HOW TO SOLVE THE SPEAKING DIFFICULTIES OF STUDENTS LEARNING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE.

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Abstract: *Developing speaking skills is a challenging and complex process for students learning English as a second language. Many learners struggle with a lack of confidence, the complexity of the language, and grammatical structures that differ from their native language. This article aims to address these difficulties by exploring effective methods, support strategies, and engaging activities to enhance students' speaking skills.*

Keywords: *ineffective structures, process, challenge, imitate, fluency, opportunity, effective strategy*

Ключевые слова: *неэффективные структуры, процесс, вызов, имитировать / подражать, беглость речи, возможность, эффективная стратегия*

Introduction

Education is the foundation of all progress. It is truly uplifting to witness the growing emphasis on education in many countries today. In particular, the increasing opportunities for language learning not only contribute to individuals' personal development but also serve as evidence of societal progress and the strengthening of intercultural bonds. Across the world, numerous initiatives are being implemented to support and encourage young people in their language-learning endeavors, with governments making substantial investments in this field.

However, learning English is not an easy process. Many students struggle due to the complexity of the language and the structural differences between English

and their native tongues. This challenge becomes even more pronounced when it comes to developing speaking skills. Research has identified several key factors that hinder learners: complex grammar structures (Damaiyanti, S. 2021), limited vocabulary (Machfudi, M.I. 2022), and lack of confidence (Akkakoson, S. 2016). Through this study, our goal is to analyze the root causes of these speaking difficulties and develop effective strategies to overcome them.

For ESL learners, developing speaking skills means being able to communicate with others in the target language (Ibrahim & Hashim, 2021). However, many learners face obstacles such as fear of making mistakes and teachers using ineffective strategies, both of which prevent students from achieving fluency in English. These challenges create significant barriers in the language learning process.

Additionally, a study conducted by Rajendran et al. (2024) examined the difficulties faced by ESL learners. According to the study's findings, the main challenges can be classified into five categories: teacher-related issues, learner-related issues, overcrowded classrooms, poor course material design and lack of internet access. By addressing these issues, we can work toward creating a more effective and supportive learning environment, enabling ESL students to develop confidence and fluency in their spoken English.

The Importance of Speaking English. English has become a lingua franca spoken by nearly 1.5 billion people worldwide. Being fluent in English opens up numerous opportunities in various aspects of life.

Social Interaction and Increased Confidence. The ability to speak English fluently helps individuals feel more comfortable in different social settings. It plays a crucial role in public speaking, social gatherings, and travel, preventing communication barriers that may arise due to language differences. Speaking English also allows people to make new friends from different countries and interact with diverse cultures.

Global Communication. English remains the leading language in international relations, business negotiations, and multinational projects. It serves as

a unifying force, enabling people from different backgrounds to communicate effectively and collaborate on various global initiatives.

Easier Travel Experience. Since English is widely spoken in many tourist destinations, fluency in the language makes traveling much more convenient. Travelers who speak English can navigate airports, book hotels, and communicate with locals without assistance. Moreover, English-speaking travelers can engage in meaningful conversations with local residents, making their trips more enjoyable and immersive.

Better Job Opportunities. Employees who can speak English fluently have a competitive advantage in the job market. Many high-paying and international career opportunities require strong English-speaking skills. Today, prestigious companies actively seek employees who can communicate effectively in English, as it allows them to interact with colleagues, clients, and partners from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

Access to Quality Education. One of the key requirements for admission to the world's most renowned and prestigious universities is proficiency in English. Being fluent in the language enables ESL learners to pursue higher education at top institutions and access high-quality academic programs.

Challenges for ESL Learners

Linguistic Difficulties

- *Limited Vocabulary*. Many learners struggle with a lack of vocabulary because they cannot understand words in podcasts or use them in real-life conversations. Instead of enjoying reading, they often focus only on looking up unfamiliar words.

- *Grammatical Errors*. The grammatical differences between a learner's native language and English often lead to frequent mistakes.

- *Pronunciation Problems*. Each language has its own unique pronunciation patterns and accents, which can make it difficult for ESL learners to develop clear and confident speech.

Psychological Barriers

- *Shyness*. Feeling shy, hesitating to ask questions when they don't fully understand a topic, and avoiding active participation in conversations with friends can lower a learner's self-confidence. This can ultimately weaken or even prevent the development of speaking skills.

- *Fear of Making Mistakes*. The fear of making mistakes and avoiding speaking entirely is one of the biggest obstacles to improving speaking skills.

- *Laziness*. Neglecting homework assignments and not taking them seriously can cause ESL learners to fall behind their peers.

- *Lack of Motivation*. If a learner does not receive encouragement and support from parents, teachers, or close friends, their interest in learning English may decline.

Environmental Factors

- *Limited Exposure to English-Speaking Environments*. Without opportunities to apply learned vocabulary and grammatical structures in real-life situations, learners may easily forget what they have studied and struggle to use English in practical contexts.

- *Finding Relevant Material at the Correct Level of Difficulty*. If speaking materials are either too easy or too difficult for the learner's level, they may struggle to learn effectively and feel discouraged.

Affective Strategies. The following strategies can be effectively used to overcome challenges and improve ESL learners' speaking skills.

Solution 1: Interactive Activities

Various interactive games, role-plays, and activities organized by teachers help students apply the language in real-life situations, enhancing their communication skills and confidence.

Solution 2: Use of Visual Aids

Since we live in a technological era, learning can be made more engaging by incorporating multimedia resources such as cartoons, movies, and songs to improve students' comprehension and speaking skills.

Solution 3: Repetition

Practicing correct pronunciation together with the teacher and memorizing grammatical structures through repetition is one of the most effective methods for developing speaking skills.

Solution 4: Creating a Supportive Environment

Students should be taught that making mistakes is not something to be ashamed of but a natural part of the language-learning process. Encouraging this mindset helps boost their confidence and reduce anxiety.

Solution 5: Imitating How Native Speakers Use Their Language, Grammar, Phrases, and Intonation

Analyzing how native speakers use grammar, phrases, and intonations and closely observing their speaking style can significantly improve fluency. By mimicking these patterns, learners can develop more natural and fluent speech.

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