

MODULE 1

1.2 - BENEFITS OF NON-FORMAL EDUCATION FOR LANGUAGE TEACHING

We talk about non-formal methodologies because they can be applied very well in language teaching. In fact, it was mentioned as THE example of a learning process with better results than through formal ones.

We can identify 3 main reasons why non-formal education benefits language learning which relate to the method of activities, the flexibility, and accessibility.

One, non-formal education focuses on “learning by doing”. This promotes the practical use of the language by simulating communication situations that prepare students to approach diverse real-life situations with more confidence and less anxiety and by understanding what works and what doesn’t in their language performance “in the field”;

In fact, some even say that learning by doing is a better way to learn a language than by learning grammatical rules and vocabulary, as the relation to real-life increases motivation and practice create responsibility amongst students to learn more.

Two, with non-formal education, learning content can be easily adapted to the different needs, learning styles, and interests of participants during the learning process. Teachers can use a student's favorite song or movies to increase their motivation, or focus on a specific language area to respond to specific reasons to learn a language, such as learning work-related vocabulary tailor-made for the participant.

Non-formal approaches also allow for the flexibility to adopt different learning styles, for example focusing on more visuals than text if that responds better to the learners needs.

Last but not least, non-formal methodologies in language teaching encourage intercultural comprehension and integration among participants. This is because they are based on interaction and cooperation, allowing participants to see themselves as active citizens.

In addition, I just wanted to say that despite that non-formal education focuses on learning by doing, and that it uses these non-formal methods in language teaching, they are by no means unstructured. On the contrary, activities and lessons must be carefully planned and organized.

So in conclusion: Teaching a language with non-formal methods has several benefits. As you have seen, it provides greater motivation because the learner is at

the center of the lesson, which means that the language teaching respond to the needs of the students.

It allows for repetitions without boredom. So the same concept can be explained with different example activities and these activities can be negotiated together with the students.

Thirdly, it's more organic in that it promotes how to learn. So because it relates to the real world and practices speaking, and the real-world situations.

Finally, it offers a great curriculum flexibility and provides opportunity for natural error correction. So the language learners negotiate their own learning path rather than that they follow a pre-set grammar curriculum

So why don't you try out an activity to test your knowledge, and join us in the next video, to learn more about Task-Based Language Teaching Methodology.