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## **The Place of the Game in Teaching Turkish as a Foreign Language**

**Abstract:**

*Just as the course books and visual materials are used in teaching Turkish as a Foreign Language, it should be considered that more enjoyable and effective learning can be achieved with some game activities. Thanks to the game activities applied, the students can learn Turkish more quickly and easily. With this method, the student voluntarily and willingly participates in class and learning is more permanent. The games will gain the students such basic skills as listening, speaking, reading and writing. In addition, it improves the vocabulary and grammar knowledge.*

*In this study, the advantages of the game in language teaching to ensure that the foreign students can learn Turkish more easily, enjoyably and permanently with games.*

**Keywords:** *Teaching Turkish as a Foreign Language; Game; Education*

## 1- Introduction

Foreign language education is an emerging discipline. On top of that many techniques are developed. Training of trainers, especially the most difficult words in this section. The word education is more permanent and easily the most widely used technique for the movie viewing and gaming. Foreign language teaching can occur effectively only when student-centered method and techniques as well as proper technologies are used (Kara; 2010).

The principles of teaching foreign language are intended to develop the four language skills. These skills include listening, speaking, reading and writing. While teaching how to use the language as a communication tool, these four basic skills have to be executed together (Demirel; 1990).

There are too many activities to develop these four basic skills. Class activities can be applied in accordance with the objectives as determined for teaching a foreign language (Demirel; 1990). Here are some of the advantages of the game a lot of foreign language teaching.

- It facilitates learning,
- It enhances interaction among people,
- It enables the psychosocial development,
- It attracts interest and attention,
- The student searches and is curious,
- It provides freedom of movement for the student,
- It teaches the social rules to the learnings,
- It develops the child's ability to decide and to reason (Kara; 2010).

The game contributes positively to the physical, mental and psychological development. It develops the ability of trust, compliance and observation (Özbay; 2007). These activities are really important in socialization of the individuals.

The games ensure the development of the basic language skills of the students including listening, speaking, reading and writing, while developing their vocabulary and grammar knowledge supporting these basic skills (Özbay, 2005).

Language means interaction. For an interaction to be able to be realized among the individuals, they need to speak a common language. The game is an enjoyable and educatory activity that accelerates the interaction between the individuals and forces the interaction. Thanks to the games, especially vocabulary teaching can be realized effectively and permanently within a short time. The individual has to have adequate vocabulary to express themselves and to establish communication (Özbay & Melanlıoğlu; 2008). Vocabulary teaching is one of the important factors in foreign language teaching. Many studies have been conducted on teaching techniques for foreign language teaching. One of these studies is game.

## 2- Vocabulary Teaching through Game

“A long process is required to teach the vocabulary. The words taken into short-term memory, when they are first heard, and if they are not taken into the long-term memory, they will be forgotten quickly” (Çetinkaya; 2005).

The more can the students grasp the meanings of the vocabulary intended to be taught, the more will the learning be permanent. In general, these games are the activities applied in the class to more strengthen the pronunciation and vocabulary of the students (Demirel; 2008). It is possible to teach a word that can be learned in a long time within a shorter period and by arousing curiosity through games. Those who learn a foreign language acquire the words unintentionally with game activities.

For teaching Turkish as a foreign language, the student should be involved in the game and grasp the subject by doing and experiencing through trial and error (Yalın; 2006). The following points should be considered during the games (Kara; 2010)

- It should be easy and comprehensible,
- It should be suitable for the class environment,
- It should be beloved by everybody,
- 4.It should be suitable for the levels of the students,
- It should be both enjoyable and educatory,
- It should not require excess materials,
- The game should have a reward at the end.

## 3- Grammar Teaching through the Games

Grammar teaching is the important point in teaching a language for foreigners. Teachers use several techniques by teaching the grammar. One of these techniques should be the

games. Teachers can easily teach some topics through the games. The students also can learn easily and entertaining. The students can be more motivated during the games (Sandford; 2006).

Some games are used in English teaching can be adapted to teaching other language. A teacher can teach nouns by using Grammar Ninja which is used in English.

The games can be on paper based or electronic games. Teaching of phonology and morphology is very important part of grammar teaching. This part consists of sounds, phonetic rules, the nouns, verbs, types of words etc. These subjects are taught easily and funny by using the games. Zaorob says using the games is very beneficial in teaching process. The games also make the student are courageous. “This has been done on purpose to foster a cooperative rather than competitive atmosphere, and to make sure weaker learners can also participate and win” (Zaorob; 2001).

#### 4- Games for Commonly Used Class

'It is important to note that is needed time to learn the words. The first voices of words are registered as short-term memory, but vocabulary, could not be registered quick omitted in the long-term memory' (Çetinkaya; 2005). Stated quite different learning activities intended to teach the words would be more permanent. In general, these games are better pronunciation and vocabulary used in the classroom to reinforce the activities (Demirel; 2008).

Game events and words without realizing it, are streested as soon as a permanent and taught without being boring. As follows there are types of games in the classroom can be applied in order to learn faster the words:

1. Hang-man game. The teacher draws lines as much as the letters of the word determined by the teacher. For each inaccurate guess, a part of the man is drawn, and if the student could not guess the last letter, then the man will be hung.

2. The game of producing a new word based on the last letter of the words. One of students starts the game by giving a word, and within a specified period of time, another student utters a new word which begins with the last letter of the former word.

3. The game of correcting the mixed words: Two groups of students are asked for correcting the mixed words given by the teacher as soon as possible.

4. The game of finding synonyms and antonyms: The teacher writes synonymous and antonymous words on the board. That group who finds the corresponding words as soon as possible will be the winner.

5. The game of remembering the words. The teacher utters ten words, and the student who can remember and utter these words in the right order will win.

6. Charades. One of the students comes in front of the board and tries to describe the words (a country, a singer, an artist, etc.) that he/she wants to describe with motions and without talking. His/her friends continuously try to guess and the one who can guess correctly will win.

7. Guess game. This is similar to the charade but this time, the describer talks. The students continuously ask questions to the describer and try to guess the word.

#### 5- Conclusion

Addition to the different methods of foreign language teaching, students' foreign language learning games makes it easy to use. Many students adopt this method would be happy. Games develop its capabilities in the four basic languages. Also contributes to learning more words and grammar. Language learning by the students love it shortens the duration of the game. Sensory organs are used in learning how much learning becomes more enjoyable and forgetting what has

been learned can be prevented. For this reason, the teaching of all the stimuli into action games, Turkish to foreigners should be given more space.

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