

The use of innovative strategies to enhance quality of classroom interaction

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Abstract

In any formal education system, Classroom is a built atmosphere where formal learning process takes place. It is an important environment where students and teachers, students and their peer groups come into contact to share information in their quest for knowledge. This relates to Classroom interaction. This interaction involves reciprocal actions that take place in a room between the teacher and the students. This implies that the teacher formally instructs the students, while the students react in response to the teacher's instruction. Classroom interaction is based on content knowledge of teacher and it develops communication skill of students. With the advancement of technology and impact of globalization, traditional, outdated, rigid and stereotyped method of classroom interaction replaced new, flexible, innovative, forward looking and research oriented method such as constructivism, cooperative learning, think pair share, flipped classroom and smart classroom. In comparison to the conventional way of classroom- interaction, these techniques create a borderless classroom which enables the students to freely explore knowledge without limit or boundary. In today's classroom, students play an active role in their learning and demand to introduce new ideas and practices in classroom Interaction and other curricular and co-curricular activities. Hence, teachers need to respect innovations as well and promote innovative method in classroom interaction. The main purpose of this research paper is to bring qualitative improvement in classroom interaction. This conceptual paper is designed to elicit discussion on new ideas and innovative strategies of classroom interaction.

Keywords: classroom interaction and innovative strategies: flipped classroom, smart-classroom, constructivism, think pair share

Introduction

In any formal education system, Classroom is a built atmosphere where formal learning process takes place. It is an important environment where students and teachers, students and their peer groups come into contact to share information in their quest for knowledge. The classroom climate is built up by the pattern of interaction between teacher and students' verbal exchange, asking questions, responding and reacting. Interaction in the classroom is an essential part of teaching learning process. Classroom interaction has been defined as a process whereby teacher and students engaged in reciprocal actions. This action may be verbal or nonverbal. It is helpful in building knowledge and improving communication skills of the students. In a traditional classroom, the teacher had the dominant role of an all-knowing leader who filled students' empty heads with knowledge. This role has changed and the teacher has now got many roles depending on different classroom situations. In a broad sense, he is a 'facilitator of learning'. But, today's world is passing through rapid changes and great advancements (Das. 2015) ^[4]. As a result, there has been seen a tremendous shift in the ways and means of education services over the years. With the advancement of technology and impact of globalization, traditional, outdated, rigid and stereotyped method of teaching replaced new, flexible, innovative, forward looking and research oriented method and their role in making classroom effective (Sharma, 2016)

^[14, 16, 17]. For example, Today's children have grown up with remote controls and they spend more time in computers, internet, playing video games etc. than reading books; even toys are now filled with buttons and blinking lights. They demand to introduce new ideas and practices in classroom interaction and other curricular and co-curricular activities. In such a condition, it is very important to focus on "How can we educate this New Generation?". To answer this, to provide a supportive classroom environment in which they can create their own ideas; both individually and collaboratively. Hence, the need is to explore and suggest such innovative strategies in Classroom interaction (Sharma, 2016) ^[14, 16, 17].

Concept of Classroom Interaction

The term Classroom interaction refers to the interaction between the teachers and learners and amongst the learners in the classroom. This interaction is a practice that enhances the development of two very important language skills which are speaking and listening. Main purpose of classroom interaction is encouraging the learners to communicate with their peers and teachers easily. The role of the teacher is to create a learning atmosphere inside the classroom and motivate the students to come out with new ideas related to the topic. She/he is an observer, who helps the learner to construct an innovative learning product through group discussion, debates and many more.



Fig 1

Concept of Innovative Strategies

The word “Innovation”, is derived from the Latin word “Innovare” which means “to change something into something new”. It is a promotion of new ideas and practices in education and training. In other words, Innovativeness means the ability to think beyond the boundaries and create something which is different from that which already exists. Rogers (2003) [13] identifies an innovation as “an idea, practice or object that is perceived as new by an individual”. Without innovations, no progress is possible. For imparting knowledge to students, different method, practices and innovative strategies such as constructivism, cooperative learning, think pair share, Tpack, sense of humor, multimedia etc have been seen suggested from time to time in classroom interaction. These strategies are often tried in an effort to make one’s classroom interaction more effective.

