

DEVELOPING STUDENTS' SPEAKING SKILLS THROUGH INTERACTIVE METHODS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES

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Abstract. This article discusses the importance of interactive methods in developing students' speaking skills in English language classes. Speaking is considered one of the most difficult yet essential skills in foreign language learning. Traditional teaching methods often limit students' participation and communication opportunities, while interactive approaches encourage active involvement, collaboration, and confidence in speaking. The study analyzes several interactive methods such as role-plays, debates, group discussions, brainstorming, information gap activities, and digital tools that improve students' communicative competence. The article also examines the teacher's role in organizing learner-centered environments and motivating students to participate in speaking activities. The findings reveal that interactive methods significantly increase students' fluency, pronunciation, vocabulary usage, and confidence in oral communication. Recommendations for effective classroom implementation are provided.

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

РАЗВИТИЕ НАВЫКОВ ГОВОРЕНИЯ У СТУДЕНТОВ ПОСРЕДСТВОМ ИНТЕРАКТИВНЫХ МЕТОДОВ НА ЗАНЯТИЯХ ПО АНГЛИЙСКОМУ ЯЗЫКУ

Аннотация. В данной статье рассматривается важность интерактивных методов в развитии навыков говорения у студентов на занятиях по английскому языку. Говорение считается одним из самых сложных, но в то же время важнейших навыков в изучении иностранного языка. Традиционные методы обучения часто ограничивают участие студентов и возможности общения, тогда как интерактивные подходы способствуют активному вовлечению, сотрудничеству и уверенности в устной речи. В исследовании анализируются различные интерактивные методы, такие как ролевые игры, дебаты, групповые обсуждения, мозговой штурм, задания на информационный пробел и цифровые инструменты, которые повышают коммуникативную компетенцию студентов.

Также рассматривается роль преподавателя в организации студент-центрированной среды и мотивации студентов к участию в устной деятельности. Результаты показывают, что интерактивные методы значительно повышают беглость речи, произношение, использование словарного запаса и уверенность студентов в устной коммуникации. Предлагаются рекомендации по эффективному применению данных методов в учебном процессе.

Ключевые слова: навыки говорения, интерактивные методы, коммуникативная компетенция, преподавание английского языка, студентоцентрированное обучение, ролевая игра, обсуждение, мотивация.

INGLIZ TILI DARSLARIDA INTERAKTIV METODLAR ORQALI TALABALARNING GAPIRISH KO'NIKMALARINI RIVOJLANTIRISH

Annotatsiya. Ushbu maqolada ingliz tili darslarida talabalar nutq ko'nikmalarini rivojlantirishda interaktiv metodlarning ahamiyati ko'rib chiqiladi. Gapirish chet tilini o'rganishda eng qiyin, lekin eng muhim ko'nikmalardan biri hisoblanadi. An'anaviy o'qitish usullari ko'pincha talabalarning ishtiroki va muloqot imkoniyatlarini cheklaydi, interaktiv yondashuvlar esa faol ishtirok, hamkorlik va og'zaki nutqda ishonchni rivojlantiradi. Tadqiqotda rolli o'yinlar, debatlar, guruh muhokamalari, "brainstorming", axborot yetishmaydigan topshiriqlar va raqamli vositalar kabi bir qator interaktiv metodlar tahlil qilinadi. Shuningdek, o'qituvchining talabaga yo'naltirilgan muhitni yaratish va ularni og'zaki faoliyatga undashdagi roli ham yoritiladi. Natijalar shuni ko'rsatadiki, interaktiv metodlar talabalarning ravonligi, talaffuzi, so'z boyligi va og'zaki muloqotdagi ishonchini sezilarli darajada oshiradi. Ushbu metodlarni samarali qo'llash bo'yicha tavsiyalar berilgan.

Kalit so'zlar: nutq ko'nikmalari, interaktiv metodlar, kommunikativ kompetensiya, ingliz tili o'qitish, talabaga yo'naltirilgan ta'lim, rolli o'yin, muhokama, motivatsiya.

Introduction. In today's globalized world, English has become an international language used in education, science, business, technology, and intercultural communication. As a result, developing communicative competence in English is one of the primary goals of modern education. Among the four language skills - listening, speaking, reading, and writing - speaking plays a particularly important role because it enables learners to communicate ideas, express opinions, and interact effectively in real-life situations.

