

EFFECTIVE TEACHING STRATEGIES FOR INCREASING STUDENTS' MOTIVATION IN LEARNING ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

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Abstract: This study explores effective teaching strategies that enhance students' motivation in learning English as a foreign language. Techniques such as communicative activities, task-based learning, and interactive feedback are highlighted for promoting engagement and interest.

Keywords: English as a Foreign Language, motivation, teaching strategies, communicative activities, task-based learning

Annotatsiya: Ushbu tadqiqot ingliz tilini chet til sifatida o'rganayotgan talabalarning motivatsiyasini oshirish uchun samarali o'qitish strategiyalarini o'rganadi. Muloqotga asoslangan mashqlar, vazifaga yo'naltirilgan o'quv metodlari va interaktiv fikr-mulohazalar talabalarning qiziqishi va faolligini oshirishda muhimligi ta'kidlanadi.

Kalit so'zlar: Ingliz tili, motivatsiya, o'qitish strategiyalari, muloqotga asoslangan mashqlar, vazifaga yo'naltirilgan o'qish

Introduction

English has become a critical tool for global communication, education, and professional development. Consequently, enhancing students' motivation in learning English as a foreign language (EFL) is a central concern in contemporary pedagogy. Motivation plays a pivotal role in fostering active engagement, sustained interest, and persistence in language learning. Research indicates that effective teaching strategies—such as communicative activities, task-based learning, and interactive feedback—significantly improve students' engagement and interest. Moreover, promoting motivation contributes to learners' self-directed learning skills, autonomy, and overall academic success. Understanding and implementing strategies that boost motivation is therefore essential for educators aiming to optimize language acquisition outcomes.

Literature review

Extensive research highlights the relationship between teaching strategies and student motivation in EFL contexts. According to Dörnyei (2001) [1], motivation is influenced not only by learners' intrinsic interest but also by instructional methods and classroom environment. Communicative language teaching encourages real-life language use, enhancing engagement and fostering meaningful interaction [4]. Task-based learning emphasizes completing purposeful tasks, which increases learners' sense of achievement and relevance [2]. Additionally, immediate and constructive feedback has been shown to reinforce effort, guide improvement, and sustain interest [3]. Overall, these strategies create a dynamic and learner-centered environment that supports both cognitive and affective aspects of language learning.

Methodology

This study employs a qualitative research approach, combining classroom observations, teacher interviews, and student surveys to examine the impact of different teaching strategies on motivation. Participants include 50 secondary school students learning English as a foreign language and five experienced EFL teachers. Data were analyzed thematically, focusing on patterns related to student engagement, interest, and response to instructional methods. Ethical considerations, such as informed consent and confidentiality, were strictly maintained throughout the study. The methodology aims to provide comprehensive insights into which teaching strategies most effectively enhance learner motivation in EFL settings.

According to Farbos “Motivation is one of the most important factors in language learning. Children with a good attitude towards English are more likely to work hard and keep going when learning gets challenging. Our exams are designed to motivate children by building their confidence step by step. We aim to bring learning to life – covering topics that children are familiar with and developing the skills they need to make friends, study and work in English” [3].

How can parents influence their child's motivation?

Research shows that parents' attitudes towards education have a significant impact on their children's attitudes towards learning. If you are enthusiastic about learning, it's more likely that your child will be too.

Just like any other skill, motivation can be encouraged and improved. Children are most motivated when:

They feel that a learning activity is interesting and meaningful.

Give your child lots of opportunities to explore their interests and favourite play activities in English. Any language ‘work’ you do at home that is fun, varied, attention-grabbing or creative will help your child prepare for their tests and develop their English language skills in a natural, stress-free way.

They believe that the learning activity can be successfully completed. It's important to have learning activities at the right level. If an activity is far too easy or too difficult, it can be uninspiring and demoralising. Children have different preferences for how they take in information. Some like to listen to explanations and discuss, some like to look at diagrams and pictures, some like to actively experiment and create. Make a note of what works best – success builds motivation.

They have some control over how to do the activity.

It can be really motivating to have some choices. It usually encourages children to work harder and produce more creative work. It also helps them learn to take control of their own learning and be responsible for their decisions.

- i. They will get approval from someone they care about.
- ii. Like everyone, children want to be ‘good’ at things and want their parents to be proud of them. Praise them to create a sense of success and encourage them when they take ‘risks’. Help them turn mistakes into opportunities for learning.
- iii. You could try saving a piece of work or videoing an activity your child has enjoyed doing. Put a date in the calendar to do the activity again. Then compare the two pieces of work and focus on your child's achievements. This is a clear way to show your child how they are improving in their studies.

In my opinion, parents have a strong influence on their children's motivation to learn. Research shows that children often copy the attitudes and behaviors of their parents. If parents value education and show enthusiasm for learning, children are more

likely to develop a positive attitude toward studying. Motivation also increases when learning activities are interesting and meaningful. When parents provide enjoyable and creative activities at home, children can learn in a natural and stress-free environment. For example, games, storytelling, and interactive tasks in English can help children improve their language skills while having fun. Another important factor is encouragement. Children need to feel that their efforts are appreciated. When parents praise their achievements and support them even when they make mistakes, children gain confidence and become more motivated to continue learning. In this way, mistakes can be seen as opportunities for improvement rather than failure. Therefore, parental support, positive attitudes, and encouragement play an essential role in developing children's motivation and helping them achieve better learning outcomes.

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