

BRAINSTORMING AS AN EFFECTIVE METHOD OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING

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named after academician V. Lazaryan**

Abstract.

Modern teaching is characterized by interaction, communication and participation. It is believed that an interactive class must incorporate participation in order to assure learner centered teaching and better results. Brainstorming is one of the popular techniques of participative approach to decision making which can be employed in a pedagogic situation as well. The present study is of exploratory type. It uses descriptive approach of research, however questionnaires have been used to elicit primary data from the concerned samples. The findings show that brainstorming is a useful technique of teaching which catches attention of both the teachers and learners.

Key words: *brainstorming, method, effectiveness, generating, solution, advantages.*

«МОЗКОВИЙ ШТУРМ» ЯК ЕФЕКТИВНИЙ МЕТОД ВИКЛАДАННЯ ІНОЗЕМНОЇ МОВИ

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Анотація.

Метод мозкового штурму - це спроба знайти рішення проблеми за допомогою стимулювання творчої активності. Він полягає в тому, щоб згенерувати якомога більшу кількість варіантів вирішення проблеми, в тому числі і найнеймовірніших. Потім, з усіх придуманих варіантів відбираються ті, які можуть бути реалізовані на ділі. Цей метод знайшов широке використання у галузі викладання іноземних мов. Дана стаття розглядає позитивні та негативні аспекти використання методу у процесі викладання іноземних мов та його вплив на сумісну роботу викладачів та студентів.

Ключові слова: *мозковий штурм, метод, ефективність, стимулювання, вирішення проблем, переваги.*

Brainstorming is a combination of a relaxed, informal approach to problem-solving and lateral thinking. People are asked to find ideas and thoughts that can at first seem to be a bit irrelevant. The idea is to use some of these ideas to form original, creative solutions to problems. Even some seemingly useless ideas can spark still

more ideas. The goal of brainstorming is to direct people to new ways of thinking and break from the usual way of reasoning.

The most important thing about brainstorming is that there should be no criticism of ideas. Students try to open up possibilities and discard wrong assumptions about the limits of the problem. Judgments and analysis of ideas are explored after the brainstorming process while focus should be at this stage on idea generation.

Brainstorming and the classroom

Brainstorming is the random generation of ideas based around a topic. There is no editing or ordering of these ideas. They may then be used as the basis for another activity such as writing or speaking activity. Example Brainstorming the responses on the topic of 'healthy eating' by writing all the words they associate with it on a sheet of paper and later on the board. If the class is equipped with smart board, the responses can easily be recorded. The teacher can record the responses even by using simple recorders or similar devices.

Brainstorming can encourage learners to think more freely and innovatively than if they were doing a more restricted and routine classroom situation. It allows learners to remember what they know, and to teach each other. It is a dynamic and stimulating way to lead learners into a topic.

Brainstorming is a tool that uses a relaxed, informal atmosphere combined with lateral thinking to solve problems. In spite of its importance in the generation of new ideas, many students do not have enough training to use it. This activity will teach students to brainstorm effectively. It can be carried out in a one-period session. No materials are required apart from a pen or pencil and sheets of paper except in a sophisticated high tech classroom.

Brainstorming contributes to the generation of creative solutions to a problem. It teaches students to break away from old patterns of reasoning to new unexplored paths of thinking.

- Problem solving has become part and parcel of teaching and learning process. Brainstorming can make group problem-solving a less sterile and a more satisfactory process.
- It can be used with your class to bring the various students' experiences into play. This increases the richness of ideas explored, particularly before reading, listening and writing activities.
- Brainstorming is fun. That's why it helps student-student and students-teacher relationships to get stronger as they solve problems in a positive, stress-free environment.

Brainstorming technique was first designed to be used with groups, but it can also be used by a single person privately to generate ideas.

Individual Brainstorming

When individuals brainstorm on their own, they come up with more ideas, and often better quality ideas, than groups of people who brainstorm together. Perhaps this occurs because of many reasons

- In groups, learners aren't always strict in following the rules of brainstorming, and the risk of unfavorable group behaviors may arise.
- Instead of generating their own new ideas, students may pay more attention to other people's ideas.
- Sometimes learners forget their ideas while they are waiting for their turn to speak.
- Sometimes people are blocked because of shyness.
- Some students tend to do well when they work alone.

- Individual brainstorming may be less engaging and less stressful.
- Students don't have to wait for others to stop speaking before they contribute their own ideas.

There are however some downturns with individual brainstorming. In a group brainstorming, the experiences of the members of the group help to develop ideas thoroughly. This is something that might be missing in individual brainstorming where only the individuals experience come to play.

Advantages of brainstorming

Some of the advantages of brainstorming technique are summarized below:

1.The target group can generate/create a greater number of alternative responses since the group's information and knowledge tend to be more comprehensive and reliable.

2.The group decision making is democratic in nature. The democratic processes are more easily acceptable and more consistent with the democratic principles which ensure equal academic opportunities.

3.Implementation of a brainstorming based decision is more effective as the entire group participate. Advantages of brainstorming show how important it is. The relevance of the same can be felt both in general and educational context. However, it may be more relevant and feasible in educational institutional because educational administration is totally based on human relation and brainstorming is highly democratic in approach.

4.Brainstorming brings new ideas on how to tackle a particular problem – the freethinking atmosphere encourages creativity, even imperfectly developed thoughts may push the thinking of other participants.

5.Problems are defined better as questions arise – alternatives appear in a new or different perspective and novel approaches to an issue can arise during the process.

6. Brainstorming helps to reduce conflicts – it helps participants to see other points of view and possibly change their perspective on problems. All participants have equal status and an equal opportunity to participate.

Among positive aspects of brainstorming there are some drawbacks:

1. The importance of the moderator is often under-estimated. Often the two phases are confused, ideas start to be discussed just after they are thrown out and the specific value of this technique is wasted.

2. Sometimes the ideas produced are unworkable. The outcomes depend on the ability of the facilitator of maintaining the discussion alive. Opponents may refuse to consider each other's ideas. It is important to explain to participants how the results will be used to underline that they are not wasting their time.

Brainstorming is a very useful activity that can be easily introduced into language classes. The research study previously discussed shows that it helps our students to become better learners. In addition, it is a fun activity which students enjoy and well worth trying out in your own classes.

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