



Multiple Intelligence-Based Language Learning System

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Abstract: The article reveals multiple intelligences play an important role in enhancing learners' English aptitude. First of all, it is worth considering what multiple intelligences are as well as how they are equivalent to teachers' teaching and assessment methods. The article has found that right lessons would definitely help learners explore and develop their multiple intelligences. In addition, in order to get the best results during lessons, an investigation in advance is necessary. To sum up, with the aims to help learners recognize their multiple intelligences, a teacher should consider a several factors in terms of lessons, learners as well as methods.

Keywords: Multiple intelligences, learners, aptitude.

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INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, in a modern world, in order for the young to develop their aptitude comprehensively, it is very important to create a system based on multiple intelligences. As can be seen, multiple intelligences play an important role in enhancing learners' inner potential. According to Xie & Lin (2009) in the research on Multiple Intelligences Teaching and Assessment, they stated that multiple intelligences not only offer teachers numerous choices in teaching methods and assessment ways but also help learners what types of intelligence they possess as well as explore their intelligence strengths. Hence, it is really necessary to develop a multiple intelligence system in a center in Vietnam. Based on the theory of multiple intelligences by Gardner (1993), it is hoped to contribute some helpful information for purposes on enhancing learners' inner ability. This is an idea for a system applied at the center is designed and considered carefully as follows.

LITERATURE REVIEW

First of all, it is very important to know what multiple intelligences are and how they are

connected to this designed system. According to Gardner (1993) in the book "Frames of Mind: The Theory of Multiple Intelligences", multiple intelligences are "the potential for finding or creating solutions for problems, which involves gathering new knowledge". As stated in Gardner's book, multiple intelligences are classified into eight categories in terms of linguistic, logical and mathematical, bodily and kinesthetic, spatial, musical, interpersonal, intrapersonal and natural. In Gardner's points of view, linguistic intelligence is an ability of using words and language with developed skills. For such intelligence, Gardner orients some suitable jobs for this kind of people such as poet, journalist, translator and lawyer. In addition, logical and mathematic intelligences which are related to using numbers as well as thinking logically are also mentioned clearly in the book. In the case, scientists, researchers, mathematicians and engineers are the job that are the best choices for such kind. As can be seen in the book, Gardner (2003) mentions controlling body movements and handling objects skillfully. Hence, dancers, actors, athletes are people owning these skills in bodily and kinesthetic intelligences.

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Furthermore, the potential of recognizing as well as using the patterns of wide space is a definition given by Gardner in spatial intelligences which will be suitable for a person who would like to become an astronaut or even space researcher. Musical is one of the most typical intelligences which relate to composing and producing music and being sensitive to sounds. The most appropriate jobs for musical suggested by Gardner are musicians, composers, singers. Among different intelligences, it is also very important to develop interpersonal and intrapersonal skills which involve the ability to understand people and self – reflect themselves. With these potential skills, becoming a philosopher and theorist is really appropriate. The last intelligence is the one that is open to the environment relating to nature. In the case, people love discovering animals, researching the weather and geography. As mentioned above, all of the kinds of multiple intelligences are the potential ability for people. Therefore, it is absolutely significant to discover and develop as professionals. In the designed system, learners' individual intelligences and their language learning are in parallel. To aim at this goal, it is required the best teachers in the program who not only teach learners how to use language in terms of speaking, listening, reading and writing in particular, but are experts in their career. In short, it is very important to master what kinds of multiple intelligences in a program on purpose so that we can carefully design a program as expected.

In order to aim at the above – mentioned goal based on multiple intelligences, it is necessary to be well-prepared in terms of the ways in choosing right learners to each of the multiple intelligence, the best teachers for a specific field in teaching methods and how to assess learners. First of all, five to twelve – year-old learners will be chosen to participate in 10 to 15 – student class each lasting three to four months after taking a performance-based placement test at a center and later learners are classified into appropriate levels. In the system, it is researched properly the age of learners, in the article written by (Lynn, Florentine, Mary, Buus, Soren, June, 2007), they suggest that learning a second language at an early age is important for the ability to understand it in noisy situations. Based on the research, the center decides to choose the five to twelve years old as learners' standard age in acquiring their multiple intelligence lessons as well as English skills. During the course, learners will work with both Vietnamese and foreign teachers who play an important role in educating and training learners as a talent. As designed carefully, outdoor and indoor activities are things that learners will take part in and it will be assessed by the ways of frequent attendance and joining in activities. End of the course is a final test in doing a performance in English. However, to be able

to develop learners' potential intelligences and English skills simultaneously, it is not easy work for teachers. As stated in Benson & Huang (2008), the teacher's role which is different from the traditional teacher's one is as a helper, counselor, facilitator, knower, mentor, adviser and consultant. In conclusion, a well-prepared system should be required in the light of teachers, students and even facilities in educating.

