



The 8th International Scientific Conference
**“DEFENSE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
IN THE 21st CENTURY”**
Braşov, November 14th 2013



E-LEARNING RESOURCES USED FOR IMPROVING STANAG SKILLS

Junior Lecturer, Raluca Apostol-Mateş

“Mircea cel Bătrân” Naval Academy, Constanţa

Abstract

It is well known that the new generation of “digital natives” needs new teaching-learning strategies complementary or opposed to the old/traditional ones that permit learners to communicate and collaborate, and even switch the role with their teacher, sometimes. E-learning is the common frame of this new type of transmitting-acquiring information, providing an open and transparent environment for learners, ensuring also an authentic audience when they are to display the results of their work. Web-based learning and computer-learning showed that new technologies make a difference in education when properly used.

Key words: e-learning, speaking skill, web site, informative speech, essay, writing skill.

1. Introduction

Some years ago I had the opportunity to attend a course in USA, in the Defence Language Institute, a place considered by teachers of EFL working for the military the heart of teaching and sharing knowledge. My course was called Materials Development Seminar, and I did not know what to expect from a course that stated it could improve my personal way of developing teaching materials. My personal experience in teaching based on my own teaching materials was pretty large- I had had 12 years of teaching at that moment (4 in the primary school, 3 in the secondary school and high school, and 5 in the University) and I was over confident on my skills. The course was given to us by two of the best English teachers I have ever had the opportunity to work with, and it was based on using the internet for developing our own teaching materials. At the end of the course I had the feeling that my teaching career was going to change as a result of my new approach towards teaching and learning. And it changed, and it is continuously changing because my courses and seminars are constantly changing- improving I may add- becoming more personalized, trying to individually respond to my students individual needs in improving their skills.

2. Material Development

As an example of how web-based learning can be sustained, I developed some activities answering ESP requests for my military students. The topic is TERRORISM, a subject that is present in our lives more than we would want because of the rise of terrorist attacks nowadays. I have chosen to develop my students *speaking skill* knowing that it is the second most difficult skill to develop in English after writing, but also the most needed by anyone who has to communicate in English.

E-LEARNING RESOURCES USED FOR IMPROVING STANAG SKILLS

2.1 Pre-speaking activity. I considered that a pre-speaking activity based on listening would introduce the students better in the topic and would be a good way of introducing/ clarifying information about The Informative Speech.

Go to the following web page

<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/rhetoricofterrorism.htm>

Click on the President's Address to the nation 9-11-01

Click on the MP3 play button.

Listen to the entire speech.

2.2 Speaking activity. After listening to the speech, the students could be given the general information about WHEN, HOW, and WHY this kind of speech is delivered.

THE INFORMATIVE SPEECH

There are some features you should take into consideration when referring to an informative speech:

- the occasion the speech is delivered,
- the construction of the speech,
- the function of this kind of speech.

In addition to the already given information, I considered helpful for the students to read and discuss on a given chart on the construction of the informative speech.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE INFORMATIVE SPEECH

1. INTRODUCTION

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1.Salutation | -The speaker greets the audience |
| 2.Background Information | -The speaker provides the audience with some general information about the topic of the speech |
| 3.Topic Sentence | -The speaker introduces the main idea of the speech |

2. BODY

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1.First Argument | -The speaker presents the first main point of his speech |
| 2.Second Argument | -The speaker discusses the second main point of his speech. Some introductory phrases could be used: secondly, immediately following, to continue with... |
| 3.Third Argument | -The speaker presents the third main point of his speech. Note the introductory phrases: third, my third point is ... |
| 4.Fourth Argument (Rarely Found In A Speech) | -The speaker presents the fourth main point of his speech. Note the introductory phrases: my fourth point is, then ... |

3. CONCLUSION

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1.Restatement Of Topic Sentence | -The speaker reminds the main point of his speech |
| 2.Concluding Statement | -The speech is concluded with a memorable statement, and the speaker thanks the audience for their participation |

A second listening would help the students identify the three parts of the speech and its topic.

Listen again to President Bush's address to the American people from the Oval Office on 9/11/01. While you are listening, mark the different parts of the speech on the given transcript. Underline the topic sentence from the Introduction.

E-LEARNING RESOURCES USED FOR IMPROVING STANAG SKILLS

Good evening.

Today, our fellow citizens, our way of life, our very freedom came under attack in a series of deliberate and deadly terrorist acts. The victims were in airplanes or in their offices: secretaries, business men and women, military and federal workers, moms and dads, friends and neighbors. Thousands of lives were suddenly ended by evil, despicable acts of terror. The pictures of airplanes flying into buildings, fires burning, huge structures collapsing have filled us with disbelief, terrible sadness, and a quiet, unyielding anger. These acts of mass murder were intended to frighten our nation into chaos and retreat. But they have failed. Our country is strong.

A great people has been moved to defend a great nation. Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America. These acts shatter steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve. America was targeted for attack because we're the brightest beacon for freedom and opportunity in the world. And no one will keep that light from shining. Today, our nation saw evil -- the very worst of human nature -- and we responded with the best of America. With the daring of our rescue workers, with the caring for strangers and neighbors who came to give blood and help in any way they could.

