

Some methods to motivate students to learn English well

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Abstract: *As we know in our modern society now, English is very important in international communication. It is one of the keys for us to get the culture, knowledge and scientific progress in the world. In fact, our learning English hasn't reached the international standard. One of the causes is that the learners haven't got learning motivation. It is the learning motivation that is made by the teachers and learners helps students learn English well. With a good English learning motivation, the learners will be the master of the language, communicate confidently and have many good opportunities in studying and working.*

Keywords: *Learning motivation, English learning motivation, English learning interest, language skills, learning atmosphere*

1. Introduction

In our period of active regional and international integration, English is important but in fact, teaching and learning English haven't got high efficiency yet. The main reason is that English learners do not have the motivation to study. We know that in everyday life, doing anything with motivation and passion will bring good results. In learning English, motivating for students is an important and necessary factor that brings success.

So how to create motivation for students to study English well? This is an issue that many teachers are concerned about to make lessons more attractive and more effective. To create motivation to learn English, there must be efforts from both teachers and students. There have been many research articles on learning motivation. This article would like to introduce the concept, characteristics and role of English learning motivation and some solutions help teachers and students create motivation to learn English well.

2. Content

2.1. Some theoretical problems about motivation to learn English

2.1.1. Notion about learning motivation

Psychology researchers have shown that motivation plays a role in human activity. Motivation is an internal process that helps speed up, direct and maintain continuous action (Murphy and Alexander, 2000;). In other words, motivation is the factor that urges people to act to satisfy their needs. Motivation is a basic psychological process, along with awareness, personality, learning attitude. Learning motivation plays an extremely important role for students. Without learning motivation, students

do not have desire, passion and responsibility in learning, they will avoid or coping with learning and thus the knowledge and skills gained will be limited and cannot be used in future life and work.

Learning motivation is divided into two types: intrinsic motivation and extrinsic motivation.

Internal motivation, also known as cognitive learning motivation, is the motivation to perfect knowledge, the desire to possess knowledge, master knowledge and be passionate about learning. Knowledge itself and the method of gaining knowledge are attractive and attract learners. This type of motivation helps learners always strive, overcome difficulties and overcome external obstacles to achieve their goals. It helps learners maintain interest and passion for learning to achieve their learning goals.

External motivation is also known as social motivation: learners study that subject because of the attraction of external factors such as meeting the requirements of parents, teachers, needing a degree, granted for future benefits, for achievements, for the admiration of friends.

When understanding the motivation to learn English, teachers can make good opportunities to encourage, motivate or create good pressure to motivate learners, helping them achieve their learning goals.

2.1.2. Characteristics of English learning motivation

Having researched we can see:

Motivation to learn English changes with age. Different ages will have different English learning motivations. For primary school children, the

motivations can be something simple such as: an interesting game, a toy reward... A little older, in high school, there is competition with classmates, exam pressure. A student at university, the motivation can be work, studying abroad, a chance to get a good job...

Motivation to learn English changes according to the learning environment: As we know, learning English in Singapore, Australia... both internal motivation and external motivation are greater much more than the English learning environment in a country where the language is not commonly used, such as learning English in Vietnam - often called a foreign language environment. With a second language environment, English is a means of daily communication outside of life as well as work and study. On the contrary, in a foreign language environment, learners do not necessarily have to use English in daily communication. The language used every day is the mother tongue. Therefore, there will be a lack of internal effort as well as external pressure to learn English.

The role of English learning motivation: English learning motivation plays an important role because it is the deciding factor in the success or failure of the learning process. Looking back at the current status of English learning results in our country, we see that in the subjects tested in the National High School Exam from 2020 to 2023. In 2020, the average score in English was 4,57 and in 2021 was 5,84, in 2022, the average score in English was 5,15. The latest score (Vietnam Net 18/7/2023), the average score in English in 2023 was 5,45. There are 392,000 out of 876,102 candidates taking the 2023 high school exam scoring below average.

