

THE BENEFITS OF PROJECT BASED LEARNING IN TEACHING EFL LEARNERS

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Abstract: This article examines advantages of using project-based approach and of its focus on 21st-century skills, as the PBL model also enhances students' technology abilities. Project-based learning helps students develop teamwork and problem-solving skills¹⁴, along with the ability to communicate effectively with others.

Key words: project-based learning, communicative, ESL, teaching environment.

One of fundamental learning theories that have been highly considered for the 21st century learning foundation is Constructivism. It is a philosophy of learning that the students' learning occurs when the new knowledge is presented in relation to the previous knowledge within an effective teaching environment [1;76].

In this viewpoint, the new knowledge is practiced through experiences. The students create their understanding of the world they live in by reflecting on their own personal experiences [2; 66].

They play major role to develop and build their own knowledge through active participation during the process of learning. Regarding this, teachers should take into account what students know. Teachers build on the students' prior knowledge and allow students to put their knowledge into practice. In other words, it is the students themselves who have responsibility for their own learning. [3; 56]

Project-based Learning is not only expected to create enjoyable classroom, but also give opportunity for students to improve their English skill. One of the skills that should be mastered in English subject is writing.

Product approach is one approach in writing that expects the students to only analyze texts in terms of what language they used, and how they were constructed. Process writing is a way of looking at what people do when they compose written text.

Writing belongs to the productive skill that should be mastered by the students in order to communicate their ideas and feeling with others in written form.

Yulianti, S., Nuraeni, S., & Parmawati state that "Writing is a process to create some ideas of students' knowledge to be a written" [5;714].

In line with this statement, Reimes states that writing is a skill in which we express the ideas, feelings, and thoughts arranged in words, sentences, and paragraph using eyes, brain and hand. It can be concluded that writing is complicated activities, since there are five aspects of writing that should be considered in the process of making a good writing composition, such as: content, organization, vocabulary, language use and mechanic. [4;76]

Markham argues that project based learning is a systematic teaching method that engages students in learning knowledge and skills through an extended inquiry process structured around complex, authentic questions and carefully designed products and tasks. Students work in a real situation and they produce a product in real life. Project based learning enhances the quality of learning and leads to higher level cognitive development through students' engagement of complex problems. [3;63]

Project based learning also teaches students complex processes and procedures such as planning and communicating. An imperative sentence is a type of sentence that gives instructions or advice, and expresses a command, an order, a direction, or a request. It is also known as a jussive or a directive.

Depending upon its delivery, an imperative sentence may end with an exclamation mark or a period. It is usually simple and short, but could be long and complex, depending upon its context.

The project-based learning, traditional teacher roles can be challenged as students make choices on how to approach a problem, present findings or identify what the driving question or questions will be. There are six steps in project based learning in the practice at the classroom.

- There are: 1. Start with the essential question
2. Design a plan for the project
3. Create a schedule
4. Monitors the students and the progress of the project
5. Assess the outcomes
6. Evaluate the experience Markham

[3;54]

Marham summarizes that the benefit of project based learning are as follow:

1. Project based learning can overcome the dichotomy between knowledge and thinking, helping students to be active. [3;56]
2. Project based learning would support students in learning and practicing English skills. Students would be encouraged to solve their problems.
3. Project based learning would develop the habits of using mind critically.
4. Project based learning integrates curriculum areas, thematic instruction, and community issues.

In conclusion that the use of project based learning in the teaching writing imperative sentence could improve students scores and activeness of the students in learning English.

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