

THE ROLE OF APPLIED LINGUISTICS IN SOLVING LANGUAGE TEACHING PROBLEMS

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Abstract: This article examines the role of applied linguistics in solving major problems in language teaching. It focuses on the practical relationship between linguistic theory and classroom reality, showing how applied linguistics helps teachers understand learner difficulties more effectively. Special attention is given to such areas as error analysis, communicative competence, instructional materials, discourse awareness, and language assessment. The article also discusses the importance of using learner-centered and evidence-based approaches in foreign language teaching. The analysis demonstrates that applied linguistics provides valuable tools for identifying learning problems, improving teaching methods, and developing students' ability to use language appropriately in real communicative situations. As a result, applied linguistics is presented as one of the key scientific foundations of modern language education.

Keywords: applied linguistics, language teaching, error analysis, communicative competence, methodology

Аннотация: В данной статье рассматривается роль прикладной лингвистики в решении основных проблем обучения языку. Особое внимание уделяется связи между лингвистической теорией и практикой преподавания. Анализируются такие направления, как анализ ошибок, коммуникативная компетенция, учебные материалы, дискурс и языковое оценивание. В статье подчеркивается, что прикладная лингвистика помогает выявлять трудности учащихся, совершенствовать методы преподавания и формировать навыки реального общения. Делается вывод о том, что прикладная лингвистика является одной из важнейших научных основ современного языкового образования.

Ключевые слова: прикладная лингвистика, обучение языку, анализ ошибок, коммуникативная компетенция, методика

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada amaliy lingvistikaning til o'qitishdagi asosiy muammolarni hal etishdagi o'rni yoritiladi. Unda lingvistik nazariya va dars jarayoni o'rtasidagi amaliy bog'liqlik ko'rsatib beriladi. Xususan, xatolar tahlili, kommunikativ kompetensiya, o'quv materiallari, diskurs tahlili va baholash masalalariga alohida e'tibor qaratiladi. Maqolada amaliy lingvistika o'quvchi qiyinchiliklarini aniqlash, o'qitish metodlarini takomillashtirish hamda real muloqot ko'nikmalarini rivojlantirishda muhim vosita ekanligi asoslab beriladi. Natijada, amaliy lingvistika zamonaviy til ta'limining muhim ilmiy asoslaridan biri sifatida talqin qilinadi.

Kalit so'zlar: amaliy lingvistika, til o'qitish, xatolar tahlili, kommunikativ kompetensiya, metodika

Introduction

Applied linguistics is one of the most important branches of modern linguistics because it connects theoretical knowledge about language with real practical needs. While theoretical linguistics focuses on the structure and nature of language, applied linguistics is concerned with the use of linguistic knowledge in solving actual problems related to language learning, teaching, translation, communication, and assessment. Among these areas, language teaching occupies a particularly significant place.

In the modern educational process, teaching a foreign language is no longer limited to the presentation of grammar rules and vocabulary items. It requires a broader understanding of how language is learned, what difficulties learners face, and which methods can help them achieve communicative success. For this reason, applied linguistics has become highly relevant for teachers, researchers, and curriculum designers. It offers practical solutions to classroom problems and helps improve the quality of language education [1].

The relevance of this topic is connected with the growing need for effective foreign language instruction in higher education and professional development. Many students study English for academic, social, and career purposes, yet they often experience difficulties in speaking, listening, writing, and using the language appropriately in real-life situations. These difficulties show that successful teaching requires not only intuition or experience, but also scientific analysis and linguistically grounded methods.

The aim of this article is to examine the role of applied linguistics in solving language teaching problems. The objectives are to explain the practical scope of applied linguistics, to discuss several common problems in language teaching, and to show how linguistic analysis can support more effective classroom practice.

Literature Review and Methodology

Applied linguistics has been studied by many scholars from different perspectives. Researchers such as H. G. Widdowson, Rod Ellis, Diane Larsen-Freeman, and other specialists have shown that language teaching becomes more effective when it is based on linguistic evidence, learner needs, and communicative goals. Their works demonstrate that applied linguistics includes such areas as second language acquisition, language testing, discourse analysis, sociolinguistics, error analysis, corpus linguistics, and language policy [2].

One of the most influential ideas in applied linguistics is that language learning should be studied as a real process rather than as a simple accumulation of grammar knowledge. Students do not learn a language in a straight line. They make errors, develop hypotheses, test them in communication, and gradually improve their performance. Therefore, learner language should not be seen only as a set of mistakes. It should be understood as a developing system which can provide important information for teaching.

This article is based on descriptive and analytical methods. The descriptive method is used to explain the practical nature of applied linguistics and its major areas related to language teaching. The analytical method is used to examine common classroom problems and interpret them from the perspective of linguistic and pedagogical practice.

Methodology

This article is based on **descriptive** and **analytical** methods. The descriptive method is used to explain the nature of applied linguistics and identify its main areas that are directly connected with language teaching. It helps present the theoretical and practical scope of the field in a clear and systematic way.

