



Graduation project

(final draft)

Student Name	Adel *****
Academic Number:	212*****
Dr. Name:	Dr. Ahmed Alhuwayshil

Conversation problems facing EFL students, and the common mistakes students usually make, at the final year in Al Majed, high school in Riyadh.

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Abstract:

This paper will review the obstacles facing students who are studying English as a foreign language (they will be referred as EFL) when they speak English and the impact of these problems facing their knowledge of English language in school and public. This study will illustrate the issues encountered in the English language and how to solve them. The process by which students adapt the modern methods and style changing of the traditional learning and creating an appropriate atmosphere for cultural development. Students will acquire many skills to learn the language especially the basic skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). We will review this modern means and the extent of its contribution to the development of the language of the student gradually and the readiness of the teacher to deal with students in technical education.

Introduction:

Richard (1990)¹ noted, " The conversation class is something of an enigma In language teaching ". Since communicating is important to acquired fluency in a language, students need to communicate accurately and comprehensively. When students learn basic language skills (reading, listening, and speaking) for years, it is assumed that they will be fluent in the language. However, the outcome of EFL (English Foreign Language) learners in Saudi Arabia after this period of learning, they cannot refer to themselves or to conduct short interviews with each other in English language. There are many reasons to discuss the problems in three aspects: psychological barrier, social handicap and the traditional methods of education. When talking about these problems and discuss them we will recognize the extent of their impact on the private study of the English language as well as their effects in the future to remain a science-based education in the English language students.

Since English language is very important to Saudi students in passing university level classes, and for having careers in the future, the study will focus on the problems that face Saudi learners and speed up the resolution. This study was initiated to identify a group of students to determine the extent of the problems. Moreover, since modern technology has an effective role in all aspects of life as well as a role in solving many of the dilemmas in teaching English language and help students overcome these problems. It will discuss in detail.

Literature review:

According to the popularity, multiple intelligence theory for Gardner (2006)² some teachers of EFL become more aware of learning diversity, and the others find that theory difficult to implement. Teachers work with different categories of students, wealthy students are not the same as poor students, and the valley students differ from city students. Teachers teaching styles also vary from one teacher to another. According to these differences, the multiple intelligence theory cannot face all these differences and problems.

"When you hear some words expressions that you don't know. Keep listening and the overall meaning will often become clear". (Michael McCarthy 1994)³. What prevents students from usually speaking are the obscure new words that they face, but they will pass this problem by keep listening because the explanation and the meaning of certain words in the context will become clear as well as developing the reading skill and enhancing vocabulary.

Significance of research:

The importance of this research relies on the following:

- 1) determine the problems that EFL learners faced, and the classification of the obstacles that must be resolved and overcome.
- 2) determine if the process of TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) need special teachers of English Language or rehabilitation.
- 3) Discussion and development of the educational style.
- 4) The use of new tools (modern technology) to connect the idea to the students.
- 5) Testing the teaching tools in EFL schools and determine how effective they are.
- 6) Suggest ways and new methods that will gradually raise the level of the student in the language which will reflect positively on his studies in the field of language.

Research question:

This research focused to answer these main questions:

- 1) What are the problems faced by students when they speak English, what are the frequent mistakes among EFL learners?
- 2) What is the impact of these problems on the students' language?
- 3) Is the teacher and the style of education are responsible for these problems?
- 4) What are the best ways and means to resolve these problems?

Research Methodology:

The experience will be at a school in the city of Riyadh on two male classrooms of the final year on Al-Majed high school, age from 16 to 17 years old, the experience will take a full semester. The first class (A) will apply to the study, and the other Class (B) will continue the traditional way of education. The study in class A will be on 30 students. In the beginning, I will give them a questionnaire, which is divided, into three sections. The first section shows the extent of their love and acceptance for the English language since childhood. The second section shows the extent of their knowledge of the English language. The last section, determine the effectiveness of the tools used in the style of Education. Based on the results of the questionnaire, students will be divided into small groups consisting of 6 students according to their level and mental abilities, so each student will have the opportunity to participate. It will be activating the role of the English language lab dramatically, where most lessons of language are in the audio lab especially dialogues lessons. The students in each group have to speak about themselves individually. As well as each group will work a small, short play consists of short dialogues to raise the level of conversation skill. Then new vocabulary will be explained in a full explanation in English without the use of the Arabic language, and we will use the images to ensure the explanation. To increase the linguistic inventory of words, we will ask each group to bring five new words related to the lesson every day. Regarding the duties will give each group of students whether short scenes from YouTube or recorded on CD for short dialogues and every group must write it down on paper. Every student will record the short story in English on CD by himself, and correct their mistakes under the supervision of the teacher. There will be constant communication between teacher and student through the forum, which will establish for this purpose. There will be an open meeting between the teacher and his students at the end of each month to discuss the points that have not been covering sufficiently. At the conclusion of the experiment, there will be a simple test for students of all aspects of a whole experiment to see how much they benefit them.

At the end of the semester, a comparison of the results will be compiled of class A with class B to find out how effective this experience to students in the study at the language level and how much the experience improve the students' abilities.

