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TEACHING POLITICALLY CORRECT LANGUAGE

The article deals with the problem of using an inclusive language in class. The main types of language changes in the English language are given and classified.

Importance of teaching EFL students politically correct English in no longer argued today. Students, who study English as second language (L2) should be aware of the importance of speak-no-evil idea in English-speaking cultures. This issue is very important for those, who want to be able to function in English-speaking academic and business setting.

Politically correct language can also be an interesting content for English classroom, providing not only important information for L2 learners, but also giving them an opportunity to compare different language patterns and to understand the main points of the issue.

Politically correct speech became a matter of hot debate in the 1980's, when many native speakers of English became sensitive of biased terms and phrases that exist in the language. The activists of the feminist movement made a decade before, in the 1970's the first attempts to diminish difference between men and women in society. They criticized the existed language and culture as "male-dominated" and "patriarchal". The history of the society, as the feminists argued, was written from the male point of view ("it's HIStory, not HERstory").

The English language was also considered to be full of male-dominating patterns. Utterances like *Every teacher plans his lessons* referred to teachers in general and words with the stem "man" were used to denote both sexes (*mankind', chairman,* etc.). Feminists criticized these items as sexist, all patterns referring to men only got the name of "sexist, old-fashioned language". Sexist language was opposed by "modem non-sexist or inclusive language" that suggested gender equality and neutrality.

The inclusive language suggested avoiding the usage of male pronouns in the cases when the gender of the person is unknown. Utterances like *Every student has to pass his exams* were replaced by phrases *All students have to pass their exams* or *Every student has to pass his or her exams.* Today we even can often meet the phrase *Every student has to pass their exams* which violates traditional rules of subject-verb agreement but conforms to new rules of gender neutrality. General terms containing the segment *man,* like *mankind* and *man-made* were replaced by synonyms like *humankind* and *artificial.*

Later the names of jobs and occupations were revised to become sexually neutral. Speakers of English have found new ways to avoid sex markers - *flight attendant* (since terms "steward - stewardess" have been abolished), *sales person* ("salesman - woman" have been outlawed), *police officer* (instead of "policeman") and *chairperson* or *chair* (instead of "chairman").

In the late 1980's the rules of political correctness (pc) were applied to a broad range of issues - race, age, sexual orientation, abilities, etc. As people became 198

sensitive to bias on the basis of race, gender, age, and sexual orientation, they tried to minimize the negative impact of language that they used to discuss such issues.

The tendency to "deracialization" in English provided new names for nationalities and ethnic groups. Names *Negro, colored, Afro-American* were substituted by *African-American; Oriental* or *Asiatic* were replaced by *Asian* or more specific designation such as *Pacific Islander, Chinese American, Korean. Indian* as inaccurate term that refers to people, who live or come from India, was changed for *American Indian, Native American* or more specific terms like *Chinook* of *Hopi.*

The changed attitude to age made people aware of the words that reinforce stereotypes *{decrepit, senile)* and avoid mentioning age unless it's relevant. Terms like *elderly, aged, old*, and *geriatric* were replaces by *older person, senior citizens* or *seniors.*

New euphemistic terms were also invented to name people with disabilities or illnesses. The blind people were called *visually challenged*, the deaf - *people with hearing impairments.* The euphemisms *challenged, differently abled* and *special* were coined to describe people with clinical diagnoses or mental illnesses. Today these euphemisms are preferred by some people, but are often ridiculed and are best avoided.

The subject of politically correct English links historical, cultural, social, and linguistic issues. Since it also addresses current language usage, it appeals to language learners and teachers engaged in study of English as it is actually used by native speakers today. Thus, politically correct English can be an interesting and useful subject of study for the ESL or EFL classroom. I have used the tasks that follow to help my students explore this topic.

Warming-up activity.

1. Ask your students about the issues that people are especially sensitive to (they may name gender, age, ethnicity or nationality, religion, physical appearance).

2. Show your students pictures of different people and ask them what these people are sensitive to, what language strategies are better to use not to offend these people.

Task 1. Using language that is not sexist.

Read the rules of modem non-sexist language and change the given phrases into politically

Old-fashioned sexist language	Modern non-sexist language
Male pronouns *he, his* and *him* are used even though the sex of the person is not known.	You can change unnecessary male pronouns to plural forms *they, them,* etc. or combination *he or she, she or he* (in written speech - *s/he).*
"Someone's on the phone. " "What does **he** *want? "* *The television viewer hardly ever leavers* **his** *chair.* *A gardener is usually proud of* **his** *garden.* *A child needs to feel that* **he** *is liked by*	

