

purpose, so that students do not spend their time chatting with each other about irrelevant things. For example, students can become involved in agree/disagree discussions. In this type of discussions, the teacher can form groups of students, preferably 4 or 5 in each group, and provide controversial sentences like “people learn best when they read vs. people learn best when they travel”. Then each group works on their topic for a given time period, and presents their opinions to the class. It is essential that the speaking should be equally divided among group members. At the end, the class decides on the winning group who defended the idea in the best way. This activity fosters critical thinking and quick decision making, and students learn how to express and justify themselves in polite ways while disagreeing with the others. For efficient group discussions, it is always better not to form large groups, because quiet students may avoid contributing in large groups. The group members can be either assigned by the teacher or the students may determine it by themselves, but groups should be rearranged in every discussion activity so that students can work with various people and learn to be open to different ideas. Lastly, in class or group discussions, whatever the aim is, the students should always be encouraged to ask questions, paraphrase ideas, express support, check for clarification, and so on.

- 1) Provide maximum opportunity to students to speak the target language by providing a rich environment that contains collaborative work, authentic materials and tasks, and shared knowledge.
- 2) Try to involve each student in every speaking activity; for this aim, practice different ways of student participation.
- 3) Reduce teacher speaking time in class while increasing student speaking time. Step back and observe students.
- 4) Indicate positive signs when commenting on a student's response.
- 5) Ask eliciting questions such as "What do you mean? How did you reach that conclusion?" in order to prompt students to speak more.
- 6) Provide written feedback like "Your presentation was really great. It was a good job. I really appreciated your efforts in preparing the materials and efficient use of your voice..."
- 7) Do not correct students' pronunciation mistakes very often while they are speaking. Correction should not distract student from his or her speech.
- 8) Involve speaking activities not only in class but also out of class; contact parents and other people who can help.
- 9) Circulate around classroom to ensure that students are on the right track and see whether they need your help while they work in groups or pairs.

have to be interviewed individually, the disruption caused, and the time taken, may seem to outweigh the benefits. Moreover, different testers may have very different criteria for judging speaking, differences that are less acute when it comes to judging writing or grammar knowledge, for example.

All these difficulties aside, a language program that prioritizes speaking but doesn't test in through speaking can't be said to be doing its job properly. To re-state a point made earlier: a test of grammar is not a test of speaking. The need to test speaking through speaking is particularly acute if learners are hoping to enter for a public examination which includes a speaking component, such as the Cambridge First Certificate in English (FCE) or the International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) examination. Furthermore, where teacher or students are reluctant to engage in much classroom speaking, the effect of an oral in the final examination can be a powerful incentive to 'do more speaking' in class. This is known as the wash back effect of testing, i.e. the oral nature of the test 'washes back' into the coursework that precedes it.

It therefore makes sense to incorporate oral testing procedures into language course despite the difficulties. Since the activities designed to test speaking are generally the same as the kinds of activities designed to practice speaking, there need be no disruption to classroom practice. The

1. A good grounding in theoretical knowledge
2. Practical classroom skill
3. Access to good ideas for classroom activities

2.) From Reactive to Planned Teaching

A lot of pronunciation teaching tends to be done in response to errors which students make in the classroom. Such reactive teaching is, of course, absolutely necessary, and will always be so. Grammatical and lexical difficulties arise in the classroom too, and teachers also deal with these reactively. However, when it comes to planning a lesson or devising a timetable of work to be covered, teachers tend to make grammar their first concern. Lexis follows closely behind, with items of vocabulary and longer phrase being 'slotted in' where appropriate. A look at the contents pages of most coursebooks will show that we tend to think of the organization of language in terms of grammatical structures, although some more recent publication claim to have a lexically arranged syllabus. Therefore, it is quite natural to make grammar the primary reference when planning lessons.

Yet pronunciation work can, and should, be planned for too. Teachers should regard features of pronunciation as integral to language analysis and lesson planning. Any analysis of language that disregards