Third, after choosing learners for each multiple intelligence class, a learning process is implemented based on a syllabus given. For all of the multiple intelligence classes, English is commonly used in the class where learners can enhance their level of intelligence and fully realize their potential. As an example, many activities will be taught in a musical class in terms of playing different musical instruments or composing music, writing lyrics, explaining differences and similarities in tones and sounds as well as practicing singing in a group. With a teacher's instructions in doing above-mentioned activities, learners must follow and improve their English skills and English areas. When composing a song, learners must listen to their teacher's instructions and are required to ask and response to questions in English. More particularly, in order to have references, learners have to read English songs and take notes some important points from the songs. As a result, their reading skill will be increased and summarizing may become an easy task for learners after finishing the course. Furthermore, some new topics will be introduced everyday on purpose so that learners can look up numerous new words which are necessary in learning. Moreover, grammar and pronunciation are also paid attention to very much in the course because they will write lyrics and see whether their songs have the rhythm or good melody or not, for instance. Different activities from a musical class, in a linguistic class, a broad range of ones are designed in the class such as playing games in spellings, reading books or articles, role-playing in an interview or doing talk shows. By the end of the course, learners are requested to write a poem, an essay, a journal and even making a speech in front of the class. In particular, the levels of using words accurately and creativity as well as persuade are a scale to evaluate whether it is good or not. In addition, a logical and mathematical class is an interesting well-prepared one at a center. Its activities focus on numerical and logical skills such as how to solve problems in life, creating number patterns, conducting an experiment on a particular theory. Moreover, developing a computer program and describing the patterns or symmetry of any chemicals are expected outcomes by the end of the logical and mathematic course. Furthermore, for enhancing learners potential intelligences in logic and math, learning about scientific models and explaining them

and making a scientific model using measurements are some several activities during the course. For example, learners are more curious with natural events. Hence, a teachers encourages them to raise questions and observing the nature and dealing with this problem based on natural theories and its reality. As can be described, the system not only develops and enhances learners' intelligence but also promotes learners' physical education. In a bodily and kinesthetic class, outdoor activities are mostly designed in terms of planning and going on a field trip, hiking and climbing mountains whereas indoor ones which are introduced to someone who needs to be clever such as making a castle, constructing a model of some structure, practicing a hands-on activity as well as dancing and learning martial arts. According to the system, learners' soft skills including interpersonal and intrapersonal skills are clearly mentioned. Working in team well is an exciting topic on interpersonal skills which attracts much more learners in need. Teamwork and group work or even social clubs are time for learners to celebrate a party, conducting a meeting to debate an issue or solve problems. To understand each other well, interpersonal class focuses on interpreting their feelings, participating in group projects and sharing their points of view. In general, the relationship among learners will be improved and become sensitive to the social problems. On the other hand to interpersonal skills, intrapersonal ones are also important in learners' comprehensive development. Intrapersonal intelligence is the ability to be self – awareness and to understand people as well as their relationship to others around. Therefore, a teacher in such type of this needs to be an expert in instructing learners to recognize their strengths and weaknesses, reflecting and analyzing themselves and being aware of their inner feelings by writing journals, letters or even interacting in the classrooms. The multiple intelligence system is a system to promote learners not in inner potential, physical education, but also in integrating the natural environment in the light of natural intelligence. For the nature, going out to the park, forest as well as a preservative area is the best activity to discover natural phenomena and seeing animals is also the proper choice for this type of intelligence. Furthermore, after interacting with the surroundings, learners are requested to write a reflection on it with something discovered. Connecting to using spatial intelligence, multitask is given to encourage learners' perceiving on pictures, charts or graphics. A teacher should create more visual aids as possible so as for learners to brainstorm and draw another picture as expected. In short, all of the above-mentioned multitask need to be carefully designed to fit in any learners' level of intelligence and English. Therefore, each teacher in

each class should consider and make the best choice in teaching methods as well as teaching activities.

By the end of the course, the ways to assess learners' multiple intelligences is really important and is suggested in both of the two ways in the terms of final products and performances. According to each class, writing a reflection on what learners have studied is required. However, in class of linguistic, musical and the others, learners are required to write a newspaper, compose a song and so on. In addition, there are eight "live show" performances for each class in one day and will be judged by teachers at a center. Many comments as well as some improvements need to be suggested. In certain, a teacher in charge should be at the performance and realize numerous methods to be considered. In conclusion, the assessment ways are very flexible so that teachers can recognize learners' strengths and weaknesses. Based on the results, teachers are expected to improve their teaching methods and apply appropriate ones in teaching learners.

CONCLUSION

In summary, a multiple intelligence system has just been applied in numerous countries. However, it is not very common in a center in Vietnam, especially, the concept of multiple intelligences seems to be strange to someone. In reality, each learner possesses some certain kinds of intelligence and their ability will be reflected to multitask as given. It is expected to be able to develop a system broadly in Vietnam, it is very interesting to suggest some ideas, teaching and assessment process as above.

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