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his *friends.*	
Words formed from 'man' are used when referring to people generally. (But notice that many words like *manager* or *manufacture* are not connected with 'man' at all.)	tJ[1 ^ men and women.
Man/mankind *is polluting the Earth.* **Man** *is not the only animal that uses tools.* *No* **man** *has ever climbed this mountain before.* *Who's* **manning** *the office?* *This is the largest* **man-made** *lake in Europe.*	
Many jobs or activities are strongly connected with a particular sex.	Use expressions and pronouns that do not support sexist assumption.
The teacher must not be late for **his** *class.* *A manager has a duty towards* **his** *workers.* *The fall in prices is great news for* **housewives.** *A* **mother** *should never leave a baby alone in the house.* **He** *might hurt* **himself.**	
Job names are used which refer unnecessarily to the sex of the person.	Use job names that apply equally to men and women.
workman *salesman/saleslady businessman chairman camerawoman authoressflady writer male nurse policeman airline stewardess*	
Male words are frequently put before female words in common combinations.	Try to balance the ordering of male and
Men and women; boys and girls; husband and wife; brother and sister; his and her; he or she	
The words used for men and women in the same situation arc not equal. For РХЯГПШР thp title *MfSS* fplk you fhat flip	Use equal male and female terms. ················ і ШЙЙ

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woman is not married, but applies to married and unmarried men.	
Ted and Angela are man *and* wife. *I have three* girls *and two* men *working for me.* Mr. *Lewis and* Miss *Masters.*	

Task 2. Read this poem by Lord Tennyson and edit it to make it more politically correct.
Man is for the field and wife is for the hearth;
Man is for sword and for the needle she;
He is for head and woman with the heart;
Man to command and wife to obey.
All else is confusion.

Task 3. Although famous, these proverbs are not politically correct. Try to change them:
1. Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise.
2. He who cannot obey cannot command.
3. A man's home is his castle.
4. Every man has his hobbyhorse.
5. He is happy that thinks himself so.

Task 4. Column A represents traditional names for different races and nationalities, and column B gives politically correct version. Mach the names from column A with column B.

A	B
1. Oriental	a). Native Australians
2. Colored	b). Native Hawaiian
3. Australian Aborigines	c). Asian
4. Torres Strait islanders	d). Caucasians
5. Whites	e). African -Americans

The movement for political correctness has both supporters and critics. This makes it a good topic for discussions, debates, and other exercises in critical thinking skills. Below are several topics for further investigation or discussion. They may not be familiar or appropriate for all settings, but they may help teachers think of pc issues that would be relevant to their students.

Tasks for further investigation

1. Terms referring to racial, ethnic, or indigenous groups of people. Sensitivity toward race and ethnicity is also reflected in language changes that have been motivated by political correctness. For example, in most common usage today *Asian* has replaced *Oriental* and *Native American* has replaced *American Indian.* However, there is not always universal agreement or understanding about which terms are favored, polite, or neutral in я particular setting. Have your students design and

conduct a survey of their classmates, neighbors, and friends who represent various racial and ethnic groups about this issue. Then, they can report their findings to the class.

2. Terms used to disguise unpleasantness. In an attempt to mask the truth or to hide unpleasant realities, governments or other special interest groups sometimes create euphemisms or expressions to put a more positive light on a situation. If *blind* sounds offensive, substitute *visually challenged. Genocide* may be referred to as *ethnic cleansing.* Sometimes, the new terms seem awkward, funny, or even offensive. Again, there is unlikely to be agreement on whether such terms are good or not. Consider this opinion from Dr. Kennth Jemigan of the National Federation of the Blind in the U.S.: *"The blind have had trouble with euphemisms for as long as anybody can remember. The form has changed, but the old notions of inferiority and second-class status still remain. The euphemisms and political correctness do not help. If anything, they make matters worse as they claim modern thought and enlightenment. The attempt to avoid such straightforward, respectable words as blindness, blind, the blind, etc. and imply shame instead of true equality, and portray the blind as touchy and belligerent. "* Do you agree or disagree with Dr. Jemigan? Try to explain why. Try to find other similar examples of euphemistic speech.

3. Political correctness in languages other than English. Politically correct changes are also occurring in languages other than English as a reflection of growing tolerance, inclusion, and other changes in modem societies. What examples of politically correct speech can you identify in the native languages of your classmates or community? Create a class list of examples.

4. PC point of view. Which of these two points of view most closely reflects your opinion? Explain, giving examples to support your opinion.

   a.   PC speech is an important issue in modem society and reflects a growing respect for others.
   b.   PC speech is just a form of conformism and does not represent a meaningful change in attitudes.

To sum up I would like to say that politically correct changes occur in many other languages as a reflection of the ideas of tolerance and inclusion. New words and expressions reflect the changes arising in modem societies.

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Анотація

В статті розглядаються зміни, які відбулися в англійській мові у зв'язку з рухом за політичну коректність в англомовних країнах, і особливості викладання політично коректної мови на уроках англійської.

Л.С.Цоуфал
старший викладач

ТЕОРЕТИЧНІ ПРОБЛЕМИ КОМУНІКАТИВНО-ДІЯЛЬНІСНОГО ПІДХОДУ ДО НАВЧАННЯ МОВИ

У статті розглядаються теоретичні проблеми комунікативно- діяльнісного підходу до навчання мови; обгрунтовується роль комунікативних ситуацій у формуванні мовної особистості.