

USING GAMIFICATION TECHNIQUES TO ENHANCE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

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Abstract. This article examines the integration of game techniques into English language instruction, highlighting their effectiveness in enhancing student engagement and motivation. It outlines the numerous benefits of using games, such as fostering active participation, improving communication skills, and providing instant feedback. Various game-based activities are presented, including role-playing, language games, quizzes, storytelling, and custom board games, each designed to facilitate language learning in an enjoyable manner. The article argues that incorporating these interactive methods not only enriches the learning experience but also supports the development of essential language skills, ultimately making English teaching more effective and dynamic in the classroom.

Keywords: Didactic games, teacher, student, classroom, activity.

INTRODUCTION

In this globalization era, people are trying to show their power of knowledge in every sphere such as education, sport, technology, policy and so on. Some decades ago humans could not do any actions and nowadays young generation are expected to go on the chain which ancestors did not couple. By all means, teachers are motivators and assistants to do this. In particular, didactic games are utilized by ESL and EFL teachersto teach English more interestingly and effectively in the classroom¹. A didactic game is construed as some sort of game where set rules are observed. It is an educating tool

¹ Wright. A., Betterridgesi D., Buckby M., (2014) Games for language lerning.NewEdition.Cambridge.Cambridge University Press.

serving the didactic purpose. An important aspect of the game is to achieve a strictly defined score. Competences acquired when playing didactic games, e.g. persistence, critical thinking or readiness to run risk, facilitate the development of entrepreneurial attitudes. Use of games dates back to the antiquity. The oldest board game was found in China – it dates back to 3000 BC. Some ethnographers are convinced that it was education that was the reason for creating many games. Their task was to reproduce natural living conditions of humans, share knowledge with the next generation and prepare them for proper functioning in the society. A good example may be chess, which was used as a typical simulation game 2000 years ago². Its aim was to prepare soldiers to do battles. The creator of modern pedagogics – Jan Amos Komeński – recommended methods that taught through play. He gave most credit to simulation and competitive games. They were to maintain the attention of the student and evoke their motivation. Besides that, language learning should not be seemed boring and complicated. Didactic games differ under training maintenance, informative activity of children, game actions and rules, the organization and mutual relations of children, on a role of the teacher. The listed signs are inherent in all games, but in one more distinctly acts, in others — others. In various collections it is specified more than 500 didactic games, but accurate classification of games by kinds is absent. Often games correspond with the training and education maintenance. Didactic games are a lively way of maintaining pupils' interest in the language, they are fun but also part of the learning process, and students should be encouraged to take them seriously. Also, there are some benefits of didactic games by point of view of scholars and scientists.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to scientists Wright, Betteridgesi and Buckby:

- didactic games help and encourage students because they are funny and

² Natalia Kaszkowiak April 5, 2017 Games as teaching method

interesting

- they help teachers to create useful contexts
- they assure an intense and useful practice of the language
- they develop all four skills (speaking, writing, reading, listening)

By all means, games help to ease learning and teaching process no matter which language is a target one by motivating. Didactic games are really convenient in order to more practice and stabilize previous themes which learners likely forget. As well as, Teachers can use games for improving every language skill especially which one should be increased. Many authors underline that didactic games are an efficient method of developing persistence. Gabriela Kapica claims that they develop willpower, willingness to overcome difficulties and persistence. They bear successes, which evoke optimism and self-faith. Maria Noga adds that “they develop such character traits as regularity, persistence, self-discipline and feeling of justice. They teach how to take uptasks on one’s own and how to get on in a peer group”. In the current time a person should not only gain universal knowledge but also solve problems, criticize and analyze information and attitude toward what is going on in present and future. Usually teachers use didactic games as a brainstorming or warm-up activity at the beginning of the lesson at schools. However, games play a crucial role in every stage of the lesson and it can be essential if teachers use them in every for introducing and stabilizing new theme. Particularly, young learners who are seven-ten years old may have difficulty figuring out or learning by heart words. Besides this they are easily tired and bored. In that time teachers can use didactic games. There are various kinds of tools for organizing didactic games such as cards, pictures, songs, or dialogue-based games “At the shop”, “In a Picnic”, “At the zoo”. They are enjoyable that pupils can learn or revise new or complicated words, grow

oral competencies by using them in real life, and enjoy. After several lessons language learning will be their favorite activity³.

Playing games at schools are also useful in order to develop team-working and leadership in young learners and teacher can achieve a friendship atmosphere. Sharing ideas, thinking together with group mates, discussion and listening someone serve learners to create strong friendship. In that time future leaders can be visible. In these purposes some didactic games are given with different goals in the following:

Hangman

This is considered, traditional but interactive game which enhances students' spelling and subject knowledge, and enjoyable for pupils. Draw swords

This quick fire game tests students' fine motor skills and promotes quick thinking, as well as generating some healthy competition. For establishing teachers utilize dictionary or textbook, plus list of key vocabulary.

CONCLUSION

By the way of conclusion, in every time didactic games possess its important role in the classroom and never lose value. They help and motivate students to learn the target language and not to feel bored and disappointed. They let to make the lesson interesting, meaningful and easy to remember gained knowledge as well as consolidate them. Therefore, modern teachers ought to utilize didactic games in order to cultivate the learners' interest, good attitude for the subject. Moreover, learners should be active and energetic participants during the games and lessons to learn.

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