ELIMINATING THE LANGUAGE BARRIER

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Communication between teacher and the student is very essential to teaching and learning. The use of language and other non-verbal cues as media to understand the message that the speakers are saying is crucial to education. Teachers’ ability to remove the barrier that the students are feeling is a vital element of learning.

Based on the Oxford Dictionaries, language barrier is a barricade between people who are unable to speak a common language. It hampers the idea of the people and they do not want to express themselves because they feel discomfort. Many students are afraid to speak hindering their ability to express their thoughts and insights. This situation inhibits learners to speak what is in their mind. Now the challenge among educators is how to eliminate the fear of the students on speaking the English language as medium of communication or at least lessen their distress.

The things that made them unable to speak have to be addressed. Teachers have to be very careful on doing this very important duty. First, they must spot the causes of this language barrier, and then make appropriate intervention and observe the effect of this act on the performance of the learners.

One of the causes of language barrier among students aside from they are scared is the grammar problem. Many students are having difficulty to identify all the rules in English grammar and sometimes even the use of singular and plural verb. Students may use bad grammar and may not speak fluently, but teachers should not let them down. Teachers should understand them and encourage to continue communicating using English. Do not correct them at that moment, because it will be uncomfortable.
Give your feedback before the end of the class, so that students will know their mistakes. Make them realize that their errors are just the beginning of mastering the language in order to interact with confidence.

Another cause of language barrier is the family or the environment that does not support the students to speak English. Students cannot get support from their family members when they speak English. Teachers can still help learners to practice speaking the language at home or outside the class. Teachers can ask students to write down the conversations they made outside using their first language and then translate it in English. Let the learners show the conversation to the teachers and allow them to read in front of the class together with a partner before the start of the discussion. In this way, students can still practice speaking English.

Being a victim of the bullies due to the poor grammar is another cause of language barrier. Some students are bullied resulting to fear of speaking the English language. Some cannot carry the situation leading to stoppage of speaking. Teachers should know how to discipline these bullies and how to uplift the morale of the victim. Teachers can challenge them (bullies and victims) to have a conversation. Facilitate their interaction by standing in from of them while they are talking. In this way, no one will feel inferior or superior over the other.

These are only some of the ways on how to help students speak the English language. Teachers should help learners to communicate in the most comfortable ways. Language should not be a barrier, but a medium to clearly express their feelings, thought, opinions, and ideas. Let them be a free student whose ability to speak is not judged on its poor grammar, but praised on their confidence and willingness to learn and improve.
References:
