

TEACHING WITH HUMOR: A BENEVOLENT TEACHING TECHNIQUE FOR SECOND LANGUAGE LEARNERS IN TEACHER EDUCATION

(A REFLECTIVE STUDY)

MUBASHER NADEEM

Director, Division of Arts & Social Sciences, University of Education, Lower Mall Campus, Lahore, Pakistan

ABSTRACT

Humor is an important part of human social life and when applied by the teacher in classroom affects students' learning of English as a second language. Teaching is generally considered a serious profession by taking the meanings of the word serious in literal senses and same is transferred to prospective teachers who are to steer millions of public sector school students in right direction in their professional life. In teacher education programs the prospective teachers are injected this seriousness syndrome so far as English language teaching and learning are concerned. Keeping in view this significant factor the study was designed to know the opinions/reflections of University graduates, studying in different teacher education degree programs, about the use of humor as pedagogical techniques. The study was conducted on 100 University graduates through an opinionnaire for data analysis, findings and conclusion. The results of the study manifest that the subjects are of the opinion that humor is one of the best ways to teach English language to prospective teachers who are taught about the seriousness of teaching as a profession. The respondents feel that dominating language instructors hardly set such an environment that could promote effective English language teaching/learning. Hence, it recommends that humor may be considered as one of the best ways of teaching English as a foreign language to prospective teachers and should also be taken as teaching aid like others. Further, there should be an effort on the part of language instructors to generate cordial relations with learners with the help of humor which can play vital role for effective language teaching and learning.

KEY WORDS: Tertiary Level, Teacher Education, Prospective Teachers, Humorous Teaching, Foreign Language, Teaching Aid