

IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING ORAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS FOR LEARNERS

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ANNOTATION

Oral communication skills are fundamental for learners as they significantly enhance academic and professional performance. Developing these skills equips students with the ability to express ideas effectively, engage in collaborative environments, and improve critical thinking and active listening. This paper highlights the importance of fostering oral communication skills in educational settings, emphasizing their role in boosting confidence, enhancing social interactions, and preparing students for real-world challenges. Various methods and strategies for improving these skills, such as active participation, group discussions, and presentation practices, are explored to illustrate their positive impact on learners' overall development.

Keywords: Oral communication, speaking skills, learner development, educational impact, critical thinking, active listening, confidence building, academic success, social interaction, real-world preparation.

INTRODUCTION

Oral communication fulfills a number of general and discipline-specific pedagogical functions. Learning to speak is an important goal in itself, for it equips students with a set of skills they can use for the rest of their lives. Communication is exchange of ideas between either orally or in writing. In this research, communication is taken in the sense of fluency and accuracy. Former refers to proper use of language without hesitation and later talks about use of grammatically and phonologically correct language. Allwright considers it “*learn by doing approach*”¹ in teaching where teacher and students both involved. Speaking takes place in the presence of listener because listener responds to the speaker’s communication. As Byrne defines, “Oral communication is a two-way process between defines speaker and listener and involves the productive skills of speaking and receptive skills of understanding”². It is considered to be helpful in improving learning as Staab states, “I believe that oral language is important not only as a vital communication tool that empowers us in our daily lives but also as a valuable way to learn”³. Speaking is the mode of communication most often used to express opinions, make arguments, offer explanations, transmit information, and make impressions upon others.

¹ Allwright, D. (1994). “The Importance of Interaction in Classroom Language Learning”.

² Byrne, D. (1986). “Teaching Oral English”. London: Longman.

³ Staab (1992): Staab, C. (1992). “Oral Language for Today’s Classroom”.



Students need to speak well in their personal lives, future workplaces, social interactions, and political endeavors. They will have meetings to attend, presentations to make, discussions and arguments, offer explanations, transmit information, and make impressions upon others. Students need to speak well in their personal lives future workplaces, social interactions, and political endeavors. They will have meetings to attend, presentations to make, discussions and arguments to participate in and groups to work with. If basic instruction and opportunities to practice speaking are available, students position themselves to accomplish a wide range of goals and be useful member of their communities. Recent studies using different methodological approaches and studying second- language learners of different ages and proficiency levels have examined the oral communication strategies used to convey meaning. In an investigation by Hamayan and Tucker ⁴ for example, children listened to a story then asked to retell it in their own words. Tarone ⁵ presented adult second-language learners with a series of pictures and asked them in the target language, in order to isolate the “Intended meaning” ⁶ of what the learner tries to express. These elicitation techniques all provide a topical framework within which the subject must function; they vary, however, in the extent to which they force the learner to attempt communication and in the control over the selection of specific structures of lexical items.

BENEFITS:

Communication skills are essential for everyone as they offer numerous benefits both inside and outside the academic environment. It is an effective way of imparting information. Verbal communication is fast and particularly effective in helping people understand complex concepts Here is some key advantageous of developing strong communication skills:

Academic Success: Effective communication is crucial for academic success. Students with strong communication skills can express their ideas clearly and concisely, making it easier for them to participate in class discussions, write papers.

Career readiness: Good communication skills are critical for career success. Employers value candidates who can communicate clearly and effectively, and students who can demonstrate these skills have an advantage in the job market.

Social and Emotional Development: Communication skills are also important for social and emotional development. Students who can communicate effectively are better able to form positive relationships with their peers and teachers and are more likely to have positive self-esteem

Critical thinking: Communication skills are closely linked to critical thinking skills. Students who are able to communicate effectively are better able analyze and evaluate information, and to develop and express their own ideas.

Hence, it is critical to try to develop the appropriate communication skills to support not only one’s career goals but essentially almost all parts of life. How can this be done? Presented in this report are some methods that, if practiced, can help promote

success. The person communicating the message can be viewed as the “sender” and the listener is the “receiver”. The success of that transmission of information, however, and the whether it is truly received and fully imprinted in the memory bank of the receiver, is dependent on a number of items. Typically, all can be included under the headings given in Figure 1.

