



## EFFECTIVENESS OF GROUP WORK IN LANGUAGE LEARNING

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**Abstract:** The paper carries concise background about group work. The essential purpose of this paper is to comprehend whether it is effective working in a group in teaching and learning foreign language or not. Moreover, it presents advantages of group work and introduces rules of forming group work in order to get aimed solution.

**Keywords:** improvement, conception of group work, involvement, collaborative operation, aimed solution.

In the world of teaching in all period of time teachers utilize plenty of methods and techniques to educate their learners. We can generally divide them into three following groups. First one is individual work which deals with student's own skills and proficiency. In this type of work it is required to complete the task on their own. Next one is group work which requires working in group of three or more students to gain purpose. Last one is classwork, in which we can see the involvement of whole class to have a qualified result. All of these are estimated as effective ways of teaching foreign language, still group work method is most effective one.

In group work each of participants should work with team and share ideas on a task. By the way, Cohan (1994:1) paraphrases that the group work refers to "students working together in a group which is small enough so that each of learners can participate on given task that has been clearly assigned"

In addition, Stenaasen and Sletta (2000:25-26) define group work as "A group consists of two or more people" who have a mutual influence on each other and are mutually depend on one another in the sense and achieve their goals."

As a result, the term group work outlined as a collaborative operation in which two or more student work together to fulfill a task in a given time. In group work we can equate the concept of group work with democracy. As it is known, in democratic government each member has an equal right in everything. The group work together to come up with a suitable solution and achieve goals in a prominent amount of time (Jeffs.et.al, 2005).

The conception of team work is employed by many teachers and educators around the world. By the way we can give an explanation why teachers choose this method. Because it is an efficient method that enhance students' ability to exercise critical thinking and be able to out judge and out reason why they choose that answer. One more reason is group work involves combined teamwork which includes the student to work in a group and being able to exchange ideas in order to have the task done within a certain time.

When it comes to benefits of the method, we can point out a number of them. This method assists, while thinking, the other students can exchange ideas that are not thought of and fill the missing gaps that have been missed like "two minds are better than one". It is also actionable, if the student misunderstands things or tasks, discussions in the group can give a chance to assume things and given tasks. Another usable side of group work is that it helps to get rid of shy ness, hesitation or fear. We

may have put an end which prevent us from speaking. Furthermore, the learners evolve their sense of identity and being involved in a group.

The beneficial reason why teachers use this technique is because when it comes to grading, they less work on their hand and also saves them time (Amanda, 2011). Advancements on group work as scientist mentions, however group work is beneficial and effective, there are numbers of reasons why it fails. They have lots of opposing opinions and thoughts about this technique. Nonetheless from our experience in our teaching and learning process we can estimate it as an effective and well-organized work which improve our socio-cultural competence. It can be the initial step in working with people.

When learners work in a small team or group, they need to concentrate on factors such as the following pointed out by David (2006):

Environmental influences -The reason why groups fail to achieve success is due to distance. The students cannot work due to the separation of each student which causes a delay in achieving their goal.

Goals - The other main reason why group work fails is because there is no participation from other group members. The group members depend on the smart student to do his work and their work, which causes stress and a hand full on that student, which leads to failure.

Roles- The other leading reason why group work fails is due to the group members being unaware of what they have to do and what is their part in the group. Competition vs. Cooperation - The students fail as a group because each student is focused on achieving a goal and defeating the other group members, rather than staying focus and cooperating with his other group members in order to achieve a group goal and completing the project.

Feedback- The main reason why group work fails is due to the lack of feedback given by the teacher and students amongst each other. This concept gives them a sort of idea of what is missing and fills the gaps they have. This technique redirects. The student and guides him in the right path.

Lack of resources - The group fails because they lack the essential resources to get the job done. This means they do not have enough information or material for the completion of their project.

Lack of respect - The reason why group work fails is because group members in a group do not respect each other. There is a lack of respect due to a person's idea, point of view, race, nationality, and traditions. These cause problems, which causes a group to fail.

Time management- A group fails because the group leader or group members do not manage their time and do not spend their time wisely. The group wastes all their time doing one thing and focusing on one thing only.

Processes - The group fails because sometimes the person who is in charge has the last say in things.

Bad behavior - The group fails not because of the whole team, but because of one person's conduct.

Poor Listening - Another reason for group failure is because group members do not listen to directions given by the teachers or group leaders.

How to stand for your opinion- A reason why group work fails most of the time is because a student will give his own opinion, but he will not be able to justify and give reasons to back up his opinion.

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