



COLLABORATIVE LEARNING IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

Dr. Jitendra Balbhim Jalkute¹ & Dr. Raviraj Furde²

¹*Asst. Teacher, S.N.A.V., Barshi Dist: Solapur*

²*Asst. Professor, College of Education, Barshi*



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Collaborative learning is the one type of group come into exists to achieve the shared educational goals. Collaborative learning is just one form of classroom/student learning structure. Collaborative learning is the most important form of learning in the classroom. Collaboration means working together to accomplish shared goals and collaborative learning means the instructional use of small groups wherein students work together to maximize their own and each other's learning. Students can learn more better in groups than individual. Small groups work together towards achieving educational goals. Students can learn with each other's help and they can motivate each other with their success in groups. Collaborative Learning (CL) is a situation in which two or more people learn or attempt to learn something together (face –to- face or virtually or by doing a project individually and then sharing) Cooperative learning is a specific kind of collaborative learning. It is learning in small groups. Cooperative groups work face-to-face and learn to work as a team.

Meaning

Collaborative learning is an instructional method in which students' team together an assignment. In this method, students can produce the individual parts of a larger assignment individually and then assemble the final work together, as a team. CL is not only a group work activity. It has a base of achievement of cognitive objectives. CL must have intellectual goals. Group work creates the suitable atmosphere to learn English language. CL is useful for learning following things in English language. English language teacher should use CL in English language teaching.

1] Teacher should prepare groups to listen the poems and reading it in front of class by each group.

- 2] It is useful for reading complex text material.
- 3] It is useful to write the essay or any report.
- 4] Creative thinking can be developed by the strategy.
- 5] To learn new vocabulary, collaborative learning is most useful.
- 6] For the dramatization, role play or dialogue reading, teacher can prepare groups and take the activity.
- 7] CL promotes the high quality thinking and way to express innovative thoughts of the students.

Advantages of CL

- 1] CL is useful to express the students' innovative ideas and develop the creative thinking power.
- 2] Students can learn according to their own knowledge and experience. It is useful to construct the knowledge.
- 3] For the deep and minute study of the content, CL is useful activity of learning.
- 4] In day to day life, students must acquire the soft skills like decision making, communication, thinking ability, critical thinking etc. CL provides opportunity to develop the soft skills of the students.
- 5] It is useful for the interaction purpose between teacher – students and student – student
- 6] Students engage themselves in fruitful discussion in CL. Students take active participation in group work.
- 7] Students can take the responsibility of their own learning. Self learning can be possible through collaborative learning.

Essential Components of CL

There are few essential components of the collaborative learning. These are - Positive Interdependence, Individual Accountability, Face-to Face Interaction, (At least once) Group Processes, Social Skills etc

Positive Interdependence

In the collaborative learning process, students learn with the help of other group members. This is the interdependence. But it should be positive. All members of groups should learn independently. At the last it should be the team work. Ensure that all members of the group learn the material. They must coordinate their efforts with the efforts of their group- mates to complete a task.

Individual Accountability

Teacher should supervise the group work and make sure that each and every member is contributing to group's work.

Use of Social Skills

- Students must get to know and trust one another.
- They must communicate accurately and unambiguously
- They must accept and support each other
- They must resolve conflicts constructively
- They need not be ashamed of seeking help

Group Processing

- Purpose of Group Processing is to enhance the effectiveness of collaborative work.
- Group members should set a goal.
- Check whether the goal is achieved.
- Identify changes to work more effectively.

Face-to-Face Interaction

Every learning concept needs the face- to- face interaction of the learners. With the successful interaction students can gain more knowledge with effective manner. Collaborative learning creates the opportunity of the face- to- face interaction. While teaching English language, teacher should allot some group work for the face- to- face interaction. If there is a story, teacher should ask the students to discuss the characters in the groups and decide who will play the roles.

➤ Some activities or assignments well suited for collaborative learning include:

In teaching and learning English language, teacher can use different activities which are suitable to the collaborative learning. Here are mentioned few of them.

1] Discussions

Teacher of English language should allot the students some simple topics for discussion to the prepared groups. For teaching story, teacher can prepare the groups and ask to particular group to discuss about the moral of the story or characters of the story. Same collaborative activity can be taken for English essay writing.

2] Debates

Teacher can organize the debate on familiar topic in English. Teacher can provide some hints, points or vocabulary for the debate. Students will discuss and will putforth their views about the topic in English.

3] Collaborative Writing

For writing essay in English language or for the dramatization purpose, teacher can take the collaborative writing activity in the class. It will develop the students' writing skill.

4] Collaborative Presentation

For the speaking skill development of the students, teacher can use the activity of collaborative presentation in the class. It will build the confidence of the students to express their views about particular topic.

5] Games

For collaborative teaching and learning, teacher can use the language games in the class. In groups, students will engage in playing the language games, vocabulary games, word games etc.

6] Conversation

To teach the conversation, teacher can take the help of collaborative learning technique. Teacher can ask students to prepare the suitable groups and perform the characters after discussion in the groups.

7] Teaching Drama

If there is drama for the teaching purpose, teacher can use the collaborative learning technique. For teaching drama, collaborative learning strategy is most suitable.

Drawbacks of Collaborative Learning

- 1] Some time group work can create the conflict or struggle. It should be done under control of teacher.
- 2] Some of the students cannot take part in group activity due to their shy nature. It is not possible to use this strategy to every student. May be they sit quiet in class while group activity.
- 3] Some brilliant students come up with all the answers while some of them will sit passive. Some work hard on the other side some will sit quiet. So groups can be imbalanced according to the work attitude or mentality.

9.7 Conclusion

Collaborative learning has the best and largest empirical base of any educational innovation. Collaborative processes have been shown to advance higher-level conceptual learning and develop thinking skills. Collaborative learning is well worth exploring or useful to promote the higher education

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