



# Importance of the Teaching Techniques to Students of Literature

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## ABSTRACT

The word 'education' derives from Latin word 'Educatum' which is the combination of two: E and Duco mean 'out of' and 'to lead' respectively. Mohit Chakrabharati notes: "Education enables the person to synchronize all the essence and excellence, desirable for advancement of learning and march of goodness and beauty" (IX). Learning is a continuous process. Teaching is an inherent art. Learning and teaching both are different things. But for teaching to students, learning is necessary. Actually mingling of both creates good informative atmosphere and interest in class. Kalidas says in *Malavikagnimitram*, "Shishta kriya kasyachdatmasansta, sankrantirnyasya visheshyukta, yasyabhayan sadhu sa shikshkanam, dhuri pratishthapayitavya eva" (70). So, according to this verse for a good teacher combination of both is needed. To have paper qualification is good but to present qualitative learning to students is also equally good. That person who enriches himself with both qualities is able to earn name and fame as a teacher. The role of a teacher is different when he/ she teach to those students who offer literature as their special subjects. This paper examines the importance of teaching techniques to the students of literature.

Literature is like a sea in which the water of various rivers is assimilated. The tri- rivers of water like poetry, drama, prose make the seawater of literature beautiful and colourful. In the age of computer and internet, mobile and SMS, when the people of the world link with each other, literature has its own importance. R J. Rees says, "Literature is writing which expresses and communicates some kinds of emotion, thought and attitudes to life" (3). He adds. "Literature helps us towards a better understanding of ourselves and our fellow human beings" (15).

There are different forms of literature like drama, novel poetry, essay, short story and one act play. It is the primary function of a teacher to awaken the students to relish & to enjoy the poem, novel, drama etc. and also to be sensitive to understand the connoted meaning of literature. If the teacher teaches novel or drama, he/she tells the story of them in simple style. Then the plot, incidents,

characters, innovative methods of novelist, dramatic devices reflected in plays, symbols and the style of the writer etc. should be explained through the references of content of each text. The important and immortal striking lines are highlighted in the class by a teacher. The teacher can create dramatic atmosphere while teaching drama and also speak dialogues according to the role of characters. On the same way, the poetry recitation and explanation of each word with its shade of meaning give interest to the students for learning poetry. The teacher guides the students to read the introduction of novelist, dramatist and poet from the history of literature which motivate them to read such portions of books from library. The motivation to read other literary books of contemporary period will be also useful. He/she can also inspire the students to read books on criticism. "The world of novel, play, short story is created one, yet it offers a full and vivid context in which characters from many social backgrounds

can be depicted. A reader can discover their thoughts, feelings, customs, possessions; what they buy, believe in, how they speak and behave behind closed doors” (Collie Joanne, and Slater Stephen 4). Thus, the teacher can create lively atmosphere in class while teaching literature. As it is observed by Mr. Sinha “Teaching may be characterized as an activity aimed at the achievement of learning and practiced in such manner as to respect the students’ intellectual integrity and capacity for independent judgment...” (1).

The teacher should be well versed in his/ her subject and he/ she should possess latest development of his own subject. It is told in Sanskrit Subhashit that ‘Anabhyase visham vidya’. A teacher is ever student. The participation by teachers in workshop, seminars, and conferences and also their presentation of research papers in them, indirectly, help the students to get qualitative learning. The accreditation effort by NAAC motivates for creating healthy atmosphere in colleges for leading to the top most team work and also to the individual work by the lecturers. It also leads them to introspect and update oneself which helps indirectly for qualitative education. Wallace notes; “An important aim of the reflective approach to teacher education is to empower teachers to manage their own professional development” (Mcdownough and Shaw 261).

Normally the college teachers follow lecture method. To make class lively, informative and interesting, the various teaching methods are useful. The sum of techniques is known as method. “A method is a set of procedures or a collection of techniques used in a systematic way which it is hoped will result in efficient learning” (Paliwal 27). The college teachers deal with those students who are young, dynamic but also coming from various places, culture and levels. The usage of innovative methods makes the class lively. While teaching, the references from other literature on the context of the content of the subject make the class informative.

The usage of current incidents of society or news from newspapers and periodicals connected with syllabus topics make the creative and interesting

atmosphere in the class. The references from philosophical books and also from the literature of other languages make the lively atmosphere in the class.

