

**INNOVATIVE METHODS IN TEACHING ENGLISH AS A
FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

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Abstract: *The improvement of oral communication in English has consistently been a central issue within foreign language education. With English emerging as the dominant global lingua franca, the capacity to engage successfully in spoken interaction is now regarded as a vital requirement for academic achievement, professional advancement, and personal growth. Earlier language teaching models often concentrated on grammar translation and written tasks, giving limited attention to speaking skills. In contrast, modern approaches emphasize communicative competence, fluency, accurate pronunciation, and the practical application of language in authentic situations. This paper investigates diverse strategies for developing spoken English, ranging from traditional practices to communicative methodologies, technology-enhanced instruction, and learner-centered techniques. It stresses the value of interactive methods such as simulations, discussions, debates, and project-based tasks in promoting oral proficiency. Furthermore, the article explores the contribution of digital resources, online platforms, and artificial intelligence to extending opportunities for practice beyond the classroom. Challenges including learner nervousness, insufficient exposure to English, and cultural barriers are examined, along with suggested remedies. By combining theoretical insights with practical applications, this study highlights the necessity of innovative, adaptable, and student-focused approaches in oral English instruction. The paper concludes that integrating pedagogy, technology, and learner*



autonomy can lead to lasting progress in speaking skills, preparing learners for effective participation in global communication

Keywords: Oral speech development; English as a foreign language; communicative competence; speaking skills; language pedagogy; interactive methods; technology-assisted learning.

Аннотация: Развитие устной речи на английском языке является одной из ключевых задач в современном обучении иностранным языкам. В условиях глобализации и роста роли английского как международного языка владение устной речью становится неотъемлемым требованием для успешной академической, профессиональной и личной деятельности. В статье рассматриваются различные методы развития устной речи, включая традиционные подходы, коммуникативные технологии, цифровые инструменты и стратегии самостоятельного обучения. Особое внимание уделяется интерактивным видам деятельности, таким как ролевые игры, дебаты, дискуссии и презентации, которые формируют беглость, коммуникативную компетенцию и уверенность учащихся. Также анализируется влияние современных технологий — онлайн-платформ, мобильных приложений и искусственного интеллекта — на процесс формирования устной речи. Рассмотрены основные трудности, с которыми сталкиваются обучающиеся (языковая тревожность, ограниченная языковая среда, проблемы произношения), и предложены пути их решения. В заключение подчеркивается важность комплексного и инновационного подхода к развитию устной речи, объединяющего педагогические, технологические и индивидуальные стратегии для эффективного овладения английским языком в устной форме.

Ключевые слова: устная речь; развитие речи; английский язык как иностранный; коммуникативная компетенция; интерактивные методы; технологии в обучении

Annotatsiya: Ingliz tilida og‘zaki nutqni rivojlantirish zamonaviy chet tili o‘qitishning eng muhim vazifalaridan biridir. Globallashuv va ingliz tilining



xalqaro til sifatidagi o'rni ortib borayotgan bir paytda, og'zaki nutqda erkin muloqot qila olish ko'nikmasi o'quvchilarning akademik, kasbiy va shaxsiy muvaffaqiyati uchun zaruriy shartga aylanmoqda. Ushbu maqolada og'zaki nutqni rivojlantirishning turli usullari, jumladan, an'anaviy yondashuvlar, kommunikativ texnologiyalar, raqamli vositalar va mustaqil ta'lim strategiyalari tahlil qilinadi. Rol o'ynash, munozara, bahs va taqdimot kabi interaktiv faoliyat turlari orqali o'quvchilarda erkinlik, kommunikativ kompetensiya va ishonch shakllantirishning ahamiyati ko'rsatib berilgan. Shuningdek, onlayn platformalar, mobil ilovalar va sun'iy intellekt kabi zamonaviy texnologiyalarning og'zaki nutq rivojlanishiga ta'siri yoritilgan. O'quvchilar duch keladigan asosiy muammolar — til tashvishi, cheklangan til muhiti va talaffuzdagi qiyinchiliklar — ko'rib chiqilib, ularning yechimlari taklif etilgan. Xulosa qismida esa og'zaki nutqni rivojlantirishda pedagogik, texnologik va individual yondashuvlarni uyg'unlashtirgan innovatsion metodlarning ahamiyati ta'kidlanadi.

