

THE ROLE OF ASSESSMENT IN ENHANCING STUDENT MOTIVATION

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Assessment is a multifaceted tool at the English teacher's disposal that can promote student involvement in the learning process and encourage foreign language acquisition. There are various ways of assessing students that can encourage their positive involvement in the learning process. There is clear evidence that assessment can motivate learning in the intrinsic sense of stimulating intellectual curiosity. Participating in self- and peer-assessment, students can become effective judges of their own and their peers work, thus, leading to increasing their motivation to learn. Students should be aware of assessment criteria. Moreover, their involvement into designing assessment criteria makes a study process transparent. Peer assessment also motivates improvements in student performance.

Formative assessment is a tool for achieving learning outcomes and it is based on the individuals learning. It contributes in a meaningful way to the achievement of learning outcomes, provides a more positive experience for learners and can also be invaluable for teachers, to see if the lesson aims have been fulfilled and the overall objectives have been met. It also helps to assess student strengths and weaknesses and give a strong indication as to which type of activities students like and dislike. As quality feedback is the key to successful formative assessment and it encourages students to become self-motivated independent learners, teachers should give frequent, early, positive feedback to support students' beliefs that they can do well.

Whatever feedback strategy is used, it should help students develop a clear sense of their own progress. As teachers begin to implement new strategies for using assessment as an instructional device, they will recognize the ability of students to take control of their own success and accept responsibility for their own learning. These empowering feelings will inspire and motivate students toward greater achievement.

The best formative assessment technique in ESP course is case studies, which is considered an ideal method of inducting students into their professional world. It improves students' motivation to learn a language, develops responsibility, problem-solving skills as well as all the language skills. It is aimed at achieving module learning outcomes [9] and demonstrating developed and strengthened analytical and critical thinking skills. Case studies promote interaction and active learning. Meaningfulness is also promoted when teachers use authentic tasks that place students in meaningful, context-relevant testing situations. Case studies assess the readiness of learners to use their skills in real world contexts. This allows the assessment to focus itself on either the process or the product.