⁴ Hamayan, E., & Tucker, G. R. (1979). "A Functional Approach to Language Development"

⁵ Tarone, E. (1980). "Communication Strategies, Foreigner Talk, and Repair in Interlanguage"

⁶ Varadi, T. (1973). "Intended meaning" in *Linguistic Communication*

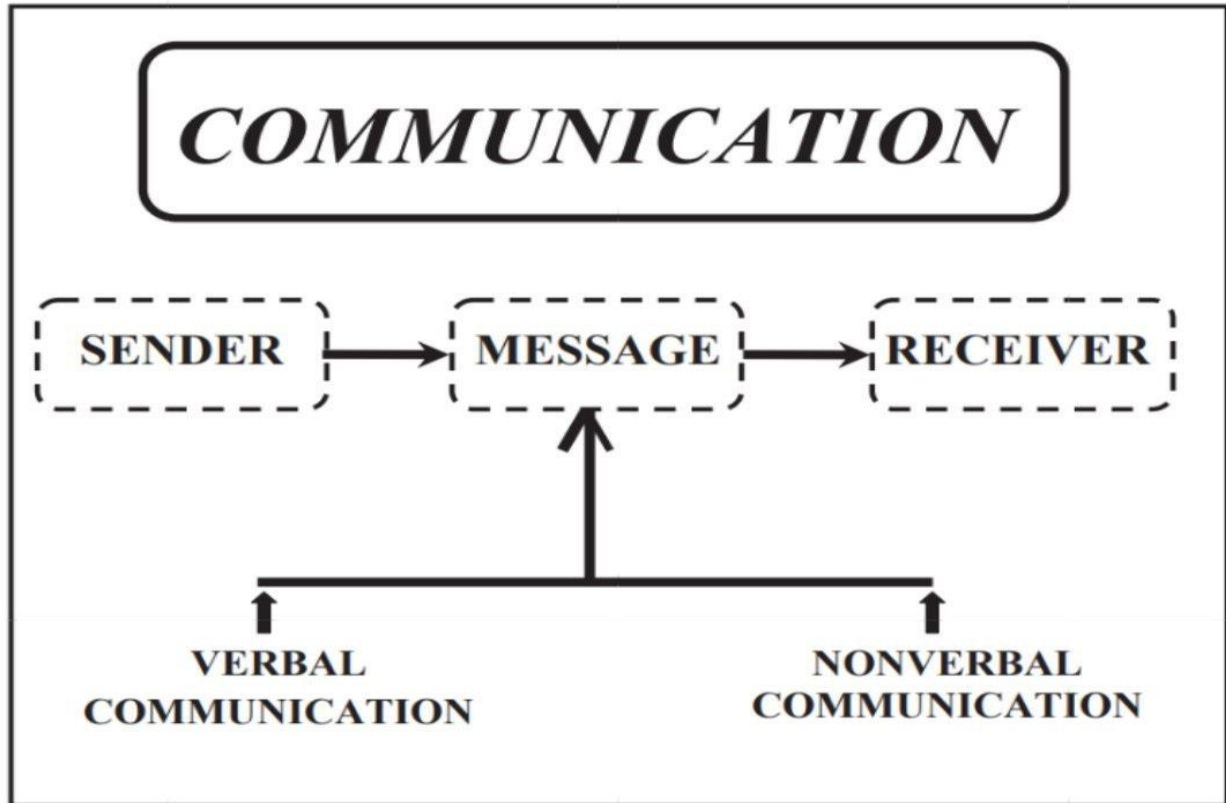


Figure 1. Factors affecting whether communication is truly received and fully imprinted on listener.

As this figure illustrates, there are two fundamental components associated with oral communication. They are the verbal and nonverbal – each of which we will address. For many individuals, one of the main causes of poor oral communications in public speaking is the fear that comes with being in this position –i.e., up front! As Figure 2 indicates, three things can help diminish this fear. First is to develop confidence when addressing an audience. To do that often takes considerable practice. One’s initial ability to be confident in public speaking often varies depending on personality (e.g., introverted vs. extroverted), which the author has noted many times when teaching the communication course.