Kalit so'zlar: *og'zaki nutq; nutqni rivojlantirish; ingliz tili; kommunikativ kompetensiya; interaktiv metodlar; ta'limda texnologiyalar*

Introduction

Spoken communication forms the foundation of human interaction and is central to language learning. Within the sphere of English as a foreign language (EFL), the development of oral speech involves enhancing learners' capacity to understand and produce spoken English across diverse situations. Unlike written skills, which can often be acquired through independent study, oral competence demands continuous practice, active engagement, and meaningful social interaction. In recent decades, the significance of oral English has increased dramatically, driven by globalization, international exchange, and the widespread use of English in academia, business, and technology. Mastery of spoken English is not only an indicator of linguistic proficiency but also a decisive element in learners' educational success and career advancement. As a result, schools, language institutes, and educators around the world have adopted various methods to strengthen oral communication skills. This article examines a broad spectrum of approaches to improving speaking ability,



ranging from traditional instructional methods to contemporary technology-based practices. It also addresses the difficulties students encounter in developing oral skills and suggests practical solutions to overcome them. By combining theoretical perspectives with real-world applications, the study seeks to enrich the ongoing dialogue on effective strategies for oral language development.

1. The Significance of Oral Speech in English

Oral communication represents the most direct and functional use of language. Unlike reading and writing, it requires immediate interaction, making it a dynamic and sometimes demanding skill. For many learners, achieving oral fluency is considered the ultimate objective of language study, as it reflects their ability to participate effectively in real-life social and professional contexts. Developing oral speech in English is also linked to the concept of communicative competence, which includes not only grammatical accuracy but also sociolinguistic, discourse, and strategic competence. In other words, effective oral communication requires learners to use appropriate vocabulary, intonation, and gestures while also adapting their language to cultural and situational contexts. This holistic view underscores the necessity of comprehensive methods for oral speech development.

2. Traditional Methods of Oral Speech Development

Before the rise of communicative and learner-centered approaches, oral speech in English was often taught through traditional methods. The most common were: Grammar-Translation Method – Focused heavily on reading and translating texts, with limited emphasis on speaking. Learners memorized vocabulary and grammar rules but had few opportunities for oral practice. Audiolingual Method – Emerged in the mid-20th century, emphasizing drilling, repetition, and mimicry. Students practiced dialogues to internalize structures, which helped pronunciation but limited creativity in speech. Direct Method – Prioritized immersion and exclusive use of English in the classroom. Learners engaged in question-and-answer exchanges, fostering oral practice but often without systematic grammar instruction. While these methods laid the groundwork for modern pedagogy, they often failed to prepare learners for authentic communication. Their emphasis on rote memorization and structural drills provided



accuracy but not fluency, which remains a common challenge among learners today.

3. Communicative Approaches to Oral Speech Development . The communicative approach revolutionized language teaching in the late 20th century by emphasizing interaction and the use of language in real-life contexts. Its core principle is that language learning is best achieved through communication itself. Key features of communicative approaches include: Role-Playing and Simulations – Learners assume different roles (e.g., customer and shopkeeper) to practice dialogues in realistic contexts. Group Discussions – Small group conversations on assigned topics encourage spontaneous speech and peer feedback. Debates – Promote critical thinking, persuasive language use, and structured oral argumentation. Problem-Solving Activities – Require learners to collaborate and use English creatively to achieve a goal. These methods allow learners to practice not only grammar and vocabulary but also negotiation of meaning, turn-taking, and fluency under pressure. Teachers act as facilitators rather than controllers, guiding learners toward effective communication.

4. Technology-Based Methods for Oral Speech Development

In recent years, technology has transformed the teaching and learning of oral English. Digital tools, online platforms, and artificial intelligence applications provide learners with unprecedented opportunities to practice speaking beyond classroom walls. Some notable methods include: Language Learning Apps (e.g., Duolingo, HelloTalk, Cambly) – Offer interactive speaking tasks, pronunciation practice, and peer-to-peer communication with native speakers.

