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The Role of Heuristic Method in Modern Students' Activities

Nowadays we can speak a lot about the English language role and its significance in modern life. It's real truth because this language is considered to be the essential element in any person's life. It means that the overwhelming majority will be able to find many reasons for its learning and mastering.

Today a great number of people all over the world study English because they realize that they can become rich and independent only owing to it. Especially it concerns the language use together with their habits and skills. All communication between people is based on English. That's why it is necessary to engage students in English learning. On the one hand, it is difficult to predict in what spheres will they work. But, on the other hand, our country is widely open to international partnership. According to the facts it follows that if we aspire to use an international experience, to communicate with representatives of different nations and cultures we will not be able to exist without English in our life. Therefore, the better we know and understand it the more knowledge we will acquire about the others [1].

The vast majority of modern students are rather persistent and ambitious. They know what they want and, certainly, they are eager to succeed in their future career. They understand that English has been constantly in their everyday life. They spend too much time at the computer, browsing different web sites and Internet resources. They do it because they strive to know a great number of new and interesting things.

It is excellent that modern students are so inquisitive. Their success depends upon their desire to master knowledge, their capacities for independent

productive activity and, of course, development of critical thinking. In this situation many factors are imposed on their teacher. Teacher and students must interact with each other in different situations, especially in unexpected ones. Such method as heuristic one can help students to strengthen their positions in the process of training, their cognitive and creative activities. Friendly attitude promotes the possibility of demonstrating initiative in classes, on seminars and conferences. In its turn students acquire self-confidence and develop their thinking. There is an indisputable merit in this training. No matter whether a weak or a strong student in language learning, he acquires a wonderful opportunity of developing their self-realization and creative thinking [2].

Let's pay attention to a number of various tasks connected with heuristic method. It is famous for helping students to develop their imagination, creative thinking and fantasy [3].

E.g. You are from Ukraine, you like your job, your income is regular. Everything suits you. But one fine day you get a chance to become a well-known star and to live in luxury. Imagine, what would you do for it and why? Make your speech.

E.g. You are from Ukraine, you like your job, your income is regular. Everything suits you. But one fine day you get an information that a stranger had been left a heritage for you in sunny Spain. Imagine, how would you react to it and how would you behave in such situation? Make your speech. Such tasks allow students to make spontaneous dialogues, to write reports, to invent situations and events with different end.

A teacher can also set conditions for any situation which can take place. Students get a task to imagine this situation and to describe it in details.

E.g. If summer came on now, what would it look like?

E.g. If polar night came on in our country, what would it look like?

Students develop their habits and skills of creative vision of the situation and their logical thinking.

A teacher also creates a situation which is on the verge of reality and fiction.

E.g. Imagine that you turned out to be in a magic land where a lot of little fairies live. How do they live in their country? Do they know something about other worlds?

E.g. Imagine that you turned out to be on a desert island in the ocean where only magic animals live. How do they live on their island? Do they know something about other countries and islands? Such tasks create a great field for reflexion and students can work with their imagination as they like.

A teacher can suggest his students very interesting tasks connected with development of figurative thinking.

E.g. Look at the picture and depict different variants of scenarios.

E.g. Describe the essence of the proverbs «And pigs might fly».

Consequently, it is possible to say that the heuristic methods enlarge students' knowledge, habits and skills on different disciplines, develop their figurative thinking, attention and memory. This method also contributes to the expansion of students' horizons, increases their motivation in foreign languages learning, helps to gain valuable experience and orients to success in their future professional activity which is really very important for modern youth and new generation.

Sources

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