In universities, most non-English major students are very worried about English. Many students cannot graduate because they do not meet the English proficiency standards even though they have very high scores in their professional subjects. Causes can come from many sides, such as learning conditions, learning environment, materials, content and methods...

From the current situation of learning English in our country along with the notions, characteristics and roles of motivation to learn English mentioned above, I would like to propose solutions to have good motivation to learn English. To create motivation to learn English, there must be efforts from both teachers and students

2.2. Some methods to motivate students to learn English well

To create motivation to learn English, there must be efforts from both teachers and students

2.2.1. For teachers

To motivate students to learn, teachers must create a friendly and positive learning environment for students. The atmosphere of learning and practicing the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing must take place in a friendly manner, avoiding too much distance in the interaction between teachers and students and between student and student. Teachers must create a friendly atmosphere so that students can overcome the feeling of being shy when practicing speaking and being afraid of saying the wrong thing. The specific methods are:

Arouse students' interest in learning English. There may be some students who are not interested in this subject for some reasons. In this case, teachers should let students know the impact of English on daily life and how it is necessary in the future for their lives, jobs, and careers. It is a useful means of bringing children closer to culture, progress and advanced science and technology around the world because it is the International language.

Let students share their own knowledge. Students will be less interested if they think teachers only lecture without thinking about their students' thoughts. Teachers should ask students about their own thoughts about the issue they are studying, then they will be excited to speak and will have the feeling of being cared about and from there they will be more confident and interested in sharing with their teacher and classmates.

Encourage students to discuss in class on the topic being studied. Students raise their own problems and discuss them under the guidance and direction of teachers. If possible, teachers organize seminars in English. Invite alumni and students with achievements in English competitions and those who have achieved much success in life and career with English. This is a living witness for motivating students to learn English

We also cannot ignore the fact that the foreign factor in motivating students to learn English. Teachers can combine with foreign teachers in lessons to practice speaking and listening skills for students. You will find it very interesting to communicate in English with foreigners. Through this, students become more confident and assert themselves. Gradually, little by

little, the children realize their own progress and this is the motivation and solid basis for them to continue striving to conquer this wonderful language.

2.2.2. For students:

In addition to the motivation and guidance of teachers, students themselves must also create their own motivation and know how to maintain their passion for learning English. To do this, students must always realize that English is the best means for them to come into contact with advanced cultures, and especially with good English, they will have the opportunity to study further and exchange knowledge.

They find themselves a role model for learning English, maybe someone from a low level who is determined to learn to reach a high level and with that English they have succeeded in their career and life. Set a goal to strive to be like them.

Make a plan with the content of the topic to learn, the amount of words to learn in a certain period of time. Seriously follow the proposed plan

Sign up for a course with a native speaker or online to practice listening and speaking with a native speaker's intonation.

Writing a diary in English is also a way for you to improve your skills and a basis for you to review your progress day by day. The diary can write down what happened to you, and can also write down the English knowledge you have just acquired.

Combine English learning activities together such as reading books, watching movies with English titles, practicing singing English songs, listening to the news, chatting with friends in English... like that, learning activities English will be rich. Doing just one practice activity will get boring and limit your skills.

If you want to be successful in learning English, you must pay attention to your English learning process. Consider learning English as a form of entertainment and consider it a priority in your daily activities. As long as you have perseverance, plus the determination to learn English well, success will come to you.

Those are some ways to help teachers motivate students to learn English and some ways to help students create their own motivation and passion to conquer English

3. Conclude

In Vietnam, where English is only a foreign language, practicing the language skills of learners is very difficult because the level of English usage

is not much in Vietnam, so students see the positive influence. pole of English to their future. When understanding the motivation to learn English, teachers can make good use of opportunities to arouse, encourage, motivate or create reasonable pressure to motivate learners, helping them achieve their learning goals.

We hope that the proposed solutions will partly contribute to motivating students to learn English, and we also hope that our colleagues will consult and contribute more ideas to improve the teaching and learning effectively.

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