

TEACHING SEMANTICS TO EFL STUDENTS VIA MOBILE ASSISTED DEVICES

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Abstract: This article highlights the method of teaching semantics in the example of video material. It gives definition and examples of semantics. Teachers of English as a foreign language can make use of the lesson plan of how to teach semantics to efl students through the video material and the tasks, and a quiz.

Key words: Semantics, mobile assisted devices, communicative competence, sociolinguistic, pragmatic, linguistic competence, mobile assisted devices.

INTRODUCTION

“Teaching is the one profession that creates all other professions”, this quote was written by unknown special but his words should be true in the time when the requirements are rising by employers and the main aim of teachers is to teach such kind of specialists that they must meets all requirements of their employers in the world market competition. Last but not least, as a teacher of English language as a foreign language, we must train our listeners in the way that they will be able to communicate in English in their daily and professional life by using their linguistic, sociolinguistics and pragmatic competences. And in order to make students to speak, teachers should enrich their vocabulary day by day. The aim of the article is to show how to teach semantics with the help of handheld devices, such as mobile phones, iPods and others. Nowadays when we need to stay home, this subject will be one of the necessary one for the teachers who need to conduct their lessons online, through zoom or others.

Let’s study first off all the notion ‘semantics’. Semantics is defined by Webster Dictionary as follows: “The historical and psychological study and the classification of changes in the signification of words or forms viewed as factors in linguistic development”.

MAIN PART

In Wikipedia it characterized as “Semantics (from Ancient Greek: σημαντικός *sēmantikós*, "significant")[a][1] is the linguistic and philosophical study of meaning in language, programming languages, formal logic, and semiotics. It is concerned with the relationship between signifiers—like words, phrases, signs, and symbols—and what they stand for in reality, their denotation”.

Semantics plays an influential part in our daily life conversation. It is not so easy to learn English semantics for EFL students, as there are differences in the two language structures. It is important to explain it to students correctly. Because they will have to use every expression or words correctly. Let take an example, in everyday use, a learner can make use of semantics to understand a teacher's directive to "do the reading task" as, "do the reading task whenever you feel like it." However, the teacher was probably saying, "do the reading task right now." Here are some examples of everyday words that can have more than one meaning:

A water pill could be a pill with water in it but it is understood to be a diuretic that causes a person to lose water from his body. Depending on context, a flowering plant could be referred to as a weed or a flower. A human can be referred to as a male, female, child, adult, baby, bachelor, father or mother.

The purpose of teaching semantics is that it helps to identify the meaning relevant to linguistic analysis in other words to discover why the meaning is more complex than simply the words written down in a sentence.

"The study of Semantics increases students' understanding and awareness of word meaning, sentence relationships, and discourse and context".

"Semantic areas looked at in language learning in addition to the simple study of meaning include discourse analysis, word groups such as homonyms, synonyms and antonyms, and compound structures".

There you can see the lesson plan and its methods of conducting through the Internet when there is no opportunity to be in the real lesson.

LESSON PLAN

Time: 80 min

Level: B1 and B2 level of students

Topic: Developing listening and speaking skills

Objectives:

Cognitive: to learn the different meanings of words used in video

Affective:

To motivate students, a teacher gives a few key words from the story of the video

Performative:

a) Doing the matching exercise;

Giving feedback by students about the quote;

Warmer (5 min)

Ask students answer the following questions:

Can you tell me the different meanings of the word "dream"?

Can you guess the topic of our lesson by the following words:

Sticker, a boy, to perform and a butterfly?

After eliciting answers from students randomly, listen to the answers and telling the closest answer to the students.

Activity 1:

Pre-watching task. Students do the matching task, Worksheet 1. Check their answers and discuss if there are incorrect ones. Then they read a quote about “dream” and express the points of view whether they agree or disagree.

Activity 2:

Watching the video about the pianist. After watching, students are told to do the quiz in their telegram app on cell phones.

Activity 3:

Using a cue card in worksheet 2, the students are asked to narrate the story of a pianist.

Homework task:

To do all tasks in worksheets 3 and 4 in written form.

Worksheet 1

Useful language:

Match the words from A column with their definitions in column B:

Column A:

Stage

Dream

To perform

Gorgeous

Flutter

Column B:

A) fantasize about

b) beating, flapping

C) Attractive, beautiful

D) present (a form of entertainment) to an audiences)

E) a raised floor or platform, typically in a theatre, on which actors, entertainers, or speakers perform.

Discussing the quote: A heart without dreams is like a bird without feathers.

Worksheet 2.

Could you retell the history of a pianist using the following questions:

What was Azul’s dream?

What was the teacher’s secret?

What is the relationship of a sticker with Azul’s performance?

Did Azul’s dream come true? If yes, how?

What did he do in order to become a pianist?

Could he play with heart?

Worksheet 3: Paraphrase the following sentences:

Azul became good at it because he was so sincere.

Azul, you will perform tomorrow in front of a large audience.

You're getting to be a quite a pianist.

Azul stared at his butterfly.

The night before his performance he did not practice.

The sticker was gone too!

That did not stop clock from ticking.

In the quiet of the auditorium, Azul heard the flutter of wings.

The butterfly started to hum a tune.

Worksheet 4: Do you know the other meanings of the following words?

A dream

A performance

A flutter

Gorgeous

Sincere

Hum

Tune

Key

Note: In this lesson a quiz was used done by poll of telegram app and the students did the quiz using their cell phones.

The video can be taken in <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4GsjEPRMzdwlink>.

There are examples from the video:

In the quiet of the auditorium.

To play from heart.

She gave a gorgeous sticker of a butterfly.

That did not stop clock from ticking.

Preform and performance.

Mobile assisted devices are useful in any types of lessons: whether it is a development, review or drill lesson. The first reason is that they make your lesson more captivating. The second one is they help to see, hear, contemplate at the same time, improving listening and speaking skills. The third main reason is they are power tools.

CONCLUSION

In general, the lesson was conducted not bad it was really interesting and interactive. However, there were positive and negative moments in the lesson.

Each student was involved in the process of learning, video watching with quiz doing were really useful not only for students with auditory learning styles, but for the rest three types too. But a lack of words of the topic was one of the disadvantages. The lesson was informative and explorative at the same time. During the activity students were bale do develop their sociolinguistic and communicative competences. Any kind of lesson which is aimed to develop listening and speaking skills contributes to build the students' communicative skills.

The followings are examples of the quiz done by telegram poll application:



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