

THE IMPORTANCE OF COMPREHENSION SKILLS IN LEARNING LANGUAGES

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Abstract. Comprehension skills are among of the most important parts of learning a language because they help students grasp what they hear and read, make sense of it, and communicate better. In language education, comprehension encompasses both reading and listening; these two receptive abilities serve as the basis for the progressive development of speaking and writing. Studies on second language acquisition have demonstrated that prolonged comprehension-focused practice can facilitate broader language development. Additionally, research on second-language reading reveals that vocabulary knowledge, decoding, and listening comprehension are intricately connected to effective text comprehension. Recent research indicates that listening comprehension is not only an academic talent but a significant predictor of total language development, particularly when learners engage with academic language. This thesis contends that comprehension skills are essential to language acquisition as they facilitate vocabulary expansion, enhance grammatical understanding, cultivate communicative competence, and reinforce learner autonomy. It also says that language classes should focus more on listening and reading exercises that are focused on strategies, meaningful input, and comprehension problems that are built on each other.

Keywords: abilities for understanding, learning a language, reading comprehension, listening comprehension, learning a second language, and being able to communicate.

Аннотация. Навыки понимания являются одними из важнейших составляющих изучения языка, поскольку они помогают учащимся понимать то, что они слышат и читают, осмысливать это и лучше общаться. В языковом образовании понимание включает как чтение, так и аудирование; эти два рецептивных навыка служат основой для постепенного развития говорения и письма. Исследования в области усвоения второго языка показали, что длительная практика, ориентированная на понимание, может способствовать более широкому языковому развитию. Кроме того, исследования чтения на втором языке показывают, что знание словарного запаса, декодирование и понимание на слух тесно связаны с эффективным пониманием текста. Последние исследования показывают, что понимание на слух является не только академическим навыком, но и важным показателем общего языкового развития, особенно когда учащиеся работают с академическим языком. В данной работе утверждается, что навыки понимания имеют решающее значение для усвоения языка, поскольку они способствуют расширению словарного запаса, улучшают понимание грамматики, развивают коммуникативную компетенцию и укрепляют самостоятельность

учащегося. Также подчеркивается, что на занятиях по языку следует уделять больше внимания стратегиям чтения и аудирования, осмысленному языковому материалу и поэтапно выстроенным заданиям на понимание.

Ключевые слова: навыки понимания, изучение языка, понимание прочитанного, понимание на слух, усвоение второго языка, коммуникативная компетенция.

Annotatsiya. Tushunish ko'nikmalari til o'rganishning eng muhim tarkibiy qismlaridan biridir, chunki ular o'quvchilarga eshitgan va o'qigan materiallarini anglash, mazmunini tushunish hamda samaraliroq muloqot qilishga yordam beradi. Til ta'limida tushunish o'qish va tinglab tushunishni o'z ichiga oladi; bu ikki retseptiv ko'nikma gapirish va yozishning bosqichma-bosqich rivojlanishi uchun asos bo'lib xizmat qiladi. Ikkinchi tilni o'zlashtirish bo'yicha tadqiqotlar shuni ko'rsatadiki, tushunishga yo'naltirilgan muntazam mashq kengroq til rivojlanishiga yordam berishi mumkin. Bundan tashqari, ikkinchi tilda o'qishni o'rganishga oid izlanishlar lug'at boyligi, dekodlash va tinglab tushunish samarali matnni tushunish bilan chambarchas bog'liq ekanini ko'rsatadi. So'nggi tadqiqotlar tinglab tushunish nafaqat akademik ko'nikma, balki umumiy til rivojlanishining muhim ko'rsatkichi ekanini, ayniqsa o'quvchilar akademik tildan foydalanganda, tasdiqlaydi. Ushbu tezis tushunish ko'nikmalari tilni o'zlashtirishda nihoyatda muhim ekanini ta'kidlaydi, chunki ular lug'at boyligini kengaytiradi, grammatik tushunchani yaxshilaydi, kommunikativ kompetensiyani rivojlantiradi va o'quvchi mustaqilligini mustahkamlaydi. Shuningdek, unda til darslarida strategiyaga asoslangan o'qish va tinglash mashqlariga, mazmunli til materiallariga hamda bosqichma-bosqich tuzilgan tushunish topshiriqlariga ko'proq e'tibor qaratilishi kerakligi qayd etiladi.

Kalit so'zlar: tushunish ko'nikmalari, til o'rganish, o'qib tushunish, tinglab tushunish, ikkinchi tilni o'zlashtirish, kommunikativ kompetensiya.

INTRODUCTION

Learning a language is much more than simply acquiring vocabulary and grammar rules. A learner may know many separate structures; however, without the ability to interpret language in context, effective communication cannot be achieved. This highlights the crucial role of comprehension skills in second language acquisition. Comprehension enables learners to process linguistic input and transform it into meaningful and usable knowledge. As emphasized by Chaudron (1985) [1], comprehension and comprehensibility are central components in successful language learning.

Research in second language acquisition consistently shows that comprehension is not a passive process but an active construction of meaning. Learners actively interpret, analyze, and connect new information with prior knowledge. According to Jin (2024) [4], engaging with language input through strategies such as note-taking significantly enhances understanding and retention.

Reading comprehension and listening comprehension are the two primary types of comprehension skills, and they are closely interconnected. Reading allows learners to process language visually, recognize vocabulary, and understand text structure. Studies by Grabe (2012) [2] and Nation (2022) [7] demonstrate that vocabulary knowledge plays

a crucial role in reading comprehension, influencing both the depth and breadth of understanding.

Listening comprehension, on the other hand, requires real-time processing of language, making it one of the most challenging skills. Learners must recognize sounds, interpret intonation, and extract meaning quickly. Research conducted by Marx et al. (2017) [6] shows that listening comprehension includes both everyday and academic language skills, both of which are essential for overall language proficiency. Furthermore, Wigdorowitz et al. (2023) [9] found that even advanced learners face difficulties when listening tasks become cognitively demanding.

In addition, comprehension-based practice plays a significant role in overall language development. According to Trofimovich et al. (2009) [8], sustained exposure to listening and reading activities can improve not only comprehension but also pronunciation and speaking abilities, even with limited productive practice.

Comprehension skills are also closely linked to communicative competence. Without understanding input, learners cannot produce appropriate responses. As noted by Kormos (Cambridge Core) [5], cognitive factors such as working memory and language processing ability significantly affect comprehension and language performance.

Moreover, comprehension fosters learner autonomy. Students who can independently read and listen to authentic materials are less dependent on teachers or translation. This allows them to continue learning beyond the classroom environment. Research by Jin (2024) [4] further confirms that active engagement with input enhances independent learning skills.

Overall, comprehension skills form the foundation of language acquisition. They support vocabulary development, grammatical understanding, and effective communication. Therefore, language instruction should prioritize the development of both reading and listening comprehension through structured strategies and meaningful input, as supported by multiple studies in second language research [1–9].

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