

IMPORTANCE OF COMPETENT BASED APPROACH SO AS TO IMPROVE LISTENING SKILLS OF STUDENTS AT HIGHER EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

The improvement of listening abilities is seen as a crucial part of communicative ability in contemporary foreign language instruction. However, a lack of efficient teaching methodologies makes it difficult for many students in higher education institutions to grasp spoken English. Listening skills are typically neglected in favor of grammar and reading exercises in traditional language instruction approaches. In this regard, the competency-based approach has become a successful teaching method for enhancing students' practical language skills. This study aims to investigate the significance of the competency-based approach in improving students' listening abilities in higher education. The study examines how competency-based teaching approaches enhance understanding, encourage active learning, and assist students in using listening techniques in everyday conversation. A range of interactive, student-centered activities, including problem-solving listening exercises, group projects, and actual audio resources, were used to assist the development of listening skills. The results demonstrate that the competency-based approach significantly enhances students' motivation, listening comprehension, and ability to comprehend spoken content under a variety of conditions. This approach also encourages students to develop unique learning strategies and improves their general language abilities. The findings show that using competency-based methods in foreign language instruction can significantly improve students' listening abilities in higher education.

Key words: competency-based approach, listening skills, foreign language teaching, communicative competence, higher education, listening comprehension, student-centered learning

INTRODUCTION

Foreign language proficiency is becoming a basic prerequisite for students attending higher education institutions in the current global educational environment. Of the four language skills—speaking, listening, reading, and writing—listening is essential to communication because it helps students comprehend spoken words and react correctly in everyday circumstances. Since learners must first understand spoken input before they can properly produce language, listening is frequently seen as the cornerstone of language acquisition.

Even with its significance, listening is still one of the hardest things for foreign language learners to do. Fast speech rates, foreign terminology, and accents are some of the reasons why many students find it difficult to comprehend actual speech.

Modern educational institutions are progressively implementing cutting-edge teaching strategies that emphasize the development of practical skills in order to overcome these issues. The competency-based approach, which stresses the development of learners' capacities to apply information and skills in real-life circumstances, is one of the most successful strategies. This method of teaching foreign languages emphasizes the development of communicative competence, which includes critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and listening comprehension.

The typical teacher-centered classroom becomes a student-centered learning environment thanks to the competency-based approach. Students actively engage in a variety of educational activities that call for them to evaluate, comprehend, and react to spoken language. These exercises could involve listening to genuine audio recordings, taking part in conversations, working together on projects, and resolving communication issues that arise in everyday life.

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METHODS

The usefulness of the competency-based approach in enhancing students' listening 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. Theoretical and empirical research on competency-based education and the development of listening skills was examined using the literature review approach. To determine the key tenets and methods of competency-based language instruction, a variety of scholarly books, scientific journals, and educational research papers were examined.

Second, a higher education institution's foreign language classes were observed in the classroom. Competency-based teaching techniques were used to improve students' listening abilities during the observation process. Participating in group conversations, filling in information gaps, listening to real audio materials, and

completing listening-based tasks were some of these tactics. Third, the distinctions between competency-based listening activities and traditional listening teaching were assessed by comparative analysis. Participation, listening comprehension, and student involvement were evaluated between various teaching strategies.

In order to learn how students felt about competency-based listening exercises, student input was also gathered. Students discussed how these techniques helped them become more motivated learners and improve their listening comprehension.

Combining these research techniques gave researchers a thorough understanding of how the competency-based approach affects listening skills development in higher education.

RESULTS

The study's conclusions show that the competency-based approach greatly enhances students' listening abilities when learning a foreign language. Throughout the investigation, a number of significant findings were discovered.

First, when students were exposed to real listening materials, their listening comprehension improved. Instead of just identifying individual words, competency-based exercises forced students to concentrate on comprehending spoken messages. Students' ability to understand spoken language in context improved as a result.

Second, during competency-based listening exercises, students showed increased levels of participation and interest. Students were encouraged to actively digest and analyze the hearing content through interactive activities like group discussions, cooperative problem-solving, and information-gap exercises.

Third, the study showed that competency-based learning aids students in creating efficient listening techniques. Pupils gained knowledge about how to anticipate content, recognize important concepts, and deduce meaning from context. They were better able to comprehend difficult spoken material thanks to these techniques.

An other noteworthy outcome was the rise in students' drive to enhance their listening abilities. Compared to conventional listening exercises, many students said that competency-based activities were more engaging and significant. Real-world communication situations and authentic audio resources make the learning process more interesting and applicable.

Overall, the findings show that competency-based teaching strategies foster the growth of listening skills and improve students' comprehension of spoken language.

DISCUSSION

The study's findings demonstrate how well the competency-based approach helps college students improve their listening abilities. Contemporary educational paradigms prioritize the development of practical competences that allow students to perform well in real-life scenarios in addition to the acquisition of theoretical knowledge.

The competency-based approach is in line with communicative language teaching's tenets, which place an emphasis on genuine communication and meaningful connection. Students are exposed to actual language use and improve their ability to interpret spoken information when real-life listening assignments are incorporated into classroom activities.

However, there can be certain difficulties in putting competency-based listening instruction into practice. Instructors must carefully choose audio resources that are appropriate for the language proficiency levels of their students. Additionally, it takes considerable preparation and imagination to create competency-based assignments that work.

The benefits of competency-based learning are substantial in spite of these difficulties. It encourages involvement, enhances listening comprehension, and gets pupils ready for communication scenarios in the real world.

Thus, the quality of language instruction can be greatly enhanced and students' listening skills can be strengthened by incorporating competency-based teaching techniques into foreign language curriculum.

CONCLUSION

To sum up, the competency-based approach is essential for raising students' listening proficiency in higher education. This approach emphasizes the actual application of language abilities through interactive and student-centered activities, in contrast to traditional teaching techniques that prioritize passive learning. The study shows that competency-based listening instruction improves students' motivation, listening comprehension, and involvement in the educational process. Students learn how to comprehend spoken language in many circumstances through cooperative learning activities and real-world listening assignments. Additionally, the competency-based approach encourages individual learning and assists students in developing critical learning methods. Both academic achievement and successful communication in professional settings depend on these abilities.

Higher education institutions should aggressively include competency-based teaching approaches into their language programs because listening skills are crucial for communicating in foreign languages. Instructors should create listening exercises that motivate students to actively participate in spoken language and use their listening abilities in relevant situations. All things considered, the competency-based approach is a useful foundation for raising listening skills and boosting the efficacy of teaching foreign languages.

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