

Teaching English with Innovative Methods

Olimova Shahina Botirjon qizi

Student of Uzbekistan State World Language University

Abstract. *As globalization is changing rapidly, knowing and understanding English has become more important and necessary than in past decades. English is a powerful communication bridge that connects people in various fields, such as business, science, and education, across nations. Therefore, the demand for English proficiency is high, and creative teaching methods could be a good solution to meet this request. This article analyzes innovative approaches to teaching English and explores useful methods for improving the quality of knowledge among students.*

Keywords: *innovative ideas, creative methods, CREAM strategy, knowledge acquisition, student engagement.*

Introduction: Today, people are struggling with learning English and finding qualified teachers. That is why creating an attractive study environment and teaching students with innovative methods is crucial. Traditionally, teaching methods can seem boring to students, and it is not effective at enhance language skills. Through creative activities and innovative approaches, teachers can capture a student's attention and make the lesson more engaging. Finding interactive methods can be challenging, but they can be achieved by the following strategies:

Materials and Methods:

Word Games

Students studying English as a second language often face challenges with learning new vocabulary. They struggle to remember vocabulary for long periods and use it effectively in writing and speaking. A solution to this problem could be word games. In this activity, teachers write new vocabulary on online flashcards with numbers. Then, students select a number and provide the definition of the word associated with that number. This method not only helps students learn new vocabulary but also improves their communication skills, which are essential in language learning.

Imposing Stories

Using stories in the educational process, especially for teaching foreign languages, makes lessons more captivating. Stories help students imagine real events and the characters' situations. Simply asking questions based on the passages is not always effective, because students may focus on finding answers rather than engaging with the story itself. Instead, teachers can assign tasks where students must prepare a role-play in a chapter they like. This approach helps increase student engagement. Additionally, students will better understand the meaning of the story as they immerse themselves in the characters' perspectives. While preparing for the role-play, students will collaborate with their peers, which helps develop teamwork skills. This strategy also aids teachers in maintaining students' interest and making lessons more dynamic.

CREAM Strategy

The CREAM strategy is a combination of five key concepts: Creative, Reflective, Effective, Active,

and Motivational. Each word carries its own meaning:

C-Creative: Teachers need to encourage students to use critical thinking and give tasks that develop problem-solving skills. This strategy can help students to nurture innovative ideas.

R-Reflective: Teachers should teach students how to analyze their own performance and find mistakes. It can help students to identify strengths and weaknesses and take valuable lessons from them.

E-Effective: In this approach, students learn to organize time, learn about the environment, and use digital technology. It allows students to save time and energy and focus on studying.

A-Active: Being active is a key element in the educational process. Teachers should encourage students to engage actively in lessons and explore further information related to the subject they are learning.

M-Motivational: Motivation is a powerful factor that impacts a student's academic success. Teachers should reward students for their achievements and motivate them to achieve their goals. This helps students stay motivated and pursue their dreams.

Results and Discussions

The CREAM strategy was applied over a 4-week period in a class of 30 intermediate-level English learners, aged 15 in a school. Teachers decided to use this strategy to improve their speaking and listening skills. In the first week, students worked on creative projects that required them to use their imagination, such as doing presentations, projects, creating interesting videos about themes that they were interested. This method helped them to improve their communication skills, especially fluency and coherency, and remove anxiety in public speaking.

In the second week, teachers focused on improving their listening skills. Listening to short interviews, clips and watching videos that are related to developing comprehension. Moreover, they analyzed and discussed what they watched. This approach aimed to improve their ability to understand English in various accents.

In the third week, teachers used engaging activities such as storytelling techniques. In this game, students make a sentence to build a collective story. This helped students to foster creativity and build team-working skills. It enhanced student participation and team collaboration.

Last week, teachers tried to use motivation techniques to encourage students to study hard. Teachers reward students when they do task successfully with grades and gifts such as books. This plan inspired students to keep trying and boosted their confidence.

Surveys and interviews conducted at the end of the month, showed a significant increase in student students' results. Students speaking ability, as measured by taking a speaking exam, increased by 60 percent as compared to last month. After implementation of the CREAM strategy, according to the listening skills, 50 percent of students increased their comprehension ability, and they were able to distinguish different accents.

Conclusion

Since English is the official language in many countries, the demand for teaching this language is high. Many teachers use various methods, including word games, storytelling, video presentations, the CREAM strategy, and other innovative approaches. These methods help achieve educational goals and improve the quality of teaching. Through creative teaching methods, students can expand their vocabulary and develop their comprehension skills. Furthermore, these methods encourage students to be more creative and engaged in lessons. Therefore, using innovative teaching strategies is crucial, as it contributes to enhancing the quality of education. In the experiment of the CREAM method we can see some results: before using this method, students were struggling with listening and speaking skills and struggles were low. For 4 weeks, teachers tried to apply the CREAM strategy to different activities. After the experiment, 18 people increased their speaking ability, as for

listening. this percentage rose to 15 people. Additionally, according to the survey, teachers were able to not only increase student's speaking and listening skills but also help students stay motivated and pursue their dreams.

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