- 3-According to Marrow; have three features in common: information gap, choice and feedback. An information gap: exists when one person in an exchange knows something the other person does not.
- 4- The speaker has a choice of what she will say and how she will say it.
- 5-True communication is purposeful.
- 6-Activities in CLT are often carried out by students in small groups.
- 7-There is no explicit theory of learning connected with CLT.
- 8-The implicit assumption seems to be that students will learn to communicate by practicing functional and socially appropriate language.

The Techniques of Communicative Approach

1-Authentic Materials

Teacher use the authentic materials to overcome the typical problem that students cannot transfer what they learn in the classroom to out situation , and to expose students to natural language in variety of situations.



2-Scrambled Sentences

Q:when and why teacher use the scrambled sentences?

when the students given a passage (text) in which the sentences are in a scrambled order.

Why:1- this type of exercise teaches students about the cohesion and .coherence properties of language

2-They learn how sentences are bound together at the suprasentential level through formal linguistics devices such as pronouns.

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

Put the words in the correct order:

1. volleyball I play

2. everyday We tennis play

3. We in act class art

4. sit on sofa the They

5. There cup isn't a

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3-Language Games

games that are truly communicative , according to Morrow Have the three features of communication : information gap , choice , and feedback.

An information gap : exists when one person in an exchange knows something the

other person does not know .