Innovative Trends of Education in Present Era

Compared with the traditional method of teaching, innovative strategies are impressive for arousing students’ interest in classroom interaction. Innovative trend of education in present era includes many ways of classroom interaction such

as micro-learning, virtual conferences, social learning, blended learning, flipped classroom and mobile learning. In today’s classroom, students play an active role in their learning and teachers serve as mere guides.

Micro-learning

It is current trend of interaction in B.ED and J.B.T classroom. It is organized practice teaching. The main aim of this teaching is to provide confidence, support, and feedback to the teachers as well as pupil teacher.

Problem Based Learning

Problem solving learning refers to the ability to use knowledge, facts, and data to effectively solve problems. It is also new trend of education and based on activity. In this type of learning, activities focus on how to solve problems in a variety of ways in the workplace (www.do.gov.com).

Virtual conferences

Virtual Conferences refers to face to face conferences through web. It is also modern trend of education. It is also known as digital conference. Many courses are successful through virtual conference.

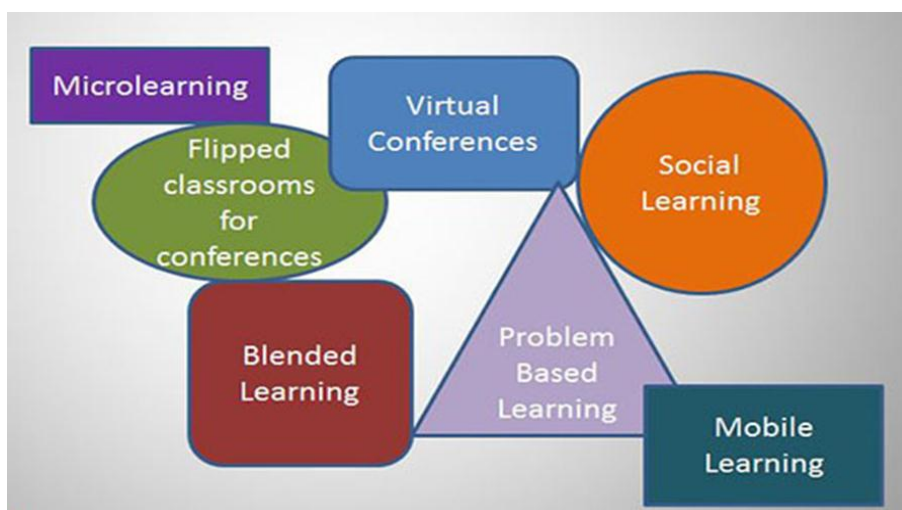


Fig 2: Innovative Trend of Education in Present Era

Flipped classroom

Flipped classroom is a type of blended learning. It is reverse the traditional learning environment by delivering

instructional content, often online, outside of the classroom. In a flipped classroom, students watch online lectures, collaborate in online discussions, or carry out research at

home and engage in concepts in the classroom with the guidance of a mentor.

Blended learning

It is also an innovative strategy which is combination of traditional face-to-face and on-line method of teaching. In other words it combines online digital media with traditional classroom methods to make classroom interaction effective.

Social learning

It is also innovative strategy of classroom interaction. It is cooperative way of learning. It is based on group discussion.

It is very helpful in enhancing communicative skills.

Innovative Strategies for Enhancing Classroom Interaction

There are so many innovative strategies available in education such as Constructivism, collaborative learning, Think Pair Share, Multimedia, Sense of humor and flipped classroom which are very helpful in enhancing classroom interaction. These strategies are paradigm shift from conventional teaching method to interactive teaching methods of classroom interaction. These strategies are shown in the figure:

