CULTURALLY INCLUSIVE TEACHING IN ENGLISH CLASSES

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Annotation: *English language learning has already become a global phenomenon among millions of enthusiastic learners who are seeking ways to learn about different cultures. Culturally inclusive teaching (CIT) is a pedagogy that recognizes the importance of incorporating students' cultural backgrounds into all aspects of learning, according to Northeastern University Graduate. In diverse classrooms, traditional lessons cannot improve students' understanding or worldview, so it is neither so effective nor important. CIT acknowledges that students have varied experiences and knowledge, and it aims to build these strengths. This paper aims to give information and knowledge about how culturally inclusive teaching plays an important role in English classes, and discuss some tips for teachers to use in a classroom*

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Culturally inclusive teaching not only in English classes, but also in learning other languages can acknowledge the diverse backgrounds, experiences, and knowledge of student's and it creates a great opportunity and environment where each student feels respected, valued to succeed which can always support and motivate them. This approach goes beyond simply including diverse perspectives in the curriculum and it involves transforming teaching practices to be more relevant and engaging for all learners. Language and culture are inseparable entities, with language not only reflecting culture but also actively contributing to its formation (Brown, 2007). As learners progress in their linguistic journey, they inevitably encounter a countless of cultural features, encompassing idiomatic expressions, metaphors, and social conventions. These cultural interactions are not mere linguistic difficulties but gateways to deeper understanding. The significance of culture in English language learning extends beyond linguistic proficiency, significantly this influences learners' motivation and perception of the language. By continuously integrating cultural aspects into language learning, educators create invaluable opportunities for learners to develop intercultural competence, a skill considered vital for navigating global contexts and fostering open-mindedness and empathy. Learning a language becomes a journey of cultural exploration, providing learners with not just the tools to speak but the understanding to communicate effectively in diverse environments.

However, the effective interconnection of culture and language in teaching practices leads to challenges for educators. One prevailing issue is the limited cultural content in course materials. For example, some learners may face limited sources to learn new grammar, vocabularies, punctuation and others. It is also important to know about cultural differences which sometimes

can discourage. Furthermore, technology integration is a powerful tool to enrich the interconnection of culture and language, says Phillipson, a British politician. Through online language exchanges, virtual cultural immersion programs, and multimedia content, learners can actively engage with a broad variety of culturally diverse resources. Additionally, in today's world of technology, gadgets become not just a convenience but a bridge, connecting learners with real-world cultural experiences and fostering a global perspective. Digital technology offers opportunities to enrich course materials with cultural content from around the world. Online resources, virtual cultural exchanges, and multimedia platforms enable learners to explore different cultural perspectives and practices in an immersive way. They play an important role in creating culturally inclusive English classes, allowing teachers to include different materials from different cultures. In this way, students also have access to develop different cultural understanding and the usage of social media platforms, such as Zoom, Telegram, and Facebook makes learning and teaching easier to collaborate and share their cultural perspectives with different ways. Through online discussions and classes, students not only learn English, grammar structures, vocabulary, but also improve personal skills and abilities to communicate effectively and respectively with other people from various backgrounds. Additionally, by watching You Tube videos and interacting with native speakers, students can learn with authentic materials, like accents, traditions, and communication styles from around the world. A

In language classrooms, addressing cultural diversity is principal, necessitating educators to undergo intercultural competence training. This training is foundational, providing educators with the skills to navigate cross-cultural interactions and create inclusive learning environments. The training begins with cultural awareness sessions, prompting educators to recognize their own biases and assumptions. This self-awareness is foundational for developing intercultural competence (Deardorff, 2006). Subsequent cultural sensitivity training encourages educators to approach diverse learner backgrounds with empathy, fostering a safe space for learners to express their cultural identities. As they accompany students on a path of self-discovery and shared understanding, educators become into reflective guides throughout this stage.

In culturally inclusive teaching, supporting new students who speak English as a second or third language is not optional, but it is fundamental to academic success. For these students, the classroom can be both a learning new language environment and a place to think, process and communicate in a different and new way. So, it is so useful and crucial for educators to know about effective and important culturally inclusive teaching strategies. Here are some of them for you:

First, educators should be aware of the level of each student in the classroom which makes teaching easier by finding sources right to students' understanding. Being motivated of learners is always crucial. Then, as Childers – McKee advises: "if you are reading a chapter in a class, for example, discuss in details why it matters today, in your school, or in your community." Take the concept you are learning about and create a project that enables them to draw parallels. It is essential to mention that building strong relationships between the teacher and students

makes the learning process more valuable and effective. Moreover, using differentiated instructions helps to address varied learning styles and language needs. So, know each of your student's level of understanding, find reliable and right sources, repeat everything after learning, finally, make relationships, more importantly, offer materials in multiple formats and languages if possible. Also, you should allow your students to use their home language for discussion or learning, but not always which makes them more respected and comfortable, but not always which can help educators value students' native languages and see them assets, not barriers. Furthermore, have your visual aids to your students like diagrams, charts, pictures to support and make the understanding of the learners easier and more entertaining. If you use these aids, only write the most important key words on them, not everything you tell keeping them academically. Then, explain everything briefly by simple words. These approaches make you a great and professional educator.

In conclusion, as values can be the cause of each educational practice and behavior expectations are culturally supported, conflicts are likely to occur when cultural issues are not appropriate addressed in the classroom. That has shown to be the key to effective English language learning with students of diverse cultures. Still, studies found that minority groups often struggle in academic institutions due to language difficulties, feelings of isolation and having problems adjusting to a new cultural environment. Especially important is that educational institutions support minority students, as well as encourage the creation of initiatives to support multiculturalism in schools. So, supporting language development for English Language Learners is not just about teaching, but it is all about providing access to the full academic learning and experience, building a classroom where every student feels eager to learn, express, and succeed.

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