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THE IMPACT OF VISUAL AIDS IN TEACHING AND LEARNING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

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Abstract: Visual aids are very effective teaching tools that can be used by teachers to help students learn a foreign language. The advantage of applying visuals in teaching are enormous from catching students' attention to encouraging them to keep up with lecture's specific topic. In this article, the use of visual aids in learning English language is examined in both theoretical and practical ways. In addition, some activities related to visual aids are suggested.

Key words: visuals, multimedia projector, photographs, Venn Diagram method, gestures, target language

Education is the most integral part of human beings as no one can succeed without vitally imperative knowledge in every sphere of the life. Education improves people's critical thinking skills like problem-solving, decision-making. It makes you more open-minded towards people. By being educated, you have better chances for your future career and it provides you with great skills to succeed. Teaching and learning are two main steps in the process of education. Teachers use variety range of methods so as to make learning effective. In the past, the most common method of teaching was lecture where the teacher was the controller of the class and students would sit in silence and had no right to ask something during the lesson.

Unlike the past education, now traditional teaching methods have changed to progressive ones which include interesting activities, explaining lesson with additional visual aids such as videos, images to make lesson understandable for students. They altered the way people think about lessons when they tend to consider 31 2023 MART classrooms like a prison. Visual aids have so much power to improve the interest in learning and it helps teachers to distribute conception easily. They are additional equipments that make lesson clearer to understand. They can be very enjoyable for students since it stimulates their interest in target language. Multiple kinds of visual aids that teachers integrate into teaching process facilitate students to gain real-life language.

One of the useful sides of visuals is that they can be used for different levels in language learning. So what exactly are the visual aids? According to Gini Beqiri, "visual aids are items of a visual manner, such as graphs, photographs, video clips used in addition to spoken information". Twinkl states that "visual aids are cues which highlight information or break something down into simple steps that we can see". In short, they are the tools which are used in teaching and learning process to make lesson easier to understand. Thomas,M and Keinders think that applying visuals into teaching process "help the teacher to clarify , establish, correlate and coordinate accurate concepts, interpretations and appreciations, and enable him to make learning more concrete , effective, interesting, inspirational, meaningful and vivid. Some scientists such as Moriarty was in the opinion of "the need of pictorial information rather than textual among young students".

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There are several types of visual aids. They are often on the form of videos, pictures, graph and charts, posters and overhead projectors. Also televisions and Internet are important for video visuals while textbooks provide wide range of pictures. Here are given extended information for some of the visuals.

Videos in language learning. The use of videos for educational purposes began long ago, in early 1980s. After some years, more teachers started to integrate videos into lessons. Educators found have found movies and clips to be useful for relaying some kind of data inside the classroom since "videos enclose visual hints such as gestures and expression that are considered as a guidance for learners to go beyond of what they are listening in order to infer video's content" as Adambayeva F said. Combining the video material into learning foreign language process allows students to guess the information through video's content as well as to enhance their critical thinking and awareness. Samir M.Rammal said that, " Video has been proved to be effective method in teaching English as a foreign/second language foreign or both young". Videos in teaching and learning language can easily introduce target culture to the students They have many prospects to be applied to improve the obtaining of listening skills. Therefore, they can show how to use and pronounce new words in real conversations as the situations in videos are very similar to those in real life such as the choice of words and the tone of the voice . Besides, they present more cultural factors of the language which might be an effective beginning to inquire into target traditions. Similarly, Sayed Mustafa Zemary mentions some useful effects of videos in learning language. First, "through videos, learners may compare and contrast societal and cultural values of their home language and target language. By integrating videos into English learning, teachers make students decipher the correct meaning of the context without any drawbacks. In addition, their writing skill can be also developed by looking at the subtitles of the video. They assess students obtain the correct spelling of the new learnt words.

There are many activities to do with videos.

1. Vocabulary matching. Students should match the new words that they came across while watching videos with the pictures in this activity.

2. Brainstorming. Teacher gives one problem related to the video for each group and told them to give some possible solutions.

3. Discussing titles. Before watching the video students try to guess what the video is about by examining the title.

Pictures in language learning. According to Sinclair, "a picture is defined as a visual representation or image that is painted, drawn, or photographed, and rendered on a flat surface". Vast majority of educators now use pictures as an important tool to teach students. Surely, the main benefit of pictures is that they are visible to people. They lead to encourage the interest of learners to obtain foreign language. As Moore says, "students' imagination can also be inspired". For instance, the pictures with vivid colors can alter the whole vibe of the classroom as they attract student's attention. Images are an effective 33 2023 MART way of introducing new vocabulary as they support the progress of academic and social vocabulary. It has also been suggested that pictures help teachers influence situations and inquire authenticity into language learning atmosphere. According to Rossita, Derwing, and Jones, "pictures are helpful for data collection and in analyzing learner's speech since visuals enable learners to elaborate on their both spoken and written speech". Description is one of the commonly used activities with pictures. Once a learner sees the picture, then he/she can talk about what is described in the picture. If they can not understand the context of the image, they try to guess

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possible suggestions and with that the critical thinking also improves. Images also help students to realize main points by connecting several visuals. Venn Diagrams method can be used in such circumstances. Learners should compare and contrast two pictures and find similarities between them. Collage method is a great way to make predictions. When students learn a new topic, they are challenged to connect several pictures which might relate to each other. Storytelling is the most common way of teaching language. The teacher shows 3 or 4 pictures from famous fairy-tales and asks students to retell the story.

Projectors in language learning. Blackboards have always been used in classrooms as they provide learners with visual information. But after Multimedia Projectors were added to learning process, blackboards have lost their significance. Projectors are small machines designed to project an image onto a small screen or whiteboard Teaching languages, especially English has become easy with the help of projectors. Stair Yassir states that "a projector, image projector, or multimedia projector is an optical device that spots visual media such as images, videos, or documents onto a solid surface or a projection screen, making it works like a borderless TV". Projectors are very useful and time-saving equipment in classrooms as they contribute all kinds of visual files in minutes. Sharing materials via projector will give you larger picture than just showing them on a laptop which means they become easier to see on the eyes. The main advantage of using projectors is its space-saving size. According to Radius Research, 58% of students can not read content on a 70" panel.

Conclusion. The role of visual aids is very crucial to make lessons understandable in Foreign Language Teaching. By properly selecting and creating, visual aids can be an important supplement to teaching-learning process since they help keep students engaged in their work and motivated to learn. The integration of technology to into classroom help educators to explain topics and ideas practically. Classes also become more engaging and interactive. The visual aids can develop learners' all 4 skills as well as their creativity and critical thinking. In today's cutting-edge world, knowing how to apply visual aids into lessons, how to install them to classrooms is must-have knowledge for teachers as they arouse the interest and encourage students.

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