Video Conferencing Tools (e.g., Zoom, Microsoft Teams) – Enable virtual classrooms and cross-cultural exchanges where learners can interact with speakers worldwide . Speech Recognition Software – Provides instant feedback on pronunciation, stress, and intonation, helping learners self-correct. . AI-powered Tutors and Chatbots – Simulate natural conversation and provide personalized feedback, making oral practice more accessible. Technology also helps overcome barriers such as limited exposure to native speakers or lack of speaking partners. However, it requires careful integration into pedagogy to ensure that learners do not prioritize technological convenience over authentic interaction.



5. Classroom Activities for Oral Speech Development . Classroom-based strategies remain the most effective and accessible methods for developing oral communication skills in English. Teachers can design structured activities that balance accuracy, fluency, and creativity. Some widely used techniques include:

Students practice pre-designed dialogues and then create their own variations. This activity builds confidence and gradually shifts learners from controlled speech to spontaneous production. Storytelling and Narration. Learners retell familiar stories, share personal experiences, or narrate short tales. This enhances fluency, vocabulary use, and the ability to structure oral discourse coherently. Presentations and Public Speaking.

Preparing and delivering short speeches or presentations fosters organization, clarity, and confidence in oral communication. It also develops pronunciation and intonation through repeated practice.

Language games such as “20 Questions,” “Taboo,” or “Guess Who?” encourage natural conversation in an enjoyable, low-anxiety environment.

Drama and Role-Play

Involving learners in short skits or role-plays allows them to use language expressively, practice intonation, and adopt cultural aspects of communication. These classroom activities create opportunities for students to engage in meaningful interaction while also fostering cooperation and social learning.

6. Self-Study and Independent Strategies

In addition to classroom instruction, learners can take responsibility for their own oral speech development through independent study. Self-directed strategies complement formal teaching and provide continuous exposure to English.

Listening and Shadowing

Learners listen to podcasts, speeches, or films and attempt to repeat phrases simultaneously, improving pronunciation and rhythm.

Self-Recording

Recording personal speech and reviewing it helps learners identify errors, monitor progress, and practice self-correction. Language Exchange Partners



Engaging in conversation with peers or online partners enables learners to practice authentic communication in informal settings.

Daily Speaking Practice

Setting small goals, such as describing daily routines or discussing news articles, ensures regular use of spoken English.

Reflective Practice

Keeping a speaking journal or reflecting on past conversations encourages metacognition and helps learners develop awareness of strengths and weaknesses. Independent strategies foster learner autonomy, which is essential for lifelong learning and continuous improvement.

7. Challenges in Developing Oral Speech and Possible Solutions

Despite the availability of numerous methods, learners often face barriers in acquiring oral proficiency. Common challenges include:

Language Anxiety – Fear of making mistakes discourages learners from speaking. Teachers can address this by creating supportive, low-stress environments.

Limited Exposure – In non-English-speaking countries, students rarely encounter English outside the classroom. Virtual exchanges, media consumption, and online communication can mitigate this problem.

Pronunciation Difficulties – Learners may struggle with unfamiliar sounds. Phonetic training and software-based pronunciation tools provide targeted assistance. **Cultural Differences** – Misunderstandings may arise from unfamiliarity with English-speaking norms. Integrating cultural awareness activities can enhance pragmatic competence. **Time Constraints** – Many curricula prioritize reading and writing. Reallocating classroom time to oral practice ensures balanced skill development. Addressing these challenges requires cooperation between educators, institutions, and learners to establish a comprehensive, supportive framework for oral skill acquisition.

Conclusion

The advancement of spoken English continues to be a primary focus for both teachers and learners around the world. Although traditional methods laid the



groundwork for accuracy, modern communicative and technology-driven approaches have shifted the focus toward fluency, interaction, and real-life application. Combining classroom-based practices with autonomous learning strategies and digital resources creates varied opportunities for students to enhance and polish their speaking abilities.

At the same time, it is essential to address common obstacles such as language anxiety, insufficient exposure, and pronunciation difficulties in order to build learners' confidence and oral competence. Developing spoken English is not a one-time achievement but an ongoing process that demands consistent practice, self-reflection, and adaptability. Through the use of innovative, learner-oriented methods, educators can better equip students for active engagement in global communication, where English continues to function as a universal link across cultures and professional domains.

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