

Lecture 01: Teaching**prepared by Dr A. ZEMIECHE**

Teachers think of themselves as actors since they are always on the stage. They feel also as if they are farmers because they plant the seeds and watch them grow. These metaphors are used by teachers in order to provide the definition of teaching. This variety of definitions indicates that people hold different insights about this occupation.

If we try to consider the definition provided by the dictionaries, the Cambridge International Dictionary of English states that teaching means: “to give (someone) knowledge or instruct, or train (someone).” On the other hand, the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English indicates that teaching means “to show somebody how to do something.”, or to “change somebody’s ideas.”

Given the afore mentioned definitions, one might ask the question: is teaching only about the transmission of knowledge from teacher to student or is it about creating conditions in which students learn for an by themselves?

In fact, in recent years greater emphasis has been put on learner centered approaches to teaching where the learner is at the heart of the teaching/learning process. Therefore, students’ needs and expectations should shape the content of the syllabus. The teacher is no longer at the center of the teaching/learning process.

Teacher's Roles

- Controller

Teachers acting the role of a controller are in charge of the activity taking place instead of giving responsibility to the learner. A good example of a teacher acting the role of a controller is one who believes that teaching is transmitting knowledge from him to the learners.

- Organizer

One of the important roles a teacher may play in the classroom is organizing the learners to perform various tasks. This might involve giving the students information about what to do in a given activity through explaining the instruction of the task. Teachers may also put students in pairs or in groups.

- Assessor

One of the things students expect from the teacher is that he/she provides a clear picture of their real level through the use of assessment. Evaluating or measuring progress is a very crucial step in the teaching/learning process.

Reference list

Harmer, J. The Practice of English Language Teaching (3rd ed). Longman