The students of literature are able to get basic information of literary books through searching in internet. Gujarat government has started a big venture and appreciative task to enrich the learners of Gujarat with Scope and DELL--The Digital English Language Laboratory. DELL gives the golden opportunity to the students to learn English. It is also helpful to the students to achieve four skills of language- listening, speaking, reading and writing in English which lead them to have their better pronunciation and understanding of English. The various software in English, Gujarati, Hindi, Sanskrit etc. guide the students for their better performance. The computerized language laboratory imparts the beautiful atmosphere in the class which changes the total scenario of class. The usage of audio-visual aids changes the total atmosphere of class. CD Show and listening to cassettes help a lot to students about their pronunciation. The understanding of subject becomes more effective through them. They give fun, motivation and lively change in the class.

The usage of the proverbial sayings in class for support of teaching in their suitable context imparts interest in class. E.g. The quality of hardship is suggested in ‘As you sow must you reap’. The importance of caution is here: ‘Look before you leap’ and also ‘Prevention is better than cure’. For firm will-power the proverb is ‘If there is will, there is a way’. ‘Time and tide waits for none’ gives the message of time management. ‘All that glitters is not gold’ gives the message of the right choice in practical life. ‘A stitch in time saves nine impart the value of saving in life. The famous line of Gujarati poet Kalapi ‘Je posatu te maratu te karma dise che kudarati’ **Translation** reflects the two sides of any matter and also tells that creative side of anyone becomes the cause of destruction. The practical wisdom of life is suggested by the Sanskrit verse: “Hitam manohari ch durlabham vachhah.” The famous line of Bhagavad Gita which is the slogan of Gujarat University: “Yogah karmashu kaushalam” inspires the reader for doing

the work and duties wholeheartedly. Mahadevi Varma's famous poetic line of Hindi literature: "Ve musakate ful nahi. Jinako ata nahi murzana" focuses on the cycle of human life – happiness and unhappiness. The woman's enrichment is the message of the famous lines of Jayshankar Prasad "Nari tum keval shraddha ho, vishvash rajat naga pagatalame, piyush srota si baha karo, jivanke sundara samatalamme." Thus, if these type of proverbial lines and poetical sayings use appropriately and moderately, they are very effective and give the lively atmosphere in the class. They also give message to the students through learning.

The usage of other teaching techniques like group discussions, presentation by the students, the discussion of project work in the class etc. enhance the mind of students and motivates them to visit library. Theme based Day celebration on writers give scope to the students to express their creative talents. Recently English department has arranged the celebration of Gandhi Jayanti for core English students as his autobiography *My Experiments with Truth* is in their syllabus. The students have presented speeches on various topics. A small exhibition on the books of Gandhiji was also there. The students have also prepared various charts about Gandhiji's life. So, the understanding of Gandhiji's autobiography becomes very clear and interesting to them. Such creative atmosphere will surely improve the quality of teaching in class room and also help to improve the quality of students. The Poetry Recitation, the Play reading in the class, arrangement of quiz competition and even staging acts of drama impart interest and knowledge to the students. The day celebrations like 'Kalidasa Jayanti' or 'Gita Jayanti' in Sanskrit literature, the singing of the poems of Sundaram, acting the role of the character of Jivi from Pannalal Patel's famous novel named *Malela Jiv* in Gujarati literature and the day celebration of Premchand in Hindi literature etc. give everlasting effect to the minds of the students. The students remember the content of the papers more effectively through these techniques. The preparation of charts by students on literary topics also helps them a lot. All these teaching techniques help the learners to understand the various literary

forms like poetry, novel drama etc. and motivates them to learn more books in literature.

While teaching the researcher lays emphasis on grammar, spelling and pronunciation. So the students motivate for correct usage of reading, speaking and writing. The researcher emphasizes on language with literature.

Thus, all these teaching techniques enrich the students with pleasant colorful classroom in which "the acquisition of knowledge is made a friendly and cooperative venture between teacher and student" (Jani 157). It reminds the famous line of Umashankar Joshi "Varg Tej Swarg Chhe", i.e., "classroom is the paradise". Teaching is 'Apkala' – an inherent art. A teacher imparts his knowledge to all the students but it depends on the grasping power of them. As said by Atreyi in Bhavabhuti's *Uttarram Charit* is appropriate here: "A teacher imparts learning to the dull in the same way as he does to intelligent. However in the knowledge of the two neither does he induces neither power nor thwart and yet there does appear a vast difference as to the final result. It is like this – a clear crystal is able to reflect an image a lamp of clay cannot" (Bhatt 41).

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