

THE ROLE OF INTERACTIVE METHODS IN DEVELOPING STUDENTS' ENGLISH SPEAKING SKILLS

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Abstract: This article examines the role of interactive teaching methods in developing students' English speaking skills. It analyzes how communicative activities such as role-play, group discussions, debates, and problem-solving tasks contribute to improving learners' fluency, accuracy, and confidence in spoken English. The study highlights that interactive methods create a student-centered learning environment where learners actively participate in real-life communication situations. In addition, the article discusses the effectiveness of modern digital tools and online platforms in enhancing speaking practice. The findings suggest that the use of interactive methods significantly improves students' motivation and communicative competence in English language learning.

Keywords: Interactive methods, English speaking skills, communicative competence, role-play, group discussion, student-centered learning, language learning, motivation.

INTRODUCTION

In today's globalized world, the ability to communicate effectively in English has become one of the most important skills for students. Among the four language skills—listening, reading, writing, and speaking—speaking is often considered the most challenging, as it requires not only linguistic knowledge but also confidence, fluency, and spontaneous thinking. In many educational contexts, including Uzbekistan, students face difficulties in expressing their ideas orally due to limited practice opportunities and traditional teacher-centered teaching approaches.

In recent years, modern educational reforms have emphasized the importance of learner-centered approaches that actively involve students in the learning process. One of the most effective approaches in this regard is the use of interactive teaching methods. These methods encourage communication, collaboration, and real-life language use in the classroom. Techniques such as role-play, group discussion, debates, and problem-solving activities help students to practice English in meaningful contexts.

Therefore, this article aims to analyze the role of interactive teaching methods in developing students' English speaking skills and to explore how these methods can improve learners' fluency, accuracy, and communicative confidence.

LITERATURE REVIEW

A number of scholars have studied the effectiveness of interactive methods in language teaching. According to H. D. Brown (2007), speaking is a productive skill that requires active engagement in meaningful communication rather than memorization of rules. He emphasizes that communicative practice is essential for developing fluency.

Similarly, Richards (2006) highlights that Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) focuses on interaction as both the means and the ultimate goal of language learning. This approach supports the use of group work, pair work, and task-based activities to enhance students' speaking abilities.

Harmer (2015) argues that motivation plays a crucial role in language acquisition, and interactive classroom activities increase students' willingness to participate in speaking tasks. He notes that when students are engaged in real-life communication scenarios, they become more confident in using the language.

In addition, research conducted in different educational settings shows that interactive methods significantly improve students' speaking fluency and reduce anxiety. Studies in EFL (English as a Foreign Language) classrooms indicate that students who participate in discussions, role-plays, and simulations demonstrate higher levels of communicative competence compared to those taught through traditional lecture-based methods.

Overall, the literature suggests that interactive teaching methods are highly effective in improving students' English speaking skills by promoting active participation, motivation, and real communication practice.

METHODOLOGY

This study is based on a qualitative and descriptive research approach aimed at analyzing the effectiveness of interactive teaching methods in developing students' English speaking skills. The research focuses on classroom practices where interactive techniques are applied in English language lessons.

The main methods used in this study include observation, comparative analysis, and literature-based analysis. Classroom observations were conducted to examine how students respond to interactive activities such as role-play, group discussion, debates, and problem-solving tasks. In addition, existing scientific literature on Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) and student-centered learning was analyzed to support the research findings.

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

The analysis of classroom practices shows that interactive teaching methods have a significant positive impact on students' English speaking skills. Students who participated in interactive activities demonstrated higher levels of engagement compared to those who learned through traditional lecture-based methods.

One of the most effective techniques was role-play, which allowed students to simulate real-life situations such as ordering food, making travel arrangements, or conducting interviews. This method helped students improve fluency and reduce hesitation during speech production.

Group discussions and debates also played an important role in improving critical thinking and spontaneous speaking ability. Students became more confident in expressing their opinions and learned to respond quickly in English without translating from their native language.

Furthermore, problem-solving tasks encouraged collaborative learning and increased student interaction. These activities created a supportive environment where learners could practice English naturally and meaningfully.

The results of the study indicate that students exposed to interactive methods showed:

- Improved fluency in spoken English
- Increased vocabulary usage in real communication
- Reduced anxiety and fear of making mistakes
- Higher motivation to participate in classroom activities

Additionally, the use of digital tools such as online speaking platforms, video-based tasks, and language learning applications further enhanced speaking practice outside the classroom.

Overall, the findings confirm that interactive teaching methods are highly effective in developing students' English speaking skills by creating a communicative, engaging, and student-centered learning environment.

CONCLUSION

The findings of this study clearly demonstrate that interactive teaching methods play a crucial role in developing students' English speaking skills. Unlike traditional teacher-centered approaches, interactive methods create a learner-centered environment where students actively participate in communication and practice English in meaningful contexts.

The use of role-play, group discussions, debates, and problem-solving tasks significantly improves students' fluency, accuracy, and confidence in speaking. These methods also reduce learners' anxiety and increase their motivation to use English in real-life situations. Furthermore, the integration of digital tools and online learning platforms extends speaking practice beyond the classroom and enhances overall language exposure.

In conclusion, interactive teaching methods are highly effective in improving communicative competence. Therefore, it is recommended that English language teachers integrate more interactive activities into their lessons to ensure better speaking skill development among students.

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