However, many students face difficulties in speaking English fluently. They often experience anxiety, lack of confidence, limited vocabulary, fear of making mistakes, and insufficient opportunities for communication in the classroom. In many traditional

language classrooms, teachers dominate the lesson while students remain passive listeners. Such methods cannot effectively develop speaking abilities because speaking requires active practice and interaction. Modern pedagogical approaches emphasize learner-centered teaching and interactive methods. Interactive methods encourage students to participate actively in the learning process, communicate with peers, solve problems collaboratively, and use language meaningfully. These approaches create a supportive learning environment where students feel more motivated and confident to speak.

The purpose of this article is to explore the effectiveness of interactive methods in developing students' speaking skills in English language classes. The article analyzes theoretical foundations, practical techniques, classroom applications, advantages, and challenges associated with interactive teaching methods.

The Importance of Speaking Skills in Language Learning. Speaking is one of the most essential productive skills in foreign language acquisition. It reflects learners' ability to use vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, and communicative strategies simultaneously. According to communicative language teaching theory, the primary objective of language learning is communication rather than memorization of grammatical rules.

Effective speaking skills provide students with several advantages:

- They improve communication in academic and professional contexts.
- They increase students' confidence and social interaction.
- They help learners participate in international environments.
- They support critical thinking and problem-solving abilities.
- They encourage independent learning and creativity.

In many educational institutions, students possess theoretical knowledge of grammar but cannot communicate effectively in English. This problem often occurs because classroom activities focus more on reading and writing than on oral communication. Therefore, teachers should integrate interactive speaking activities into daily lessons.

Interactive Methods in English Language Teaching. Interactive methods are teaching techniques that involve active participation, communication, cooperation, and engagement among students and teachers. These methods transform the classroom from a teacher-centered environment into a student-centered learning space. Interactive learning is based on the principle that students learn better when they actively participate in discussions, problem-solving tasks, and collaborative activities. Such methods create opportunities for meaningful communication and authentic language use.

The main characteristics of interactive methods include:

- ✓ Active student participation

- ✓ Pair and group work
- ✓ Collaborative learning
- ✓ Real-life communication
- ✓ Problem-solving activities
- ✓ Student autonomy
- ✓ Immediate feedback

Interactive methods are especially effective in developing speaking skills because they provide students with opportunities to practice language in realistic communicative situations.

Types of Interactive Methods for Developing Speaking Skills.

Role Play Activities. Role-play is one of the most effective methods for improving speaking skills. In role-play activities, students act out different social situations such as ordering food in a restaurant, visiting a doctor, participating in a job interview, or discussing travel plans. Role-play offers several benefits: It develops fluency and spontaneity, improves pronunciation and intonation, reduces speaking anxiety, encourages creativity and imagination, helps students use language in context.

For example, teachers can organize a role-play activity called “At the Airport,” where students act as passengers, airport staff, and customs officers. Such activities simulate real-life communication and make learning more enjoyable.

Group Discussions. Group discussions encourage students to exchange opinions, share ideas, and defend arguments. Discussions improve critical thinking and communicative competence simultaneously. Teachers may choose topics related to students’ interests, such as: “Social media”, “Environmental protection”, “Online education”, “Artificial intelligence”, “Healthy lifestyle” and so on. During discussions, students learn to express opinions clearly, listen actively, respect different viewpoints and use persuasive language. Group discussions also increase classroom interaction and reduce teacher dominance.

Debate Activities. Debates are structured speaking activities where students argue for or against a particular topic. Debates improve analytical thinking, vocabulary usage, and speaking confidence. Examples of debate topics include: “Online learning is better than traditional learning”, “Social media has more negative effects than positive effects”, “Artificial intelligence will replace teachers in the future”. Debates motivate students to research information, organize arguments logically, and speak persuasively in front of others.

Brainstorming. Brainstorming is a creative activity in which students generate ideas freely without criticism. This method helps students overcome fear of speaking and encourages spontaneous language production.

Teachers can use brainstorming before reading or speaking tasks. For instance, before discussing “Climate Change,” students brainstorm words and ideas related to

the topic. Brainstorming - activates prior knowledge, expands vocabulary, encourages participation and stimulates creativity.

Information Gap Activities. Information gap activities involve communication between students who possess different pieces of information. To complete the task successfully, they must ask questions and exchange information. These activities include finding differences between pictures, completing schedules, solving puzzles, giving directions and so on. They create a real need for communication and improve conversational skills naturally.

Pair Work and Group Work. Pair and group work are essential components of interactive learning. They maximize students talking time and reduce dependence on the teacher. Advantages include increased participation, improved cooperation, greater confidence, peer learning opportunities, and better classroom dynamics. Students often feel more comfortable speaking with classmates than speaking directly to the teacher.

