

Communicative Approach

The development of language learning or teaching from form-based to a meaning-based approach, the move towards the eclectic approach from a rigid method, the shift from teacher centered to learner centered classes, are all subsumed under the broad term communicative approach. The communicative approach is the recent and latest approach of teaching English. This approach lays a great emphasis on the use of language.

Communicative competence not only applies the grammatical rules of a language in order to form a grammatically correct sentence, but also to know when and where to use these sentences- in other words, to use them appropriately.

Characteristics of the approach

The communicative approach aim to make all the learner attain communicative competence i.e. use language accurately and appropriately. The prime focus is on learner and teacher is just a facilitator. It is based upon need analysis and planning to prepare communicative curricular and syllabuses. It is based upon the concept of how language is used and what is functional utility of language.

Merits of communicative approach:

1. The merits of communicative approach is to develop the speech ability among the students.
2. It teaches of different ways of expression.
3. This approach is based on the practical utility.
4. It lays more stress on the functional value of language.
5. It enables the students to communicative their ideas both inside and outside the class-room.

Demerits of communicative approach:

1. This approach ignores grammar and structures.
2. It is not properly and scientifically developed as yet.
3. It is a new approach and it is to be used and tested in our schools for language teaching.
4. Practical utility of this approach is yet to be confirmed.
5. Trained teachers are not available in this approach to teach English language.
6. Students don't get proper environment for communication.

Conclusion: In this approach the teacher is no longer regarded as sole arbiter and controller of what goes in the language classroom. The independent status of learner is fully accepted. The communicative approach has implications for the classroom teacher in terms of their way of teaching and attitude. Thus communicative approach can be the effective way of developing language competence among learners.

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