RESEARCH INSIGHTS IN ENGLISH TEACHING AND LEARNING

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Nuraihan Mat Daud

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CHAPTER 9:

Task Based Learning: From Theory to Practice

Lily Azlina Ahmad
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Khairiah Othman

Task based learning (TBL) is a learner-centred approach which focuses on tasks highlighted to be effective in enhancing students' proficiency. This study aimed to investigate students' perceptions on the effects of TBL in enhancing their English language proficiency. The respondents were 100 pre-university new-intake students studying English in an intensive language programme based on TBL. A questionnaire was administered to evaluate the respondents' perception on the effectiveness of TBL at the end of a 14-week semester. The findings indicated that the students found it effective in improving their communicative skills, enhancing their writing skills, exposing them to a variety of authentic texts and helping them to prepare for the end-of-semester examination.

Keywords: Task based learning (TBL), learner-centred approach, language skills.

INTRODUCTION

Task based learning (TBL), is a learner-centred approach which focuses on tasks has been highlighted to be effective in enhancing students' proficiency. Unlike the traditional approach to language learning which emphasises learning the language structures, forms and vocabulary, TBL emphasises the use of language for communication of meaning (Wilkins, 1976; Widdowson, 1976). The traditional approach of Present-Practice-Produce (P-P-P) allows the teacher to present new language items, lets the learners practice the items through drills and repetition and