



"THE IMPORTANCE OF DRAMA METHOD IN LEARNING ESL"

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Abstract

This article examines the effectiveness of drama in learning English as a second language (ESL). Drama-based activities such as role-playing, improvisation, and storytelling enable students to develop speaking, listening, and critical thinking skills in a fun and interactive environment. Drama helps create a safe space where students can express themselves, gain confidence, and use language in real life. Research shows that drama significantly improves communication skills and increases fluency, especially among beginner and intermediate learners.

The drama method in learning ESL helps students express themselves freely, build confidence, and improve speaking skills through creative role-play and storytelling. The drama method is a masculine pedagogical approach to ESL education, which transforms traditional language classes and spaces for creativity, communication and emotional development. Benefits of Drama Method in ESL Teaching: increases confidence, develops speaking skills, expands vocabulary, improves pronunciation, increases motivation, develops communication skills, makes learning interesting, promotes teamwork.

First of all, let's figure it out increase's confidence. Learning English as a second language (ESL) can increase confidence because students begin to feel that they are able to express themselves and be understood in another language. When they see that they can participate in dialogues, answer questions, or even speak in front of the class, it gives them a sense of achievement. With each successful communication experience, they become more confident in their abilities, are less



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afraid of making mistakes, and participate more actively in lessons, and the student's self-esteem also increases. Yes, the first time may be different difficulties, but regular work and experience will help to overcome different stages and appear in themselves more confident than before. Such types of activities as role-playing games, presentations, or discussions in pairs and groups are especially helpful - there you can speak in a comfortable atmosphere and gradually overcome fear. Many people choose those places or those people where they feel comfortable speaking or having a conversation. But all this will help to increase not only confidence and even communication skills.

From my point of view, learning ESL helps develop speaking skills because it gives students many opportunities to practice speaking. In lessons, they learn to construct sentences, ask questions, answer questions, describe events, and express their opinions. Gradually, speaking becomes more fluent and natural. Regular practice through dialogues, games, storytelling, or discussing topics allows students to speak with increasing confidence and fluency. They learn not to be afraid of pauses or mistakes, and over time, they begin to speak more professionally and clearly, just like in real life.

In my opinion, when students learn ESL, they constantly learn new words and expressions, which helps them feel more confident in communication. The more words they know, the easier it is for them to express themselves and understand others. Many students find that the hardest part of speaking a second language is finding the right word or lack of vocabulary. However, vocabulary is the most reliable part of speaking. It reduces the fear of saying something wrong or not finding the right word. Especially when students see that they can use new words in real conversations, they begin to believe in themselves. Expanding their vocabulary gives a sense of progress, which directly increases confidence.

Learning ESL helps improve pronunciation because students listen, repeat, and practice English frequently. In class, they hear how words sound correctly and learn to imitate them through audio recordings, videos, songs, or the teacher's speech. Repeating words, letters, and phrases out loud helps get used to the sound



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of the language and trains the speech muscles. The teacher can also correct mistakes and explain how to pronounce sounds that are not in the native language. Over time, students begin to speak more clearly and understandably, which makes their speech more confident and understandable to others. Additionally, listening to various podcasts and shadowing will help improve pronunciation, because native English speakers and also specialists speak in these videos.

If I stay on increase motivation, ESL can increase motivation because students see real results from their efforts they begin to understand movies, songs, communicate with other people, or do better in school. This creates a sense of achievement and a desire to move forward. In addition, interesting tasks, interactive games, group work, and live communication make lessons exciting and students want to participate. When they realize that knowing English opens up more opportunities traveling, working, making friends with people from other countries, they have an internal motivation to study better and more. After that, they are more eager to gain knowledge and also their mood is lifted by this lesson and they will look forward to this approach to learning the next lesson.

As I said earlier, studying the drama method in ESL not only helps other skills but also develops communication skills. Studying ESL develops communication skills because students learn not just to speak, but to communicate to listen to the interlocutor, to answer, to ask questions, to express their thoughts and emotions. In class, they often work in pairs or groups, discuss topics, play role-playing games, all this helps to practice the ability to conduct a dialogue. They also learn to choose the right words in different situations, to be polite, to understand. These skills are important not only in English, but also in life in general for communication at school, at work or with friends.

I think that, learning ESL through drama makes learning interesting because it turns lessons into a lively and creative process. Instead of regular exercises, students play roles, act out scenes, make up dialogues as if they were actors. It is fun, helps to relax and forget about the fear of mistakes. Drama involves emotions and movement, so the material is remembered easier and for a long time. Each



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lesson becomes unique, and students participate more actively because they are truly interested. This approach makes the language namely alive and close to real communication. Today, many teachers use this method of teaching, because with this method, students can remember a lot of things and this turns the lesson into an interesting activity.

The way I see it, learning ESL through drama is great for developing teamwork because students often work together, assign roles, take their own words on the topic, discuss the script, share roles with each other, and rehearse scenes. To make a performance work, you need to listen to each other, agree, and support each other. This teaches cooperation, respect for the opinions of others, and responsibility for the overall result. All participants feel that they are part of a team, and this brings them closer together, they feel like they are one family, and yet they will look at it a little more responsibly because if another makes a mistake, they will help him or cover up this mistake by changing the script. Thanks to drama, students not only learn the language, but also learn to work together, which is important both in school and in life.

Drama also fosters cross-cultural understanding and empathy. By trying out different roles and characters, students learn about different perspectives, developing the tolerance and cultural sensitivity skills necessary for global communication. As Maley and Duff (2005) point out, “Drama doesn’t just teach language; it teaches humanity through language.”

A practical example for the classroom is a “restaurant role play,” in which students simulate ordering food by asking questions and responding politely. In this scenario, students not only practice functional language (“Can I...?”), but also learn intonation, body language, and cultural politeness norms.

In conclusion, the way I see it the drama method proves to be a powerful teaching tool that not only improves language acquisition but also promotes confidence, creativity, and collaboration among ESL learners. As language education continues to evolve, incorporating drama into the ESL classroom can transform learning into a more powerful, meaningful and human-centered experience.



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