

## **IMPORTANCE OF COMPETENT BASED APPROACH SO AS TO IMPROVE STUDENTS' SPEAKING SKILLS AT HIGHER EDUCATION**

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### **ABSTRACT**

One of the main objectives of foreign language instruction in higher education institutions is the improvement of students' speaking abilities. However, conventional education approaches frequently place more emphasis on theoretical understanding than on real-world language application. In this sense, the competency-based approach has drawn a lot of attention as a successful strategy for fostering communicative competence. This study aims to evaluate the significance of the competency-based approach in enhancing students' speaking abilities in postsecondary educational settings. The study investigates how competency-based learning improves students' capacity for critical thought, effective communication, and practical application of language knowledge. The competency-based framework looked at a variety of instructional techniques, such as role plays, interactive exercises, conversations, and problem-solving assignments.

The results show that students' interest, engagement, and confidence in speaking a foreign language are greatly increased by the competency-based approach. Additionally, it encourages self-directed learning and assists students in acquiring the practical communication skills required for both academic and professional settings. The findings imply that students' speaking skill can be significantly increased by incorporating competency-based teaching techniques into foreign language learning. Therefore, in order to educate students for effective communication in a worldwide environment, higher education institutions should prioritize competency-based learning.

**Key words:** competency-based approach, speaking skills, communicative competence, higher education, foreign language teaching, interactive learning, student-centered learning.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Proficiency in a foreign language has become crucial for students in higher education in today's globalized society. Speaking is regarded as one of the most difficult yet essential language abilities out of the four: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Despite having a theoretical understanding of a language, many college students struggle to communicate effectively in everyday contexts.

Grammar rules, vocabulary memorization, and written exercises are frequently prioritized over real-world communication in traditional language training approaches. As a result, kids may do well on written tests but find it difficult to speak. Modern educational institutions are progressively implementing cutting-edge teaching strategies that emphasize the development of practical skills in order to overcome this problem.

The competency-based approach is among the most successful contemporary teaching strategies. This method places a strong emphasis on helping students improve their capacity to apply their information, abilities, and attitudes in practical settings. The goal of competency-based learning in foreign language instruction is to help students become communicatively competent so they can use language successfully in a variety of social and professional settings.

Student-centered learning replaces teacher-centered instruction in the competency-based approach. Through conversations, debates, presentations, and group projects, students actively engage in the learning process. These exercises help students practice speaking and gain confidence in their ability to use a foreign language. Thus, researching the value of the competency-based method in enhancing students' speaking abilities is extremely pertinent to contemporary higher education establishments.

## **METHODS**

The efficacy of the competency-based approach in enhancing students' speaking abilities in higher education was examined in this study using a qualitative and descriptive research methodology. Relevant data was gathered and analyzed using a variety of research techniques. First, research on competency-based language instruction and speaking skill development was examined using the literature analysis approach. To determine the theoretical underpinnings and best practices in this field, scholarly papers, books, and scientific articles were examined. Second, the impact of competency-based activities on students' speaking performance was examined through classroom observation. Various interactive techniques, such as group discussions, role-playing exercises, presentations, and problem-solving assignments, were employed throughout the instructional process. Through these exercises, students were able to actively participate in conversation and use their language skills in real-world situations. In order to comprehend students' perspectives on competency-based learning, student input was also taken into account. Their answers assisted in determining the advantages and possible drawbacks of applying this strategy in higher education.

These study techniques produced thorough data that made it possible to analyze in-depth how competency-based instruction enhances students' speaking abilities.

## **RESULTS**

The study's findings show that the competency-based approach improves. First, pupils' participation in class activities significantly increased. Students were encouraged to voice their viewpoints more actively through interactive exercises like role plays, debates, and group discussions. Competency-based lessons provided opportunity for meaningful communication, in contrast to traditional lessons where students primarily listened to the teacher.

Second, pupils' self-assurance in speaking significantly increased. Speaking in a foreign language initially caused fear for many students. They were able to overcome this fear and gain more self-confidence, though, with consistent practice through communicative activities. Third, students' capacity to utilize language in authentic contexts was enhanced by the competency-based approach. Students practiced using language abilities in real-world situations including presentations, interviews, and problem-solving discussions rather than memorizing discrete vocabulary and grammar rules.

The rise in pupils' motivation to acquire the language was another significant outcome. Students found competency-based projects more interesting and pleasurable because they are frequently participatory and collaborative. Better speaking performance and more active learning were the results of this enhanced drive.

Overall, the findings show that competency-based teaching strategies produce a productive learning environment that fosters the growth of speaking and communication ability.

## **DISCUSSION**

The results of this study support the increasing significance of competency-based education in the instruction of foreign languages. The ability to apply knowledge in real-world contexts is just as important in today's educational institutions as knowledge acquisition. The competency-based approach is consistent with the concepts of communicative language teaching, which emphasize real-world communication and meaningful involvement. This method aids in bridging the gap between theoretical understanding and real-world language use by involving students in genuine speaking assignments. Additionally, competency-based learning fosters the growth of a number of critical abilities outside of speaking. As they engage in communication activities, students develop their critical thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving skills. These abilities are necessary for success in both professional and academic settings.

## **CONCLUSION**

To sum up, the competency-based approach is essential for enhancing students' speaking abilities in higher education. Unlike traditional teaching methods that emphasize theoretical knowledge, this approach focuses on developing practical communication abilities. According to the study, competency-based learning boosts

students' enthusiasm, engagement, and self-assurance when speaking a foreign language. Discussions, role plays, and presentations are examples of interactive teaching techniques that give students important chances to practice communication in authentic settings. Additionally, competency-based education fosters the growth of critical thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving abilities in pupils. These competencies are necessary for successful academic performance and future professional careers. Higher education institutions ought to actively integrate competency-based methods into their foreign language instruction programs in light of these benefits. Instructors should provide communicative exercises that motivate students to utilize language actively and improve their speaking skills. In the end, implementing competency-based teaching techniques can greatly improve language instruction's efficacy and equip students for effective communication in the global community.

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