



Impact of worksheets in enabling D.El.Ed students to frame simple English sentences in the Present Continuous Tense

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Abstract

The aim of this paper is to illustrate the impact of 'Worksheets' in overcoming the difficulties of D.El.Ed students in framing simple English sentences in the Present Continuous Tense. The researcher adopted an experimental method, where various strategies were used along with worksheets and used Questionnaire as tool for collecting the study data from the population of the research, who were the 21 students of the 2nd Year students of Diploma in Elementary Education, at Uthama Cholapuram, Salem District of Tamil Nadu. The researcher arrived at a conclusion that 'Worksheets', play a major role in enabling the students frame simple sentences in the Present Continuous Tense. The study recommends that various strategies, which include Worksheets, play a vital role in overcoming the difficulties of framing simple English sentences. Teachers of English should consider using this strategy in their classrooms.

Keywords: worksheets, teaching English grammar, present continuous tense, strategies

1. Introduction

Language is a tool to convey ideas, opinions, and feelings among people by oral or written ways. One of the languages which is often used in communication is English. It has been observed that after years of learning English at the school and college level, most learners of English do not have the required level of proficiency in the language. This could be due to several factors. Learners lack opportunities to use the language outside the classroom. Even after completing graduation, many learners are unable speak or write in English correctly and coherently.

English teaching aims at mastering four basic skills of language, which include listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Students are expected to master those four skills in order to be able to use English communicatively, considering the language components such as grammatical structure, vocabulary, spelling and pronunciation.

One of the language components is grammar. Grammar is considered important, because grammar is a basic knowledge of language to understand English perfectly. But in fact, students have difficulties in learning grammar. Many people think of grammar as a rather boring school subject which has little use in real life.

Grammar comprises of tenses, words order, modals, preposition, adjective and other structural items. Each tense has its own rules. It is one of the problems in studying and using English correctly. Present Continuous Tense is one of tenses. This tense indicates that an action is in progress during particular time.

Communication, either oral or written, is effective if each step is completed properly. It can break down if any step is incomplete or blocked by barriers. It is highly essential for the Diploma in Elementary Education (D.El.Ed) students to communicate in English without making mistakes in the basics. The student-teachers, who are the up-coming teachers, have to equip themselves well ahead, in order to cater to the needs of the students. They are to communicate without making errors in the usage of tenses in simple

sentences. Therefore, grammar needs to be mastered by the students since it is the basic rule of language.

It was found that many students still had difficulties in mastering grammar, especially in mastering Present Continuous Tense. Present Continuous Tense is important as the basic rule for the students to make and use sentences to communicate in daily life. Students need to know the basic usage of Present continuous tense in simple sentences incorporating the Subject - verb agreement.

It was also observed that the students did not understand the usage of Pronouns, auxiliaries and the required verb forms in a sentence. They were not able to make use of the tense correctly. They make mistake by changing the meaning of the sentences they intend to communicate. This problem has arisen because the students did not understand the right rule or because they did not get enough practice in using the Present Continuous Tense forms.

2. Objectives

Hence, the investigator took this study, in order to:

- Enable the students understand the structure of simple sentences.
- Help them learn the tense forms.
- Make the students use appropriate auxiliary verbs.
- Enable the students use exact pronouns.
- Enable the students identify the verbs and use them in the present continuous form.
- Enable the students overcome the difficulties in using the present continuous tense in the appropriate manner.

3. Implemented Method

3.1 Pre-test

In order to evaluate the level of the II Year D.El.Ed students in understanding the Present Continuous Tense form of the verbs correctly, the investigator prepared a Pre-test Questionnaire, in which the average Mean score of the students is 7.11%

3.2 Strategies used

Different strategies were used in the classroom to improve students' understanding on Present Continuous Tense, by the researcher. 'Worksheets' were used in unison with all the strategies.

1. Verb - Games
2. Use of Power Points with exercises
3. Situational approach
4. Picture description
5. Worksheets
6. Substitution tables
7. Story telling
8. Video clippings - description
9. Narration of events
10. Identification of sentences from Textbooks, newspapers and various Articles of English.

The students were given enough opportunity to frame their own sentences in the Present Continuous Tense form using various strategies. They were given different situations and were made to use simple sentences in the Present Continuous Tense.

3.3 Post-test

After the implementation of the strategies, a Post-test was administered by the investigator with the same Question Paper which was used in the Pre-Test. The Mean score of the Pre-test conducted for 36 students is 7.11 and the Mean score of the Post-test conducted for 36 students after implementation of various strategies is 47.11

The difference between the Mean score of the Pre-test and the Post-test conducted is 40. It is seen that there is a significant difference between the Mean score of the Pre-test and the Post-test.

4. Findings of the Study

The data analysis of the Mean scores of the Pre-test and the Post-test enabled the investigator to arrive at the following findings:

1. The present classroom action research has paved way for the students to understand the structure of simple sentences in English.
2. Students have learnt the difference between the tense forms and their usage in sentences.
3. Students are able to use appropriate auxiliary verbs in sentences.
4. Students have got enough practice in identifying and using the respective Pronouns.
5. They are able to identify the verbs and use them in the Present Continuous form in the sentences of their own.
6. The difficulties faced by students in using the Present Continuous tense form in sentences could be overcome by making use of various strategies in the classroom.
7. Use of Worksheets play a major role in enabling the students frame simple sentences in the Present Continuous Tense.
8. There is a significant difference between the Mean score of the Pre-test and the Post-test.
9. It is found that the Pre-test Mean score, which is 7.11% has been increased to 47.11% in the Post-test Mean score with a Mean difference of 40%.
10. The result depicts that various strategies, which include Worksheets play a vital role in enabling the D.El.Ed students to frame simple English sentences in the Present Continuous Tense.

The findings of the present study have implications for Teacher-educators and teacher-trainees. They are as mentioned below:

1. Different strategies are to be used in the classroom while teaching the Grammatical areas of English, especially the Tense forms.
2. Various opportunities are to be given to the trainees to communicate in English in the Present Continuous Tense, freely and confidently.
3. Trainees should understand the basics of English Grammar and use them in their day-to-day communications.
4. Use of Worksheets should be carried out in every English classroom to enable the students use sentences in the Present Continuous Tense.

This study aimed at enabling D.El.Ed students to frame simple English sentences in the Present Continuous Tense using Worksheets and has sufficed the purpose of study.

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