



Graduation Project

Final Draft

The Role of Using Short Stories in Developing Teaching Tenses to Middle Saudi School's Students.

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Abstract

We all know that learning tenses and using them without any mistakes for middle school students is quite difficult for them; that is because of us as teachers were using the regular ways which full of rules. The students do not want to know all of these rules; they are not interested in them, they want to learn English tenses in easy, fun, and unforgettable way. So, we as teachers have to teach them essential grammar and give them what they need, Rather than boring them with “The Rules”. It is actually simple, by using short stories I am going to teach them three main simple tenses which are (past, present and future tense) easily and in a fun way that makes students interested to attend the classroom every day to learn more about tenses by new stories. We are going to have much fun in the class by reading deferent kinds of stories in each tense spritely; then, the students will be ready to share their own stories with their class mates using the right tense that will express their feelings nicely. And of course there will be a questionnaire to the students to answer and for the teacher to see if the students like this method or not? In this way we as teachers could add the joy in the education which makes the students interested to learn more.

Introduction

What is the importance of learning tenses in English language? There are three main simple tenses (past tense, present tense and the future tense). We call them time tools because they help the student to express the time in the language. And they are useful and important in many ways like communication, which helps the student speak with people smoothly and effortlessly, or in reading and writing, which the student can understand the tense of what he or she is reading and also can express his or her feelings comfortably through writing. We all know that a lot of non-native speakers got mistaken in using tenses while they are speaking in English. And that make them feel embarrassed, afraid, less confident and shy to speak more or even he or she will become dissociable person! Especially middle school students they are not using just vocabulary, they are now in the stage of making sentences, so they need to use the suitable tense and use grammar in a correct way. So, how do we make them interested in learning tenses so they will be encouraged to speak English more fluently? And that is why we need to teach them tenses perfectly in unforgettable way. And how do we fix this problem and make the learner or student feel so free, comfortable and more

confident in speaking English using any tense fluently without any effort? By using short stories I am going to teach my middle Saudi school's students the three main simple and important English tenses which are (present tense, past tense and future tense).

Literature Review

“Learning a FL (foreign language) may be frustrating for some young learners; however, integrating fun in learning would encourage them to develop positive attitudes towards learning a language.” (Ellis & Brewster, 1991). “Stories are an effective and enthusiastic technique in teaching young learners; they inject lots of amusement and help children enjoy learning in purposeful communication.” (Sulaiman, 2012). “Teaching English to Young Learners (TEYL) through animated stories bears many prospects for an effective and meaningful language instruction as animated stories can help to contextualize the new language providing audiovisual input along with the story narration. In this study, the role of animated stories in teaching EFL (English as a Foreign Language) to Young Learners (YLS) was investigated. The potential role of using such an approach was assessed in terms of students' attitudes towards learning English. Five authentic animated stories were used as overarching themes into which some basic vocabulary, structures, and functions of the target language were integrated. On the whole, the outcome of the study is that students kept their initial positive attitudes towards learning English with animated stories. The study also proved that students' concerns related to learning English decreased through such instruction. The findings of the present research also suggest that animated stories offer teachers opportunities to present and recycle vocabulary, grammar, and functions of the target language in context through integrating many extension activities related to the story theme.” (Yildirim & Pinar, 2014).

Significance of Research

English language is very important because it is international and global and we can communicate with other people around the world, and also we use English language in many places like: bank, shopping mall and traveling... etc. That is why it is necessary to learn this language nowadays. We all know that the grammar is a key content in any language, especially in

English, and for middle school students as a beginner speaker of English they need to learn the basics of grammar which is tenses. So, by reading different kinds of enjoyable short stories to the students in different tenses each week in the classroom will make the students can try to do their mini presentations in the class to share their stories and practice using the tenses. This method of teaching tenses to the students will improve their using of grammar, and make them more confident and feel free to speak with the foreigners or English native speakers without any fear to be mistaken. In the other hand, this method will open the students' mind and make them blow up their creativity and will move their imagination to improve their grammar skills and inspire them to create their own stories in different ways with different tenses. Also, using short stories in the classroom will make the teachers have something unusual, enjoyable and in the same time useful to teach tenses to the students.