Ethical consideration:

-I will ask permission from both students as well as their parents' to conduct this research.

-The teachers must agree and have a full overview of this study.

-This study will not cause any pressure on the students, and they will not be forced to participate in the study.

-If any one of the students is not comfortable during the study, he \she allowed to leave the study.

-The students names will be anonymous.

Limitation of the Research:

The first restriction is that the study was only for age 16-17 male students of the final year of secondary level and not all levels. Also, the study was to 30 students from one classroom. Though the study will be more comprehensive if the female students were included, but due to social barriers and Saudi customs it will be harder, so the study is limited to males only.

The second restriction is that the survey was restricted to only one class, even if the three classes applied will be better and good compared. However, the time is limited to 4 months only, and that is not enough for holding three classes at a time.

Finally, this study does not give accurate results for the previous reasons but provides an overview of the problem.

Expected Result:

In the first period of the study, the students will recognize the grammar and the skills of English more than ever before, by increasing the knowledge of words by

30% than before. The students are still unable to hold an entire conversation. Over a period, they will get used to the modern style, and frequent exercises and they will gradually overcome their problems.

In the second period of the study, it will increase the students' confidence in their selves, and they will increase their successful talks by 30%. With the regular exercises and lessons, the language will develop more than ever before by 50%.

During the third and final period of the study, the student will be aware of the conversation types and when they have to use it (school, hospital, airport ..., etc.), and the percentage of success will be 50%. The development of listening and speaking will increase to 60% and will be affected by the rest of the students' skills of reading and writing -if they were positives-. If we compare class A to class B at the end of the study regarding the development of English level of EFL learners, class A will have the significantly noticed development.

References:

- 1) Richards, J. (1990). *The language Teaching Matrix* (p. 67). New York: Cambridge University Press.
- 2) Gardner, H. (2006) . *Multiple intelligences* .New York: Basic books
- 3) McCarthy, M. (1994). *English Vocabulary in use*. Cambridge.

Appendix:

A: Teaching through picture:

The rain comes down from the clouds on me. It comes down on my head.



The rain comes down from the clouds on us. It comes down on our heads.



What were some other great discoveries? One of them was fire.



Fire is of very great use to men. It gives us heat.

Another great discovery was the wheel.

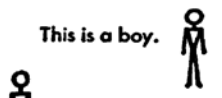
Wheels are round.

They go round.

A cart

They are of very great use to man.

This is a boy.

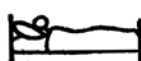


He will be a man.

He was a baby.

He seems to be about twelve years old now.

Every night he has a long sleep in his bed.



He goes to bed at eight every night.

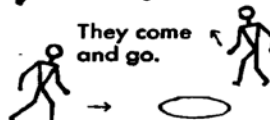


Men are persons. They have their work.

They put and take things

and give and get them

They come and go.



They see and

say things,

keep things,

and let them (go),

make and

send them



In these stores people who live in the city can buy food, clothing and supplies of everything they need.

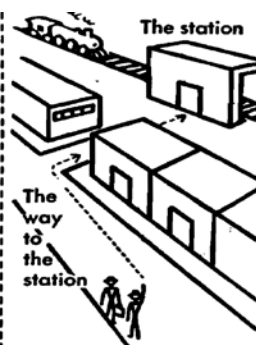


Some stores sell food, some sell clothing and some sell furniture. In most cities there are great stores which sell almost everything. They supply these families with what they need.

"Which is the way to the station?"
"Take the first street to the right."



This man had no knowledge of the way to the station. Now he has the knowledge.



B: (YouTube) English for beginners :

1- <https://youtu.be/HJ3lmC7jcpU>

2- <https://youtu.be/ZiwmZRCMaA0>

3- <https://youtu.be/9qxATyDnbcQ>

C: Website programs:

<http://www.googleadservices.com/pagead/aclk?sa=L&ai=C4Ec2spYoVv3LMMWAbcezm>

<http://www.googleadservices.com/pagead/aclk?sa=L&ai=CxCupo5coVq-tPMLMbeujlL>

D: multiple choice

A) Fill in the blank with the missing word:

1- I can't believe you bought a couch at Honest Abe's. Everything in the store costs an arm and a_____.

- a) foot b)leg c)hand

2-After Bob failed his advertising campaign, he wants to go back to the drawing_____.

- a)board b)table c)room

3-When somebody isn't listening to you , there's no _____in trying to argue with them.

- a)edge b)tip c)point

4-Bob got fired . He isn't looking forward to _____the news to his family.

- a)breaking b)cracking c)saying

E : interview questions

1- Talk about yourself?

2- You and your friend at a restaurant and you want to ask for a meal, what would you say?

3- If you're at the airport and you want to ask for the direction of the departure gate, what would you say ?

F) Dramatic scenes:-

Make a small, short play with your friend (choose a title of the scenes), and write it down:

G: Questionnaire:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I like English language.				
I prefer learning English at a young age .				
I use English language in public life.				
I read magazines and stories in English.				
I learn new words weekly.				
I get shy when I speak English in front of any one.				
I learn English outside school.				