Week 8 Assignment - Business Simulation Method

Maria Kang

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The Business Simulation Method is an incorporation of the Silent Way, the Natural Approach, and Semi-Desuggestopedia. In lieu of a calm and relaxing class atmosphere, however, the Business Simulation Method is a recreation of a specific business setting. For example, the classroom desks will be arranged to mirror a panel interview, negotiation table, arbitration, project bidding, or board meeting. The purpose is to make the environment close as possible to the actual upcoming event so the participants can practice listening and speaking business English.

Being in the legal and corporate profession for over twenty years, the most common concern non-native speakers have in speaking English is their lack of confidence. Since English is a part of Korean students' college entrance exam, many Korean professionals' English comprehension level is intermediary to advanced. Unfortunately, the English component of the exam is unrealistically academic and difficult for even native English speakers. Because it is not in sync with real life English, many Korean professionals find it difficult to keep up in English business meetings.

According to American TESOL, role playing simulation is an effective way to enhance ESL skills because it boosts communication skills, fosters creativity, encourages critical thinking, and builds cultural awareness. However, in order to be effective, the instructor must set clear objectives and choose relatable scenarios. That is why I am an advocate of introducing business

and legal terms commonly used in the industry and providing participants the opportunity to utilize them in a realistic setting relevant to their R&R (role and responsibility). Another important factor in fostering effectiveness of a role play simulation is the instructor's familiarity with the scenario and target terms. For example, I am qualified to recreate RFQ (Request for Quote) scenarios because I worked in the logistics industry where participating in bidding was routine. A simulation based upon the same require the instructor to have specific knowledge not only in terms utilized but various situations that occur in bidding.

List of 15 Ideas

1. Learning English as a Second Language (ESL) as an adult is most conducive when it is realistic and relatable.
2. Direct Approach can be burdensome for adult learners because they are not learning English tabula rasa but rather in addition to another native language.
3. Learners are most receptive when they are comfortable and feel safe to make mistakes.
4. Assessing the proper level and effective learning method of each student is an important preliminary task for the instructor.
5. Instructor should not correct grammatical errors while the student is speaking or in front of others as it can embarrass the student thereby preventing him/her from freely speaking in the future.

6. Feedback should seem “general” at the end of discussion or class so that no one feels singled out.
7. Visuals like short video clips, pictures, and images are helpful to “get in the zone” for a particular lesson especially if it is a new concept or target terms.
8. Lesson plan should be carefully organized so that target terms are introduced in order and relevance so that there is natural accumulation.
9. Role play simulation provides students the opportunity to practice using target terms and get exposure to situation variables and nuances.
10. Simulations should be well planned out and explained by the instructor so they don’t get off track and divert from the lesson plan.
11. Instructor should provide general feedback of the simulation as well as specific individual feedback.
12. While cultural differences should be pointed out and discussed, instructor should be careful not to make generalizations that could be deemed improper.
13. Depending upon the English level of the participants, the instructor should balance the Silent Way, Direct Method, and Natural Method.
14. Despite the English level of the participants, most of the class time should be students speaking rather than the instructor.
15. The instructor should be professional, approachable, and interested in the students and their learning.

References

American TESOL Institute (2014) “Encouraging Thinking and Creativity in ESL Classrooms with Role-Playing and Simulation” https://americantesol.com/blogger/infographic-role-playingsimulation/