Immediately following the first attack, I implemented our government's emergency response plans. Our military is powerful, and it's prepared. Our emergency teams are working in New York city and Washington D.C. to help with local rescue efforts. Our first priority is to get help to those who have been injured, and to take every precaution to protect our citizens at home and around the world from further attacks. The functions of our government continue without interruption. Federal agencies in Washington which had to be evacuated today are reopening for essential personnel tonight and will be open for business tomorrow. Our financial institutions remain strong, and the American economy will be open for business as well.

The search is underway for those who were behind these evil acts. I have directed the full resources of our intelligence and law enforcement communities to find those responsible and to bring them to justice. We will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them.

I appreciate so very much the members of Congress who have joined me in strongly condemning these attacks. And on behalf of the American people, I thank the many world leaders who have called to offer their condolences and assistance. America and our friends and allies join with all those who want peace and security in the world, and we stand together to win the war against terrorism.

Tonight, I ask for your prayers for all those who grieve, for the children whose worlds have been shattered, for all whose sense of safety and security has been threatened. And I pray they will be comforted by a Power greater than any of us, spoken through the ages in Psalm 23:

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil for you are with me.*

This is a day when all Americans from every walk of life unite in our resolve for justice and peace. America has stood down enemies before, and we will do so this time. None of us will ever forget this day, yet we go forward to defend freedom and all that is good and just in our world.

Thank you. Good night. And God bless America.

<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/gwbush911addressstothetnation.htm>

E-LEARNING RESOURCES USED FOR IMPROVING STANAG SKILLS

To expand the area concerning the informative speech additional reading could be given:

Go to the web address:

<http://writing.colostate.edu/references/speaking/infomod/index.cfm>

Read about purpose of informative speeches, major types of informative speeches, structuring, outlining and delivering informative speeches.

After having so much information, each student must be able to start the construction of his informative speech. To help them I considered useful giving some roles and situations they might choose from in order to deliver their speeches:

- 1. You are the U.S. Secretary of Defense and you have to inform the public opinion about a car-bombing attack in Philadelphia.*
- 2. You are the U.K. Prime Minister and you have to inform the public opinion about the capture of the man who was responsible with the London terrorist attacks.*
- 3. You are the U.S. President and you have a press conference on the capture of Osama bin Laden.*
- 4. You are the Egyptian President and you inform the press about the investigation of the terrorist attacks in Sharm el Sheik.*
- 5. You are the U.S. Vice-president and you inform the chiefs of the secret agencies about the steps to be followed after a terrorist attack.*
- 6. You are the French President and you have a press conference about a terrorist attack on Tour Eiffel.*
- 7. You are the wing commander and you inform your pilots about an attack on a resistance nest in El Salvador.*
- 8. You are the captain of a frigate and you inform your crew about a rescue mission.*

Students are also given a time limit:

Your speech has to be up to 15 minutes.

A last draw of attention on the speech features could be useful before students start their work:

When preparing the speech, keep in mind the following features:

1. Clarity
2. Organization
3. Choose words carefully.
4. Don't try to cover too many points
5. Use words like "First", "Second", "Furthermore", etc.
6. Keep the speech moving forward according to a well-developed plan.
7. Use precise vocabulary without being too technical for the audience.
8. Simplify whenever possible.
9. Use reiteration, but avoid repeating with exactly the same words.
10. Coherence
11. Use motivational appeals, interesting intros, etc., to keep audience interested.

2.3. Post- speaking activity. After listening and discussing on all speeches, for expanding the students view on other types of speeches, additional sites are brought to their attention:

For more speeches (informative, persuasive, etc) go to the following addresses:

<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/MovieSpeeches/moviespeechcrimsontide.html>

E-LEARNING RESOURCES USED FOR IMPROVING STANAG SKILLS

<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/MovieSpeeches/moviespeechgettysburg.html>
<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/MovieSpeeches/moviespeechtheamericanpresident.html>
<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/MovieSpeeches/moviespeechweweresoldiers7thcavalryaddress.html>
<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/MovieSpeeches/moviespeechreturnoftheking.html>
<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/MovieSpeeches/moviespeechindependence.html>
<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/MovieSpeeches/moviespeechgladiator4.html>
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/vicepresident/news-speeches/>

3. Conclusion

Teaching English for Special Purposes had appeared an impossible mission for me years ago, but thanks to continuous learning, assiduous work, and training courses, like the one mentioned in the beginning of the paper, ESP – military branch- has given the most fulfilling satisfactions.

References:

- [1]<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/rhetoricofterrorism.htm>
- [2]<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/gwbush911addresstothenation.htm>
- [3]<http://writing.colostate.edu/references/speaking/infomod/index.cfm>
- [4]<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/MovieSpeeches/moviespeechcrimsontide.html>
- [5]<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/MovieSpeeches/moviespeechgettysburg.html>
- [6]<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/MovieSpeeches/moviespeechtheamericanpresident.html>
- [7]<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/MovieSpeeches/moviespeechweweresoldiers7thcavalryaddress.html>
- [8]<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/MovieSpeeches/moviespeechreturnoftheking.html>
- [9]<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/MovieSpeeches/moviespeechindependence.html>
- [10]<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/MovieSpeeches/moviespeechgladiator4.html>
- [11]<http://www.whitehouse.gov/vicepresident/news-speeches/>