

## USING STORYTELLING TO DEVELOP SPEAKING SKILLS AND REDUCE ANXIETY IN BEGINNER ESL STUDENTS

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**Annotation:** *This paper explains how to improve speaking by using "storytelling" method, it's benefits and effects on language learners. It also discusses about how to reduce anxiety and fear of speaking.*

**Key words:** *enhance speaking, storytelling method, reduce anxiety, reading stories, learning language.*

**Аннотация:** *В данной работе объясняется, как улучшить навыки говорения с помощью метода «сторителлинга», его преимущества и влияние на изучающих язык. Также рассматриваются способы снижения тревожности и страха перед устной речью.*

**Ключевые слова:** *развитие устной речи, метод сторителлинга, снижение тревожности, чтение историй, изучение языка.*

Storytelling is considered one of the most useful tool in language learning and teaching because of its myriad of benefits. It affects not only speaking skills, but it also helps people to improve cognitive development. For Beginners students like ESL ( English as a sscond Language) speaking can be challenging because of many differences between languages and psychological factors such as fear of speaking or lack of confidence. Storytelling method enhnace speaking skills. Stephen Krashen's Affective Filter Hypothesis eexplains that emotional challenges such as motivation, self-confidence, and anxiety can affect a learner's ability to learn a Second Language. According to Krashen's research, these factors work as a "Filter" that can stop or let language input to reach the brain. Let's learn the reasons why storytelling is useful

for ESL students and how it can be effectively improve language learning routine.

One of the main benefits of storytelling is the powerful effect on vocabulary learning. When learners are reading or listening to stories, they face new words in texts. They learn new words with their meaning according to the context. For example, reading a story about history may introduce vocabulary related to historical facts, people or anything related to the past. Furthermore, it is easy to learn new words by storytelling. Another benefit of storytelling is that it can help enhance comprehension skills. . It is known that comprehension is one of the crucial part of the language learning process. Storytelling really helps to improve comprehension. Because during reading a story you face different people, characters, settings, plots or conflicts where You should pay attention and read in detail. Moreover, while reading a story, you should understand the main context and ideas. By doing "Storytelling" method a lot, you can enhance understanding cause and effect, sequencing events and making predictions. All of these written above are essential skills to achieve high proficiency in language. Storytelling doesn't contain only reading and listening, it s also good way to improve speaking and pronunciation as well. After reading a story, students retell stories and they can even play a role like characters in a story. During this process, they have a chance to spell the words, phrases or sentences. This practice helps learners to enhance their pronuounciation, intonation and fluency.

Language learning is time-requiring and stressful for many learners, especially when it comes to speaking. But storytelling can play an important role in reducing this anxiety by offering more interesting and engaging way to practice the language. Participating in storytelling allows learners to know the context in a better way and this experience make learning more enjoyable and less stressful. Stories often symbolize the culture they originate from. By reading English stories, learners can gain knowledge, insights about cultural contexts, traditions of English-speaking countries. This cultural awareness is really important for communication as it helps learners to understand expressions, idioms or humour of that country described in a story. Learning a language by Storytelling method doesn't only help language

learning, but it also develops creativity and critical thinking in learners. In this modern world, creativity and critical thinking play crucial role in every sphere. When readers create their own stories, they have to think creatively as they create main character, interesting plot themselves. This process involves using language creatively to express ideas and emotions. In addition, reading stories, analyzing them with peers also improve critical thinking. Over the past decades, many important studies ( Fan, 2020 ; Lee and hsu, 2016 ; Miller and Pennycuff, 2008 ; Tsou, Wang,& Tzeng, 2006) have indicated that storytelling is an effective tool for enhancing foreign language learning. Research demonstrates the significant positive impact of storytelling and reading stories on children's language development and comprehension ( Isbell, Sobol, Lindauer and Lowrance, 2004). In a related study participating four- year- old children, results showed that children are generally able to tell stories in pictures or photos, while six- year- olds can identify and relate the cause- effect relationship among different events ( Zaro& Salaberri, 1995). As children grow, they develop the ability to identify other key factors in more complex contexts, and their ability to understand, compose and enjoy stories.( Zaro& Salaberri, 1995). Because of this ability to develop a child's analytical thinking, storytelling is part of the school schedule in many countries, including countries where English is the native language ( Zaro& Salaberri, 1995), and stories are considered an essential daily resource in the foreign language class ( hendrickson, 1992 ; Tsou et al., 2006 ; Zaro& Salaberri, 1995). Participants in another study were "highly engaged in the digital storytelling study, which has helped them enhance their ability to express their intended meaning interestingly " ( Fan, 2020). By doing this, storytelling strategies enable ESL individual learners to strengthen their public speaking ability, also help them reduce anxiety during speaking process.

Anxiety is one of the most common problems that ESL students usually face, especially when speaking. It can cause students freeze, sweat, avoid participation or lose confidence. However, storytelling help students to overcome these challenges by practicing more. Storytelling emphasises the speaking skill, not grammar or

pronunciation. This causes student feel free to speak in public without fear or any hesitation. Storytelling activities often include planning, practice, and retelling, which reduces anxiety over time. Learners get to prepare and rehearse, when they face spontaneous speaking tasks. Every speaker may face difficulties like lack of confidence, anxiety, stress or fear when it comes to speaking skills at the beginning. But "Storytelling" method is very effective in these cases. It helps students how to overcome fear and anxiety while speaking.

**In conclusion,** Storytelling method is very useful and valuable way to improve speaking for especially beginner students. Storytelling not only enhances speaking skills by providing meaningful and authentic language input, but it also creates safe and engaging environment that motivates students to express themselves without the fear of making mistakes. This way of teaching also aids learners how to overcome anxiety in speaking.

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