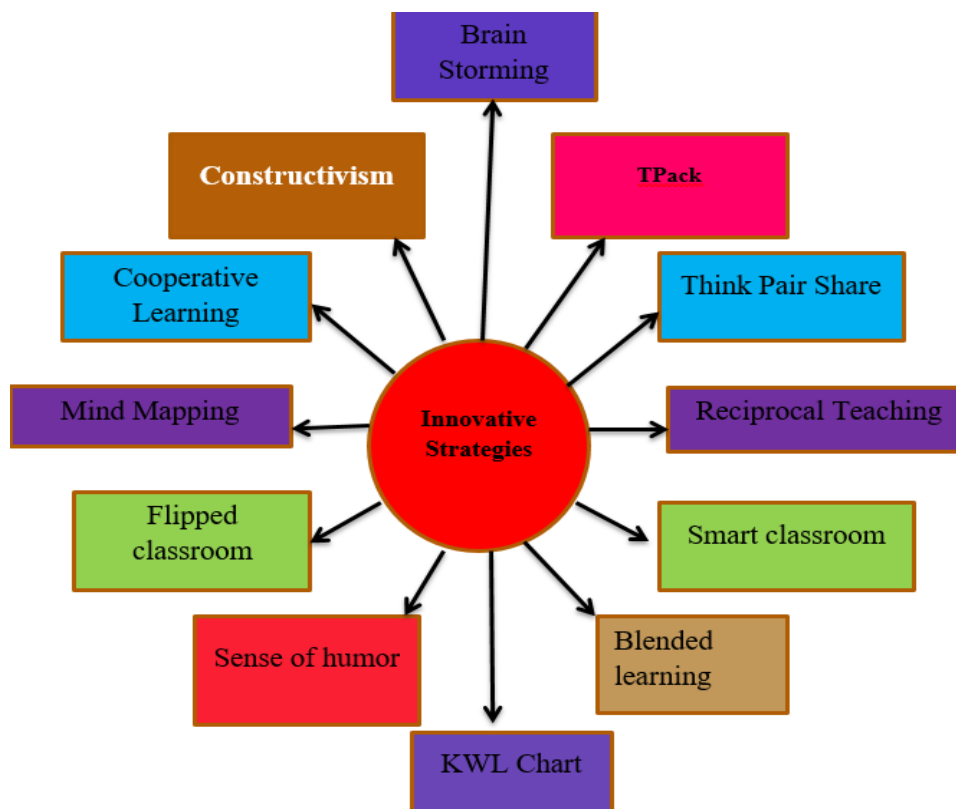


Fig 3: Innovative Strategies of classroom interaction

Following are some most innovative strategies for classroom interaction brainstorming

Brainstorming is an innovative conference with special nature in order to produce a list of ideas that can be used as clues lead students to the development of the problem while giving each student the opportunity to express her ideas and share those ideas with others and encourage new ideas. Thus, we can say that, it is very helpful to make classroom interaction effective. In this regard, Richards (1990) [12] recognized that brainstorming was effective of achieving student interaction in developing the cognitive skills for the purpose of generating ideas. He found that students trained in brainstorming techniques were more successful at generating and organizing ideas. Similarly, Rao (2007) [10] found that students trained in brainstorming techniques and utilized them regularly over twelve-month period produced significantly higher results in writing tasks. Besides, an attitudinal survey showed students' complacency about the effectiveness of the brainstorming techniques.

Smart Class-room

A smart classroom can be considered as a virtual classroom. In this type of classroom, teachers can let students speak through audio and video conferencing; teachers and students can use instant messaging and chat and students can work together in groups. Smart classroom enables teachers to access multimedia content and information that can be used for teaching students more effectively. Smart class enables teachers to express their views and ensures that every child understands the undertaken concept which ultimately affects his achievement. Smart classes use all interactive modules like videos and presentations and these visually attractive methods of teaching becomes appealing to students who are already struggling with the traditional method of teaching in a classroom. This kind of visual is both eye-catching and young students can easily relate with them. This is because the audiovisual senses of students are targeted and it helps the students store the information fast and more effectively.

Flipped Classroom

Flipped class-room is very suitable for tech-savvy teachers and students. In this innovative strategy, the typical lecture and home-work elements of a course are reversed. Short video-graphed lectures prepared by the teachers are viewed by the students before they come to the classroom. During the class, the whole time is devoted to the exercises and group discussion. Thus, we can say that in flipped classroom, content delivery is done outside the classroom and home work is done in the classroom under the guidance of teacher and with the help of peers through discussions. Moreover, teacher interaction with students in a flipped classroom is more personalized and less didactic and the students are actively involved in knowledge acquisition and construction as they actively participate in and evaluate their learning.