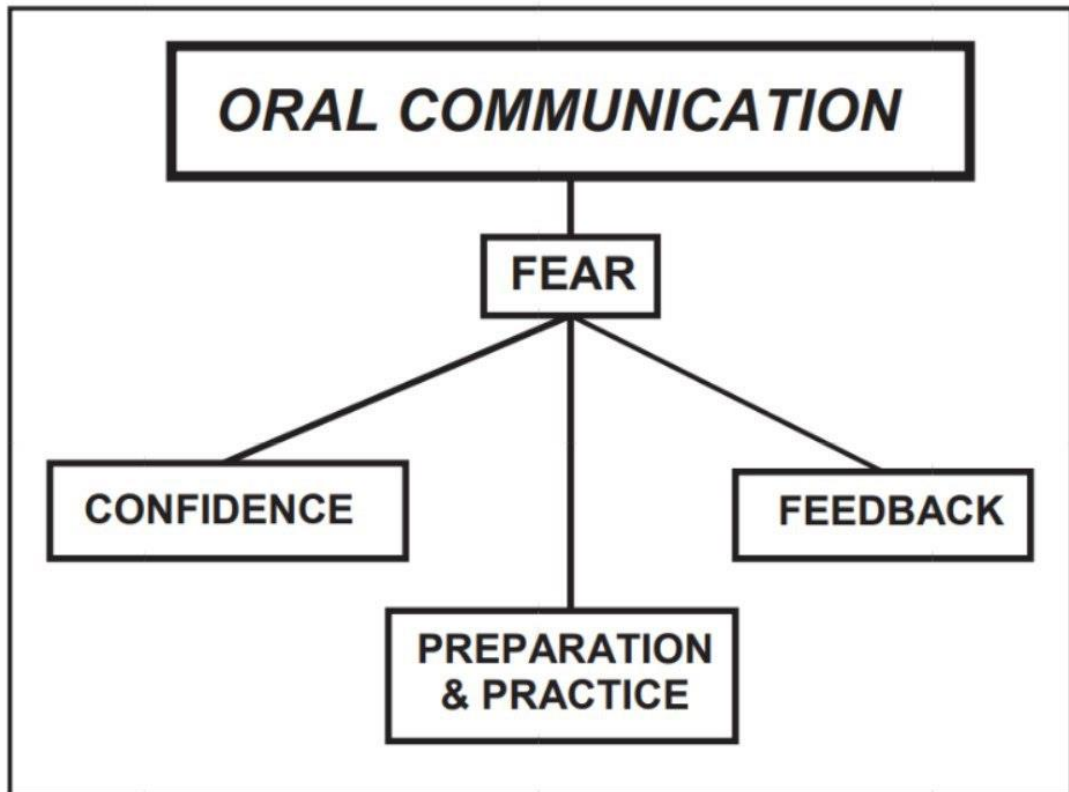


Figure 2. Three aspects can help diminish the fear that comes with speaking in front of a group.

Confidence, which helps generate persuasiveness and trust, can improve with careful preparation of the material. When preparing, feedback is desirable ahead of the actual presentation. By building on the three items given in Figure 2, fear can generally be diminished. If one does not have a peer or two to listen to a practice session, then setting up a video camera or even a simple video recording device can also be a great assistance.

CONCLUSION

With the use of oral communication towards the implementation of the teaching and learning of the environment, it brings much elasticity towards understanding what it is entailed during the communication. The incorporation of oral communication into teaching and learning processes, particularly in topics like the environment, significantly enhances understanding and adaptability. Through oral communication, learners and instructors engage in a dynamic exchange that allows for clarity, flexibility, and immediate feedback, all of which are essential for grasping complex or abstract concepts. This approach reduces the likelihood of misunderstandings, vague expressions, or inaccuracies in speech. By delivering information verbally, speakers can ensure that the core message and critical points are conveyed effectively, fostering a deeper comprehension of the material. Furthermore, oral communication helps present content in a structured, accessible manner, allowing the audience to follow and internalize the intended message during the presentation. Thus, oral communication



strengthens the teaching and learning experience, providing a robust foundation for both conveying and comprehending intricate ideas.

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