

## ENHANCING COMMUNICATION SKILLS OF ESL PRIMARY STUDENTS THROUGH ACTIVITY BASED LEARNING

**Mehwish Aslam**

M. Phil English (scholar), University of Sargodha Women Campus, Faisalabad, PAKISTAN

**Mumtaz Ahmed**

Lecturer, Govt. Postgraduate College of Science Faisalabad, PAKISTAN

&

**Umeesa Mazher**

M. Phil English (scholar), University of Sargodha Women Campus Faisalabad, PAKISTAN

### ABSTRACT

At primary level students learn through meaningful activities. Being a teacher of grade four and five from a researcher's prospective it became clear that while teaching in Grammar translation method (GTM) most of the students were not able to understand the lesson and what perceived was a lacking context and being boring. On the contrary, the Activity Based learning (ABL) is very helpful in raising the interest of the students and to make them learn in friendly environment. The aim of present research is to highlight the fact that ABL has proved to be more effective in teaching students by inventing or creating, and ABL equips teachers with many activation arms in order to manage the students according to their mental and physical context. The tool of data collection was based on interviewing from the teachers to know that to what extent they consider ABL as an effective learning method to magnify the creative effect regarding the student perception. The students were put under observation by the implementation of various learning activities and random sampling from each class i.e 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade (ten) students were observed. A close ended questionnaire having Yes/No options to know the response of 10 teachers of three private institutes of District Jhang regarding the efficacy of ABL was distributed. The results remained almost 88% as the teachers were already using some of these activities which according to them are inevitable for student learning at primary level. The participation of the students in various creative activities did put a healthy effect not only on students but on teachers as well. Teachers were in view of shifting from GTM to ABL as this is a student centered method. Hence this research recommends further new activities which may be helpful in raising the quality of student learning at grass root level. These activities in the class and outside the class room in both environments proved to be effecting on the students and teachers in a positive manner. Such learning activities change the perception of learning as a whole and make the learning canvas broader and colorful.

**Keywords:** Activity based learning (ABL), Grammar translation method (GTM), Lecture based teaching, learning, primary level.