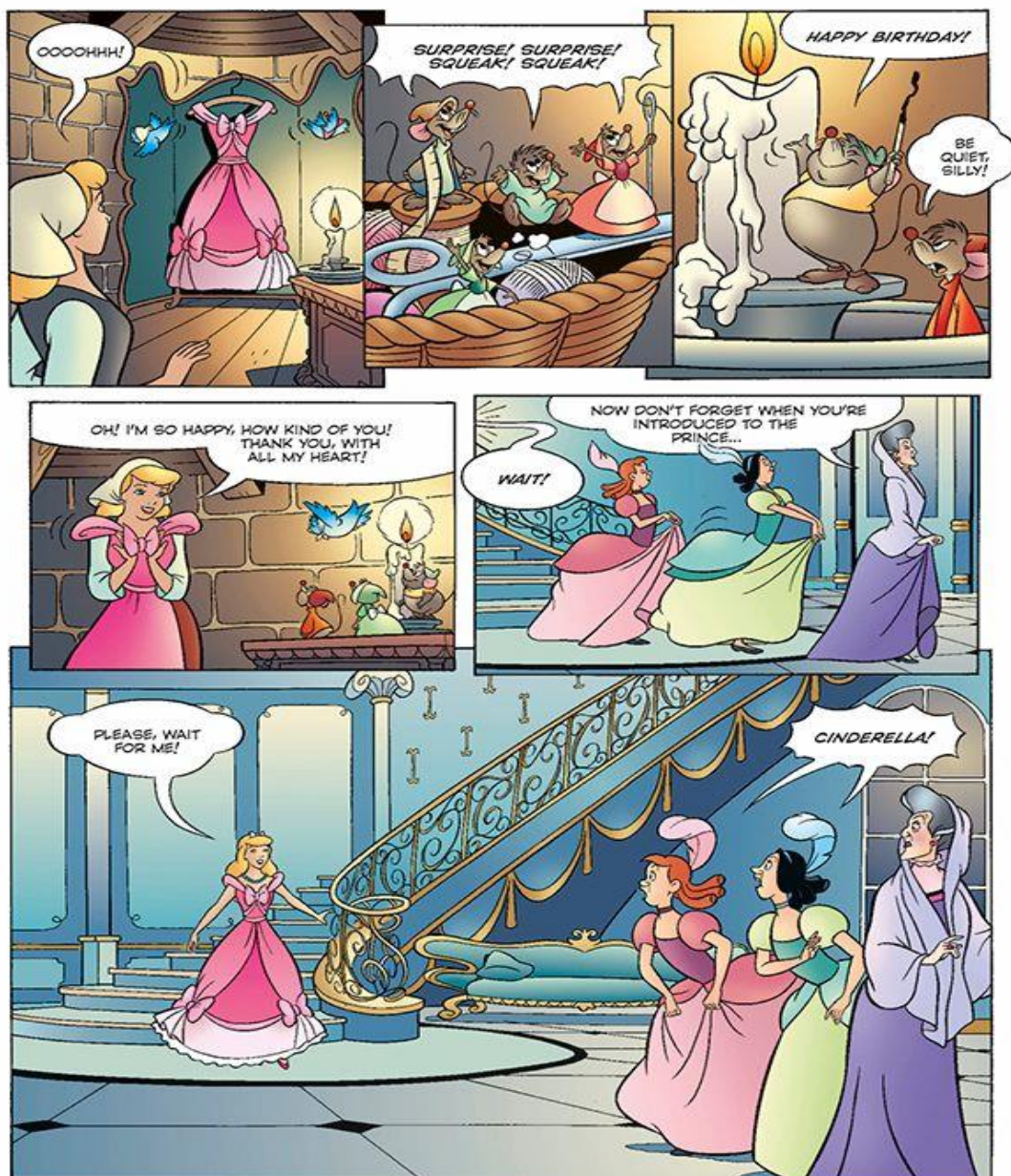


4-Picture Strip Story

Q: How much activities can be done with Picture strip story?

1-scrambled sentences 2-an information gap 3- choice 4-
feedback , and all of these

activities using problem – solving task as a communicative



5-Role play are very important in CLT because :

- 1-they give students an opportunity to practice communicating in different social contexts and in different social roles .
- 2- role – play can be set up so that they are very structured.
- 3- It is more in keeping with CLT of course , because it gives the students more of a choice .



The role of the teacher

The teacher's role in the communicative approach facilitates communication in the classroom. He establishes situations likely to promote communication. Also he acts as an advisor during the activities , answering student's questions and monitoring their performance. Here he might make a note about their errors to work on later . At other times he might be a ' co- communicator' engaging with the students in the communicative activity (Richard&Rodgers,2007).

The role of the students

The students are communicators . The teacher needs to assess students by providing framework , patterns and rules in order to develop their communicative abilities . The learner should participate in classroom activities that are based on a cooperative rather than individualistic approach of learning .Students become comfortable to work with their classmate group rather than relying on the teacher as a model because of the increasing responsibility to participate , students may gain confidence in using the target language in general. The students are more responsible managers of their own learning(Freeman,2011).

Advantages of communicative approach

- 1- This approach motivates students to be able to use language by themselves . Since it emphasizes on fluency in the target language. Meaning that , it allows students to express their own ideas about what they are going to talk.
- 2- Using authentic materials is more interesting and motivating for students.
- 3- Encourages the students to practice the language in real communication .
- 4-CLT helps the students to be brave in interacting by using language.
- 5-It provides an opportunity for students to focus not only on the language but also on the learning process itself.

Pedagogical implications

The communicative approach to language teaching emphasizes interaction as the primary means of language learning. Here are some key pedagogical implications:

- 1-Focus on Meaning: Lessons should prioritize meaningful communication over grammatical perfection. Activities should encourage students to express their thoughts and opinions.
- 2-Authentic Materials: Use real-life materials (like videos, articles, and dialogues) to expose students to the language as it is used in context, enhancing their ability to understand and engage with native speakers.

3-Task-Based Learning: Implement tasks that require students to use language in practical situations. This could include role-plays, interviews, and problem-solving activities.

4-Collaborative Learning: Encourage pair and group work to foster interaction. Collaborative tasks help students learn from each other and practice language in social contexts.

5-Integration of Skills: Combine listening, speaking, reading, and writing in a holistic manner.

6-Student-Centered Learning: Recognize students' interests and experiences. Tailor activities to their needs to enhance motivation and engagement.

7-Feedback and Correction: Provide constructive feedback that focuses on communication effectiveness rather than just accuracy. Encourage self-correction and peer feedback

Conclusion

The communicative approach (CLT) is one of the important approaches to teaching language which provides emphasis to language use and practice . In this situation the students must know how to use the language in different real life communicative situations . So the communicative approach may help the learners to communicate effectively.

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