

## DEVELOPING LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL THROUGH LISTENING AND SPEAKING SKILLS

**Ahmedova Sabrina  
Choriyeva Surayyo**

Uzbekistan State World Languages University

English Philology Student

ahmedovasabrina05@gmail.com

[surayyochoriyeva421@gmail.com](mailto:surayyochoriyeva421@gmail.com)

Scientific advisor: **Mannonova S.A.**

**Abstract.** Linguistic competence is a fundamental element of language learning, which includes not only knowledge of vocabulary and grammar but also the ability to use language effectively in communication. In middle school education, the development of linguistic competence through listening and speaking activities plays a significant role in forming well-rounded language learners. This article examines the importance of listening and speaking in enhancing students' linguistic competence, with particular attention to interactive learning strategies, listening comprehension practices, and the development of oral communication skills.

**Keywords:** Linguistic competence, listening skills, speaking skills, task-based learning, communicative classroom, language development.

**Annotatsiya.** Lingvistik kompetensiya til o'rganishning fundamental elementi bo'lib, u nafaqat lug'at boyligi va grammatika haqidagi bilimlarni, balki tildan muloqotda samarali foydalanish qobiliyatini ham o'z ichiga oladi. O'rta maktab ta'limida tinglab tushunish va gapirish faoliyati orqali lingvistik kompetensiyani rivojlantirish har tomonlama shakllangan til o'rganuvchilarni tayyorlashda muhim o'rin tutadi. Ushbu maqolada talabalarning lingvistik kompetensiyasini oshirishda tinglash va gapirishning ahamiyati o'rganiladi; bunda interfaol o'qitish strategiyalari, tinglab tushunish amaliyotlari va og'zaki nutq ko'nikmalarini rivojlantirishga alohida e'tibor qaratiladi.

**Tayanch so'zlar:** lingvistik kompetensiya, tinglash ko'nikmalari, gapirish ko'nikmalari, vazifalarga asoslangan ta'lim, kommunikativ dars xonasi, til rivojlanishi.

**Аннотация.** Лингвистическая компетенция является фундаментальным элементом изучения языка, который включает в себя не только знание лексики и грамматики, но и способность эффективно использовать язык в процессе коммуникации. В среднем школьном образовании развитие лингвистической компетенции через аудирование и говорение играет значительную роль в формировании всесторонне развитых учащихся. В данной статье рассматривается важность аудирования и говорения в повышении лингвистической компетенции учащихся, при этом особое внимание уделяется стратегиям интерактивного обучения, практике понимания на слух и развитию навыков устной речи.

**Ключевые слова:** лингвистическая компетенция, навыки аудирования, навыки говорения, обучение на основе заданий, коммуникативный класс, развитие языка.

### **Introduction.**

In middle school education, learning a language is not limited to acquiring new vocabulary or memorizing grammatical structures. It involves the development of linguistic competence, which refers to the ability to understand and produce language effectively in a variety of contexts. This competence includes both receptive skills, such as listening, and productive skills, such as speaking. These skills are essential because they allow learners to comprehend spoken language and express their thoughts clearly and appropriately. Listening and speaking are closely interrelated in the process of language development. Strong listening comprehension provides the basis for effective speaking, as learners must first understand language input before expressing their own ideas. At the same time, regular speaking practice allows students to actively use the vocabulary and grammatical structures they have learned, thereby strengthening their linguistic competence. Maintaining a balance between listening and speaking is especially important in middle school, as it helps students develop fluent and confident communication skills.

#### **The Role of Listening in Developing Linguistic Competence.**

Listening is sometimes perceived as a passive skill; however, it is a crucial component of linguistic competence. Through listening, students are exposed to authentic language, accurate pronunciation, and natural grammatical structures.

Vandergrift, L. (2007)

#### **The Role of Listening in Developing Linguistic Competence.**

Listening is sometimes perceived as a passive skill; however, it is a crucial component of linguistic competence. Through listening, students are exposed to authentic language, accurate pronunciation, and natural grammatical structures. According to Vandergrift (2007), listening comprehension supports learners in developing an internal understanding of how language functions in real communication. In middle school classrooms, listening activities should extend beyond traditional exercises such as dictation or simple comprehension questions.

Instead, teachers should incorporate authentic materials, including podcasts, interviews, and short videos, which present language in meaningful contexts. Such activities enable students to recognize intonation patterns, stress, and rhythm, contributing to a deeper understanding of spoken language.

#### **Interactive Approaches to Developing Listening and Speaking Skills.**

To effectively build linguistic competence, middle school classrooms should emphasize interactive methods that integrate both listening and speaking. Several strategies can be used to achieve this goal:

##### **Group Discussions and Debates:**

Encouraging students to take part in structured discussions on relevant topics helps improve both listening and speaking abilities. By listening to different viewpoints and expressing their own opinions, students enhance their critical thinking and communication skills.

##### **Role Plays and Simulations:**

Role-playing activities, in which students act out real-life situations, support the development of spontaneous language use. For example, students may simulate situations such as ordering food, conducting an interview, or planning a trip. These activities provide valuable opportunities to practice dialogue and interaction.

##### **Storytelling and Narratives:**

Storytelling tasks encourage students to organize their ideas logically, use appropriate grammatical structures, and present information clearly. This approach not only develops speaking skills but also expands vocabulary and promotes creativity.

#### **Listening Activities with Follow-up Speaking Tasks:**

After completing a listening task, students can engage in speaking activities such as summarizing, answering questions, or discussing key points. This combination reinforces comprehension and encourages active language production.

Creating a communicative classroom environment is essential for the successful development of listening and speaking skills. Teachers should provide opportunities for pair and group work that promote real-life language use. According to Long (1985), communicative approaches to language teaching focus on interaction and the practical use of language in everyday situations. Additionally, learners should be encouraged to participate in peer-to-peer communication to further strengthen their speaking confidence and competence in the practical use of language in everyday situations. Additionally, learners should be encouraged to participate in peer-to-peer communication to further strengthen their speaking confidence and competence.

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