Research Question

What is the role of using short stories in developing teaching tenses to middle Saudi school's students?

Research Methodology

First of all, I am going to prepare a bunch of stories which is suitable for middle school students in many ways, for their age, English level, their taste and the tenses that I want to teach them for every week. I make sure to have different type of stories such as comedy, action, mysterious and daily life stories... etc. This variety of the stories will prevent middle school students from getting bored. I am going to use teenager's short stories that were written in different tenses such as (past tense, present tense and future tense) and read them with the students; to make them learn how to use the main tenses in interesting way correctly without any mistakes. And I will make some research about using short stories for making it more interesting and effective in teaching the three main tenses, for middle Saudi school's students. The students will be learning one tense, for example "the past tense" for a week by different stories types, but still in the same tense, and then I will make the students discuss their opinions about the stories by using the same tense. After that I will teach them "the present tense" by using the same way, and we will move on to the next tense "the future tense" after another week, doing the same until we finish the three main

tenses. And I will test the students by making them one by one every day share with us about their favorite stories, or talk about what they did yesterday, or even what they would like to do in the near future. And by this mini presentation they will be using the main tenses that they have been taught skillfully and in interesting, fun way together. Also, by this presentation I will measure the students' improvement in tenses. And I will also give the students a questionnaire to answer.

Ethical Considerations

I took school administration, permission and English department improvement. All participants answer the questions in free willing without any kind of pressure. The name of the participants of the questionnaire kept secret and confidential. Unless if they want to reveal the first name.

Limitations of the Study

This study will be on girls' schools only; because Saudi's schools are gender segregation. And it also will be done on middle schools, but can't be on elementary schools; that is because of the education system in Saudi Arabia, which is starting to have English subject in the sixth grade, although the results will be good. But if the study can be on both gender girls and boys and both middle and elementary schools that will make the results better. Also, for the method like this is hard to find story that all the students will like. It is fact that not all the students have the same taste will limit the choices of the stories. And the study will be done in one school in Al-Dammam school so we can't generalize the results.

Expected Results

I expect the students will be more interested to attend the class every day, and their grammar will be improved especially tenses. They will score high marks in a short time, also will be able to use the three simple tenses without difficulty.

Reference List

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- 2) Hwang , W., Rustam, S., Hsu , Huang, J., Yueh-Min, Hsu, Lin, G., & Yi-Chun. (2016). **Effects of Storytelling to Facilitate EFL Speaking Using Web-Based Multimedia System.** *Computer Assisted Language Learning*, v29 n2 p215-241.
- 3) Smollar , & Sally. (2016). **Student Storytellers -- One School Librarian's Digital Journey.** *Knowledge Quest*, v44 n3 p36-45.
- 4) Yildirim, Rana, Torun, & Pinar, F. (2014). **Exploring the Value of Animated Stories with Young English Language Learners.** *Turkish Online Journal of Educational Technology – TOJET*, v13 n4 p47-60.
- 5) Yilmaz, & Adnan. (2015). **Short Stories via Computers in EFL Classrooms : An Empirical Study for Reading and Writing Skills.** *Reading Matrix: An International Online Journal*, v15 n1 p41-53.

Appendix

I will give the students yes or no questions to answer.

Question	Yes	No
1- Were you excited to learn tenses by using stories?		
2- Did the stories help you to use the tenses correctly?		
3- Do you prefer learning tenses by using short stories in the classroom?		
4- Did you enjoy the English class and find it interesting?		
5- Did you find telling your own stories easy and fun?		
6- Did you imagine yourself one of the story's characters in the past tense?		
7- Did you find the tenses easy to learn?		
8- Are you more confident now to speak with any foreigner?		