

## **Creative Drama in the EFL Classroom**

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### **1. Definition**

Creative drama is participant and process centered, with a teacher or a leader guiding students through explorations of personal experiences, social issues, or pieces of literature. In creative drama, children improvise action and dialogue and use drama elements to structure the process. Guided to the 'imaginary world,' they become easily engaged in the 'make-believe' situation that is safe for them to explore and allows them to grow.

### **2. Values in the EFL Classroom**

When we apply this magical method of creative drama to language learning, great benefits are found: It provides very comfortable classroom atmosphere where the students can open up their senses, and express themselves physically, emotionally, and verbally with spontaneity. It creates perfect environment to build communicative competence, and language learning occurs through making mistakes. It also allows more students to become involved in the learning process and guides them to experience emotional and non-verbal aspect of language. Most of all, teaching and learning are more enjoyable.

### **3. Strategy**

The strategy of integrating creative drama in the second language classroom can be summarized as follows:

- 1) Create warm, supportive, encouraging atmosphere through songs, games, and physical warm-up.
- 2) The role of a teacher: Facilitator
- 3) Encourage cooperative works
- 4) Expand the drama activities to the language learning

### **4. Conclusion**

The production of a play is not the goal of a creative drama, instead, the process itself has its values because it stimulates students to express themselves. Language

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learning starts from the motivation to express and to share the ideas with others. Not only learning language itself, but through having aesthetic experiences within authentic context, students develop creativity, problem-solving skills, and communication skills which are demanded in the 21st century work place.