



THE SIGNIFICANCE & AUDIO - VISUAL AIDS IN THE ELT CLASS ROOM

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ABSTRACT:

Every good teacher tries to improve his teaching and thereby wishes to come out as a better teacher. For this purpose, he makes use of some aids. Though there are many teaching aids, the impacts of Audio-Visual aids on the learners stimulate maximum interest. They break monotony and give variety to the classroom instructions. They often provide rich aesthetic experience for the learners. They reduce time and effort of the teacher. They make teaching-learning process more effective and help the teacher in transferring the ideas. They always create a healthy atmosphere and interaction in the classroom. They also help the teacher by making the topic easier and interesting for the learners. Even the researchers agree that audio-visual aids help in learning more, learning faster, remembering longer, and learning more thoroughly. Mcknown and Roberts remark thus.

KEYWORDS: *break monotony . classroom instructions , learning more, learning faster.*

INTRODUCTION:

Audio-visual aids are supplementary devices by which the teacher, through the utilization of one or more than one sensory channels keeps to clarify, establish and correlate concepts, interpretations and appreciations.

The audio-visual aids came into existence when the first primitive man tried to convey his thoughts to his fellow men. In the beginning the thoughts were conveyed by facial expressions, crude imitations, signs and symbols. This was followed by the use of language in which thoughts and ideas were expressed by sounds. Later on heliography and picture making came into existence. The evidence of using audio-visual aids in ancient India is found in epics of Ramayana and Mahabharata. These epics were written on palm audio-visuals and sculptures. Burrakathas of Andhra Pradesh are common audio-visual-aids used for entertainment and religious instructions. Puppets were another important medium. Their use has been revived in all countries now.

In the preparation of audio-visual aids, every teacher must be careful. He must bear in mind three Ps-Planning, Preparation and Presentation. The first step in the preparation of imperfect communication. In planning emphasis should be given on the purpose of communication, subject matter and key points to be emphasized. While planning, the teacher must plan his/her teaching objective. The objective should be clear to the teacher and the learners. The aids should be appropriate according to that objective. Otherwise the aids may create false concepts or incomplete concepts in the learner.

Another aspect the teacher must look into is the nature of learner. The nature of learners can be known from their age, educational level, interest, experience, knowledge on the subject matter. There are certain limitations of particular audio-visual aids and accordingly the size of the learners group has

to be restricted. While flash cards can be used for a small number, for larger groups a chart has to be prepared. A Chart or film strip frame when presented for young learners (elementary classes) should not contain too many details. To avoid monotony and hold interest of the learners, the teacher must use different types of aids. However, one should use the aid that one feels the best for a particular situation.

For preparation, the teacher must remember ABC – Attractiveness, Brevity, and Clarity – principle. The teacher must use appropriate or natural color, as a background to the aid, which will please the senses of the learner and draw their attention. It will also help the learner in identifying the real objects in its natural setting. The size of the aid should be proportionate to the surrounding in which it is being presented.

Secondly, the aid which the teacher prefers to teach the learners should be brief. For this purpose, he/she has to select the message with caution by keeping the audience in view, should list out the essential facts. It is necessary to cover the angle of the subject which we do not intend to emphasize. Thirdly, the message should be clear. Decide the actual message to be delivered, and then think of the code for communicating message words, pictures, diagrams and other symbols. Prepared rough sketches of the aids and select the most suitable design out of them. Then get the necessary material and prepare the aid.

Before starting the presentation of aid, see that the audience is at ease. Introduce the topic and use the aid at appropriate moment. If the learners is prepared and knows what to look for in the aid, then he learns more. The sincerity in presentation will bring liveliness in teaching. No aid will be of real value unless it is presented with enthusiasm. Avoiding too rapid presentation of visual material. Adjust the speed of delivery depending on the understanding of the audience. The speaker should face the audience and not the aid. Display one aid at a time by standing beside the aid but never in front of it. Present the ideas in a logical sequence. Avoid any misunderstanding by discussion at the end of presentation. Charts should be prepared suitable for hanging on the wall. When projective aids are used, the screen or the part of the wall on which they are projected should be the centre of the wall at a height appropriate to the students. A distance between the projector and the screen/wall should be adjusted in such a way that the focus of the picture will be clear and large enough for all the students to see.