Constructivist Approach

Constructivism is an innovative strategy based on scientific observation and research and explains how people learn. Key element of constructivist theory is that learners are not Tabula Rasa but they construct their new knowledge and understanding by testing ideas and approaches based on their prior knowledge and experience, applying them to new situations and integrating new knowledge gained with pre-existing intellectual constructs. It is based on student's active participation in problem-solving and critical thinking regarding a learning activity. The concept of Constructivism has derived from cognitive psychology. Constructivist teaching is based on the contributions of Piaget, Vygotsky, Gardner, Dewey, Tolman and many others. In this strategy, the teacher is a facilitator or a coach who guides the student's critical thinking, analysis and synthesis abilities throughout the learning process. In constructivist classroom, main activity is "Problem solving" for which learners use inquiry method to investigate on the given topic. So, in the classroom, entire time is devoted to thinking, exercise, debate and interaction under the guidance of the teacher. According to Zhan (2008), Bawa & Suleiman (2015) collaborative learning activities can engage students in interaction to each other and working together toward a common academic goal and increasing the level of satisfaction and feelings of connection and community. These activities can be seen clearly in constructivist classroom. In his study, he found that constructivist approach is an innovative strategy for enhancing classroom interaction.

Sense of Humor

Every student loves a teacher who has an infectious sense of humor. Using humor in teaching is an effective instructional tool for both teachers as well as students. Sense of humor can be a successful teaching tool for overcoming dullness in the classroom interaction which kill student intellectual interest in the subject and destroy all student desire to pursue educational study in the subject matter areas. In order to produce positive effect of this strategy in the classroom interaction, teacher should smile now and then; create jokes and tell students funny stories your own or others to make a point. Sometime to act something out, poops can be used. Fun demonstrations and experiments can also give better results. Quotes of famous people, yourself, students etc. often provide one of the simplest ways to introduce humor into a lecture. Putting the quote on a visual and trying to say

something funny about it usually adds to its impact. Cartoon is another way of expressing the humor. (Ron Deiter; 2000) also found in his study that students agreed that they remember material if it is presented with humor. The use of humor may give students a reason to attend class (Berk, 1998). Recent research (Berk, 1996) reports that students consistently evaluated humor strategies as effective as reducing their anxiety, improving their ability to learn and helping them to do their best (Sharma, 2016) ^[14, 16, 17].

Think Pair Share

The think, pair, share strategy is a cooperative learning technique in which students think through questions using three distinct steps, encouraging individual participation. In this approach, students think independently about the question, then students are grouped in pairs and then Students share their ideas with a larger group, such as the whole class. In this strategy, each student takes his chance to speak, discuss and participate which has many positive effects on the whole group where students feel more self-confident and more active in the class. In this way, this is an excellent method for promoting classroom interaction, critical thinking and articulate communication in the classroom. Raba, 2017 ^[7] studies on The Influence of Think-Pair-Share (TPS) on Improving Students' Oral Communication Skills in EFL Classrooms He concluded that think-pair-share strategy plays a positive role in improving students' oral communicative skills, creating a cooperative learning environment, enhancing students' motivation to learn better and promotes interaction among students. In fact, it creates an enjoyable learning environment and increases motivation among learners.

Conclusion

Thus, it can be concluded that Innovativeness by virtue of its nature is essential feature of Teacher Education. Teacher Education prepares the teachers to help learners meet the challenges of life, fully & confidently. There have been a great number of changes in education systems worldwide recently. In the 21st century the world is changing as well as education is also changing. As a result, the imperatives of new times, new demands and new visions assign more innovative strategies such as; constructivist approach, activity based method, smart classroom, foreign visits and CCE which are very helpful to make classroom interaction very effective. Hence, we need to respect such innovations as well and promote innovative methods and new ideas and practices of teaching in our schools, college, universities and other institutions.

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