Statement of Purpose

English Second Language (ESL) students typically learn how to speak English at a fast pace. Yet, there is often difficulty in learning how to write and speak properly. Even though many institutions focus on learning how write and speak properly, ESL students feel that they need to learn how to speak as quickly as possible. This means that ESL students may commonly forget parts of speech, formatting of sentences, punctuation, and clauses. This unit will focus on grammar for ESL students. It will focus on the areas that are needed in learning how to write and speak properly. These include parts of speech, formatting of sentences, punctuation, and clauses.

Sjolie (2006) discusses learner needs within the ESL classroom. His research explains that in many ESL students are from different backgrounds. This means that students from different backgrounds normally have different needs when learning English. Students who know European languages typically have less difficulty than Middle Eastern and Asian students. These various learner needs are not accounted for in the typical ESL classroom. Students who know Western languages may better understand grammar topics like phrases and clauses better than those who do not know a Western language. Every ESL classroom needs to learn how to balance all of the needs and account for what each learner needs.

Within societal needs, English speakers normally have difficulty with the English language. Many English speakers feel uncomfortable with their own punctuation and formatting of sentences within their own writing. ESL students are no different. They struggle with punctuation and the formatting of sentences on a regular basis. Being able to effectively teach these concepts to English speakers and ESL students is crucial in the English speaking world. Nussbaum, & Pierson (2012) surveyed ESL students’ attitudes about punctuation. They feel it is a challenging aspect of grammar. Often they feel too, that it is not taught correctly. Jiang (2006) suggests in his article that ESL students also feel challenged by the formatting a sentence. ESL students have difficulty understanding how to format a sentence. His research explains that ESL students typically do not learn how to format a sentence correctly and that it is often not emphasized enough in the ESL classroom.

Some ESL students may feel that learning correct grammar does not matter. Research does not support this thought though. Research shows that learning correct grammar is extremely important for anyone learning a language. Correct grammar will enable the learner to speak and write fluently while being better understood by other English speakers. It is essential that ESL instructors learn how to teach it effectively in order to give their students the best chance at learning it.

This course is designed to instruct teachers how to properly teach grammar. The curriculum map should allow teachers to better see how they can break down grammar lessons to be as effective as possible. The course is made to focus on different skills for ESL students like writing, reading, and speaking. The end results of this course are for ESL students to know how to use parts of speech, formatting of sentences, punctuation, and clauses correctly and effectively.

References

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