



THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SCAFFOLDING TECHNIQUES IN TEACHING LISTENING COMPREHENSION

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Abstract: *Listening comprehension is a fundamental skill in language learning, yet it is often one of the most challenging for learners to develop. Scaffolding techniques, which involve providing structured support to learners and gradually removing it as competence increases, have been shown to improve students' listening abilities. This article explores the concept of scaffolding, its application in teaching listening comprehension, and its effectiveness in enhancing learners' understanding, confidence, and engagement.*

Introduction

Listening comprehension plays a crucial role in language acquisition, as it forms the foundation for speaking, reading, and writing skills. However, many learners struggle with listening due to factors such as limited vocabulary, unfamiliar accents, fast speech, and lack of contextual knowledge. Traditional listening instruction often expects learners to understand spoken texts without sufficient support, which can lead to frustration and low motivation. Scaffolding techniques offer a learner-centered approach that helps students gradually build listening skills through guided assistance. This article examines how



scaffolding supports listening comprehension and why it is an effective teaching strategy.

Understanding Scaffolding in Education

Scaffolding is rooted in the theory that learners benefit from guidance provided by teachers or peers until they can perform tasks independently. In listening instruction, scaffolding involves breaking down complex listening tasks into manageable steps and providing tools such as previews, visuals, guiding questions, and feedback. As learners become more proficient, the level of support is reduced, encouraging autonomy and confidence.

Scaffolding Techniques in Teaching Listening Comprehension

Several scaffolding techniques are commonly used in listening lessons:

Pre-Listening Scaffolding

Pre-listening activities prepare learners for what they are about to hear. These may include activating prior knowledge, introducing key vocabulary, discussing the topic, or predicting content based on titles or images. Such activities reduce anxiety and help learners focus on meaning rather than individual words.

While-Listening Scaffolding

During listening, teachers can provide guiding questions, graphic organizers, or focused tasks such as listening for main ideas or specific details. Pausing the audio or replaying key sections also helps learners process information at their own pace.

Post-Listening Scaffolding

Post-listening activities reinforce comprehension through discussion, summarizing, or reflection. Teachers may provide feedback, model correct responses, or encourage peer collaboration. These activities help learners consolidate understanding and connect listening to other language skills.

Effectiveness of Scaffolding Techniques

Research and classroom practice indicate that scaffolding significantly improves listening comprehension. By offering structured support, learners are better able to understand spoken texts, identify key information, and develop effective

listening strategies. Scaffolding also increases learner confidence and motivation. When students feel supported, they are more willing to engage with challenging listening materials. Over time, the gradual removal of scaffolding fosters independence, allowing learners to handle authentic listening situations more effectively.

Challenges and Considerations

Despite its benefits, scaffolding requires careful planning. Teachers must balance support with challenge, ensuring that scaffolding does not lead to over-dependence. Additionally, scaffolding should be adapted to learners' proficiency levels, learning styles, and cultural backgrounds to maximize effectiveness.

Conclusion

Scaffolding techniques are highly effective in teaching listening comprehension, as they provide learners with the necessary support to understand spoken language while gradually promoting independence. Through pre-listening, while-listening, and post-listening activities, scaffolding helps learners overcome difficulties, build confidence, and develop lasting listening skills. As a result, scaffolding should be considered an essential strategy in listening instruction.

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