

Writing a Report about Fluency and Accuracy Activities by Observing a Lesson

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Abstract: Language is a result of combined factors two of which are fluency and accuracy. These two play such a significant role in our verbal communication that one could never be considered as an advanced user of a language without mastering them. Expressing ideas and being able to explain what a person means are not only easier with them but also more coherent and smoother too. Therefore, a proper lesson should definitely consider teaching them to improve learners in communication terms.

The purpose of this article is to summarize a lesson observed to see how fluency and accuracy are addressed in an authentic teaching and learning atmosphere.

Key points: user, communication, fluency, accuracy, coherent, cohesive, smooth, natural, advanced, language pattern, communication.

I have been to the lesson of one of my fellow teachers aged around 40 who works at a private education center. She is naturally energetic and always inspires her students to speak English as smoothly, fluently and coherently as possible. Below, I will write about what I saw in one of her classes that I visited a few days ago.

In fact, the importance of fluency and accuracy is not hidden for most language users. However, recently some students, and teachers too, are not eager to learn them and be good at them at all. Considering this worrying issue, I opted to do this very task – observing a lesson for fluency and accuracy.

Starting with giving overview about where I visited first, it a local private education center that serves students to improve their English capacity. The teacher I chose to observe was previously my General English teacher when I was studying at school. I picked her not only because she has sufficient experience in teaching but also because of her disciplined way of teaching. What I mean is that, this very teacher asks her learners to be open in every class and requests them to speak their mind. I chose to visit her intermediate group where she organizes several activities regarding fluency.

Actually, the lesson was quite interactive and informative for both learners and me as well and I realized that I had not made a mistake choosing this teacher at the end of the lesson.

Being more specific about the lesson itself, there were around 20 students in a class who can express themselves to some extent. The teacher organized a number of group activities that were expected to improve learners' communication skills. The first thing the teacher did was to warm-up

and make her learners feel comfortable with English speaking. For doing this, she had some discussion with the students and she asked several questions to them. They tried to express themselves and gave their ideas as far as they could. Then, she asked them to pair up and have speaking with their table partners standing. They were asked to speak loudly enough to interrupt others. By doing so, she mentioned, she wanted to kill the fear of speaking publically in her learners. After this the actual lesson started and now students were confident and comfortable with the lesson.

Here, let what accuracy is be defined in a summarized way.

- Accuracy is using grammar structures correctly with making no errors in lexical, contextual, syntactical and logical terms.

Considering this, I paid close attention on how she organizes her lessons and how she can build fluency and accuracy based lesson, which was interesting for me. The lesson was 80 minutes overall and it was divided into several parts that served me to observe efficiently. After the initial warm-up, the teacher explained one major grammar structure to the learners thoroughly and gave several authentic examples to us it in speech. Meanwhile, she explained how important to use it correctly and appropriately is and asked learners not to use it where it is not actually needed. From what I know about accuracy, the methodology and the approach used in the lesson regarding grammar was quite beneficial. Because the teacher did not only explained the theory on the board but also called the learners to use it when needed. It is the most important thing to consider when we are learning or teaching grammar. Grammar usage should be accordingly and relevant to not only the context but also the content too. A language user needs to use the language properly and its grammar accurately so as to be considered as an advanced learner.

Then, the learners, having understood the grammar structure deeply and properly, made some speeches following the instructions given. They used the learnt grammar rule in their speeches combining their previous knowledge and this made their speech even better.

What I summarized at this point of the lesson was that accuracy is one of the most significant sides of a language to be considered.

Another thing that I concentrated on during the lesson was fluency. I focused on how learners and a teacher could work on their fluency. Before turning to it thoroughly, let what fluency is be defined in a summative way.

- Fluency is being capable of speaking in a way that a listener does not feel any difficulty in understanding what is going to be meant. In other words, fluency is being able to speak following smooth and flowing line at a temp that does not influence the conversation. Fluency is what a language user needs for speaking coherently.

Being more detailed about fluency in the lesson, I noticed that the teacher did not ask learners to worry about their speech at first. After a while, however, she requested her learners to express themselves in a fluent way.

Before requesting this from the learners, the teacher explained what fluency is and how much it is important in speech. This happened right after the class had a grammar part of the lesson. Having learnt the grammar structure the teacher explained just before, learners are given some strategies to improve their fluency in their speech. The teacher said several insights to the students and those included followings:

- ✓ Fluency is what makes you an advanced learner;
- ✓ You can improve fluency by following a line of methods like shadowing or imitating;
- ✓ Fluency is connected with how much vocabulary you know;
- ✓ Fluency is important for you to speak smoothly and coherently...

The learners, then, improved their speech noticeably by following the instructions given by a teacher. They gave a lot more coherent and thorough responds turn by turn. What they kept in mind was that a speech does not need to be fast but it has to be smooth and at natural pace. The teacher whose lesson I observed gave such important takeaways to the learners that are going to be beneficial in their future.

in conclusion, being fluent and coherent in a language you are speaking in is one essential aspect of overall speaking. It is a tool that defines you to be coherent and advanced learner at the same time. I am glad to have been to that very lesson and took a number of important things with me as takeaways.

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