

- The Communicative Features of "Debate" and its Role in Teaching Arabic to Non-Native Speakers, Arab Journal for the Humanities, N. 59-15th year-summer 1997, Kuwait University.

Communicative language teaching enjoys an important position in the language teaching profession. However, the successful application of this method in the classroom depends largely on the use of the right activities which comply with the essential characteristics of communicative interaction as found in real life situations. This paper focuses on debating which is taken to be a good communicative activity that is capable of promoting oral communication as well as learning. A discussion of the merits of this type of activity as a skill forming and learning device, is undertaken with the goal of identifying the aspects that makes it such an effective procedure. There will also be a description of the fundamental conditions for designing and successfully implementing debating activities, in addition to some suggestions allowing for variation and further improvement by individual teachers.

The role of this activity gains even greater importance in the context of teaching Arabic to speakers of other languages. This follows from the fact that standard Arabic is not normally spoken except in some highly limited situations, of which debating is the most natural one.