Today's age of digitalization, internet and hypermedia a wider diversity of audio-visual methods that can be applied and the results presented to the public. In understanding the experiential qualities of visual media, one would not, under the illusion that it is less important, lose sight of the particular kinds of pleasure they produce, for this is indicative of how they function more generally. Films appeal in an even more direct way to the human sensorium, in part because of the sense they address and the fact that they address them simultaneously. They provide supporting material to enrich teaching and to strengthen learning. But the wrong use of aids will certainly invite adverse effects. Some precautions, which are given below, must be followed while selecting and using the aids.

- The students should fully acquaint with the aids. If possible, their help in the preparation of aids should be sought.
- The aids should be checked up fully before using them in the class. A spoiled picture, a broken model or a cracked slide not only makes the students disinterested, it rather discourages them.
- Use of black board is good for teaching. But it must be ascertained that whatever is written or sketched on the black board should be correct and legible.
- Aid should not be used just for the sake of aid.
- In a lesson, too many aids should not be used.
- While using some special type of aids like radio, television the students should be mentally
- It should be used at the right time making it meaningful for the subject and the topic.
- Aids should not be allowed to dominate in the teaching-learning process. They should remain as supplementary to the process.

In this highly technological world, computers have made a triumphal entry in the past two decades. It has the potential to improve teaching through some programmers. World Wide Web (www) is a powerful aid or tool to make teaching lively and interesting. Through internet, one may show videos

on the topics which are prescribed for the learners. For instance, while teaching a poem like Daffodils, one may go to YouTube and show the reading of the poem which makes the learners thrilling. It also creates interest among the learners to listen the poem along with clipping like Daffodil flower. No doubt, this kind of reaching is too expensive. Sometimes, even the college management may not come forward to have internet connection to every lab as it increases their expenses. But what the teacher may do is, he/she may download the poem and show it to the learners after completing the reaching.

Another visual aid that can be used in the classroom teaching is Power Point Presentation. Today, most of the teachers in the world are effectively making use of this Power Point in the teaching activities. In fact, in some institutions, it has become part and parcel of teaching activity. The reason for this is that it provides everything for the teacher to prepare a lesson and make it more meaningful and authentic. The slides serve many useful purposes in the classroom situations. Sometimes a slide can be prepared for some difficult diagram by taking a picture from the textbook. Such slides draw attention, arouse interest, assist lesson development, and facilitate student-teacher participation. Even the details of the subject or the diagram can be shown very nicely with the help of slides to a large number of students.

Liquid Crystal Displayer (LCD) Projector and Over Head Projector (OHP) are some other visual aids which can be used while teaching the learners. They enable teachers to create presentation or other highly organized notes for the class. With the use of projectors in the classroom, learners can take better notes with the ability to discern what information the teacher displays is most useful to them. Additionally, learners can ask the teacher to repeat a slide if they missed any information, or even ask that the teachers to email the presentation for further review. Another benefit from using projectors is that the teachers can use films, slides and images to teach learners about a variety of subjects.

Tape-Recorder is another audio aid that can be used in the classroom. It is helpful to the teacher in many ways. The teacher can record a message and play it back to the learners. It can be an extension to a teacher's work. When the teacher feels tired, he can teach vigorously by recording his voice with the help of a tape recorder. It can be used for improvement of pronunciation. The students can listen to the recorded programmes, speeches and thus improve their own pronunciation. Sounds, Stress, Intonation etc., can be taught by using a tape recorder. It can be used for self-examination, self-criticism and self-education. It can be used for giving drills to the students. But it has certain limitations. It doesn't function when electricity supply fails. It needs careful handling as it is very delicate and can be out of order soon. It is an expensive aid. Some schools may not afford to purchase it.

The black board is probably the most widely used aid for instruction. It provides a very convenient surface where the teacher can develop subject-matter visually in a manner and at pace to suit the subject and the pupils. Neatness and orderly arrangement of blackboard matter contributors to the achievement of the purposes of instruction. It is inexpensive and the information can be erased to use again. It can be used for a wide range of diagrammatic and graphic representations.

Apart from the above the mentioned Audio-visual aids, there are other aids like Epidiascope, Magic Lantern, Flannel Board, Bulletin Board, Flash Cards, Cartoons, Posters, which can be used in the classroom while teaching. To conclude, one may say that every aid may have its own advantages and disadvantages. One thing that every teacher must do is to select the right aid depending on the facilities that are available to him and make his/her effective and interesting.

REFERENCES

1. Harry C. McKown and Alvin B. Roberts, Audio-visual Aids to Instruction, New York; McGraw-Hill, 1949-52.