The analytical method is used to examine common classroom problems and interpret them from the perspective of linguistic and pedagogical practice. This method makes it possible to analyze learner errors, communicative difficulties, material selection, and assessment practices in order to show how applied linguistics can contribute to solving them. The article also relies on the interpretation of scholarly ideas and examples taken from language teaching practice.

Discussion and Results

One of the central contributions of applied linguistics to language teaching is the analysis of learner difficulties. In many classrooms, students struggle with pronunciation, vocabulary choice, grammatical accuracy, fluency, listening comprehension, and pragmatic appropriateness. These problems may appear at different levels and may have different causes. Some are connected with interference from the mother tongue, some with insufficient exposure to authentic language, and others with ineffective teaching strategies.

Error analysis is one of the practical tools offered by applied linguistics. Instead of treating every learner error as a failure, this approach studies errors systematically in order to understand their source and function. For example, if students regularly produce sentences such as *He go to school every day* or *She can sings well*, these errors can reveal incomplete grammatical acquisition rather than simple carelessness. By analyzing patterns of error, teachers can identify which areas require more focused explanation and practice [3].

Another important area is communicative competence. Applied linguistics emphasizes that language teaching should not focus only on correctness in isolation. Learners need to know how to use language appropriately in different communicative situations. This includes grammatical competence, sociolinguistic competence, discourse competence, and strategic competence. A student may know grammar rules but still fail to communicate effectively if they do not understand how language functions in real contexts.

For instance, a learner may translate a request directly from their native language into English and produce an utterance that is grammatically understandable but pragmatically unsuitable. In such a case, the problem is not only linguistic form but also communicative usage. Applied linguistics helps teachers see these deeper aspects of language performance and design activities that develop not only language knowledge but also language use.

Instructional materials also play an important role in solving teaching problems. Applied linguistics supports the idea that materials should be selected according to learners' needs, goals, and proficiency levels. A textbook may be grammatically well organized, but if it does not reflect authentic communication or does not respond to learners' actual difficulties, its effectiveness remains limited. From the perspective of applied linguistics, materials should present language in meaningful context, include realistic tasks, and support interaction rather than memorization alone [4].

The communicative approach in language teaching is closely related to applied linguistics. This approach developed as a response to earlier methods that paid too much

attention to form and too little attention to meaning. Applied linguistics contributed to the understanding that language is not just a system of structures but also a tool of social interaction. Therefore, students should be encouraged to participate in dialogues, problem-solving tasks, information-gap activities, and other communicative exercises which help them use language actively.

Another valuable aspect is the role of discourse analysis and sociolinguistics in teaching. Students need to understand that language changes depending on the situation, the speaker, the listener, and the social context. Formal speech, informal conversation, academic writing, and online communication all have different linguistic features. Applied linguistics helps identify these differences and integrate them into teaching practice so that learners become more flexible and context-aware users of language.

Modern applied linguistics also includes corpus-based and technology-supported approaches. Digital tools, learner corpora, online dictionaries, pronunciation platforms, and language learning applications can support more individualized and evidence-based teaching. However, technology alone is not enough. Its value depends on how well it is connected with linguistic principles and educational goals. Applied linguistics provides this connection by showing how language data can be used to improve instruction rather than simply increase activity.

In addition, applied linguistics has a strong role in language assessment. Testing should not measure isolated knowledge only; it should also evaluate actual communicative ability. This idea has influenced modern approaches to language exams, speaking tasks, writing assessment, and listening evaluation. When assessment reflects real language use, it becomes more useful both for students and teachers. It shows not only what learners know, but what they can do with language in practice [5].

The analysis shows that applied linguistics plays a major role in solving language teaching problems. It helps explain learner errors, supports the development of communicative competence, improves instructional materials, and contributes to more meaningful assessment. It also connects linguistic theory with pedagogical practice and offers teachers a clearer understanding of language learning processes.

The discussion also demonstrates that applied linguistics is not limited to one method or one area of study. It combines insights from second language acquisition, discourse analysis, sociolinguistics, language testing, and educational methodology. Because of this interdisciplinary nature, it remains one of the most practical and necessary fields in modern language education.

Conclusion

In conclusion, applied linguistics has an essential place in solving language teaching problems. It helps teachers understand how students learn, why they make errors, and what methods can support better learning outcomes. It also broadens the goals of language teaching by emphasizing communication, context, learner needs, and practical language use.

The significance of applied linguistics lies in its problem-solving orientation. It does not remain at the level of abstract theory, but transforms linguistic knowledge into classroom practice. Therefore, in modern foreign language education, applied linguistics should be considered one of the main scientific foundations for effective teaching and successful learning.

Moreover, the study shows that applied linguistics is especially valuable in today's educational environment, where language teaching requires flexibility,

innovation, and scientific support. As learners' needs continue to change, teachers must rely on approaches that are both theoretically informed and practically effective. In this regard, applied linguistics not only explains language teaching problems but also offers realistic ways to overcome them, which makes it indispensable for the future development of language education.

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