Using Native Language in ESL Classroom

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Abstract
The debate over whether to use or not to use learners’ L1 inside the classroom has always been the topic of discussion for various people for various reasons. The debate has also involved ESL/EFL teachers. Some argue that such use may lead to more dependence of an ESL/EFL on his/her L1 that may hinder the progress of mastering the target language. Whereas others believe that the use of an ESL/EFL learners’ L1 may ease the process of teaching and learning the target language as the teachers can explain complex ideas and rule more effectively in learners’ L1 saving a lot of time. This use can also assist the ESL/EFL learners in acquiring and mastering target language vocabulary. Keeping in mind such counter arguments, the present paper aim to investigate when to use native language in a class and, most importantly, how to use it and promote learning, advantages and disadvantages of using native language in classroom, how to encourage students to use L2 appropriately, and exploring some of the best ways to teach English language.

Keywords: Native Language, Advantages of L1, L1 Dependence, Target language