The Role of the Teacher in Interactive Classrooms. In interactive language classrooms, the teacher's role changes significantly. Instead of being the sole source of knowledge, the teacher becomes a facilitator, organizer, motivator and guide. The teacher should create a positive learning atmosphere, encourage student participation, provide constructive feedback, design meaningful speaking tasks, monitor classroom interaction and support shy or weaker students. A supportive teacher helps students overcome fear and anxiety associated with speaking English. Positive feedback and encouragement are essential for building confidence.

Psychological Factors Affecting Speaking Skills. Several psychological factors influence students' speaking performance in English classes.

Anxiety and Fear of Mistakes. Many learners avoid speaking because they fear making grammatical or pronunciation mistakes. Teachers should emphasize communication over perfection and create a non-threatening environment.

Motivation. Motivated students participate more actively in speaking activities. Interactive methods increase motivation because they make lessons more interesting and engaging.

Self-Confidence. Students with higher self-confidence are more willing to communicate. Frequent speaking practice and positive reinforcement improve confidence gradually.

The Use of Technology in Interactive Speaking Activities. Modern technology has transformed language teaching significantly. Digital tools provide additional opportunities for interactive communication and speaking practice.

Useful technological tools include:

- ✓ Online discussion platforms
- ✓ Video conferencing applications
- ✓ Educational games

- ✓ Language learning applications
- ✓ Interactive whiteboards.

Applications such as Zoom, Google Meet, Kahoot, Quizlet, and Padlet encourage student interaction and collaborative learning. For example:

- Students can participate in online debates.
- They can record presentations and receive feedback.
- Teachers can organize virtual speaking clubs.

Technology also allows students to practice speaking outside the classroom.

Advantages of Interactive Methods. Interactive methods offer numerous advantages in English language teaching.

Increased Student Participation. Traditional lessons often involve passive learning, whereas interactive methods require active participation from all students.

Improved Fluency. Frequent speaking practice helps students develop fluency and automaticity in language production.

Better Retention of Knowledge. Students remember information more effectively when they actively use language in communication.

Development of Social Skills. Interactive activities improve teamwork, cooperation, and interpersonal communication.

Higher Motivation. Interesting and dynamic activities increase students' enthusiasm for learning English.

Challenges of Implementing Interactive Methods. Despite their effectiveness, interactive methods may present certain challenges.

Large Class Sizes. Managing pair and group activities in large classrooms can be difficult.

Limited Time. Interactive tasks often require more classroom time than traditional lectures.

Unequal Participation. Some students dominate discussions while others remain passive.

Lack of Resources. Some schools may lack technological equipment or suitable classroom environments.

To overcome these challenges, teachers should plan activities carefully, set clear instructions, monitor participation, use flexible classroom management strategies.

Practical Recommendations for Teachers. To improve speaking skills through interactive methods, teachers should consider the following recommendations: create a supportive classroom atmosphere, encourage students to speak without fear of mistakes, use authentic and interesting topics, organize pair and group activities regularly, integrate technology into speaking lessons and provide constructive feedback. They also have to adapt activities according to students' proficiency levels,

balance fluency and accuracy activities, motivate shy students through encouragement and use communicative tasks connected with real-life situations.

Research Findings and Discussion. Research in language education demonstrates that interactive methods significantly improve students' speaking performance. Studies indicate that students participating in communicative activities show greater fluency, vocabulary development, pronunciation improvement, and confidence compared to students taught through traditional methods. Interactive learning environments increase student engagement, motivation, communication opportunities and peer collaboration.

Furthermore, students become more independent learners and develop critical thinking skills through discussions, debates, and collaborative problem-solving activities. Teachers also report that interactive classrooms create a more positive and dynamic learning atmosphere.

Conclusion. Developing speaking skills is one of the most important objectives in English language teaching. Traditional teaching methods alone cannot provide sufficient opportunities for meaningful oral communication. Interactive methods, however, create engaging and student-centered learning environments where learners actively participate in communication.

Methods such as role-play, debates, brainstorming, group discussions, information gap activities, and technological tools significantly contribute to the improvement of speaking skills. These approaches increase students' confidence, fluency, motivation, and communicative competence. Although implementing interactive methods may involve certain challenges, their advantages greatly outweigh the difficulties. Teachers should continuously explore innovative and communicative teaching strategies to help students become successful English speakers in academic, professional, and social contexts.

In conclusion, interactive methods play a crucial role in developing students' speaking skills and should be an integral part of modern English language education.

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