

THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERACTIVE METHODS IN ENHANCING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT IN LANGUAGE TEACHING

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Abstract. In modern education, interactive teaching methods play a crucial role in enhancing the effectiveness of language learning. These approaches emphasize active student participation, communication, and collaboration, enabling learners to develop speaking, listening, and critical thinking skills. This article examines the importance of interactive methods in language teaching, highlighting their advantages, challenges, and impact on students' communicative competence. It also discusses the role of the teacher as a facilitator and the need for balanced integration of traditional and modern approaches.

Key words: interactive teaching, communicative competence, language learning, student engagement, collaborative learning, teaching methods

Annotatsiya. Zamonaviy ta'limda interaktiv o'qitish metodlari til o'rganish samaradorligini oshirishda muhim rol o'ynaydi. Ushbu yondashuvlar talabalarning faol ishtiroki, muloqoti va hamkorligini ta'minlab, ularning gapirish, tinglash va tanqidiy fikrlash ko'nikmalarini rivojlantiradi. Mazkur maqolada til o'qitishda interaktiv metodlarning ahamiyati, ularning afzalliklari, muammolari hamda o'quvchilarning kommunikativ kompetensiyasiga ta'siri tahlil qilinadi. Shuningdek, o'qituvchining fasilitator sifatidagi roli va an'anaviy hamda zamonaviy yondashuvlarni uyg'unlashtirish zarurati yoritiladi.

Kalit so'zlar: interaktiv o'qitish, kommunikativ kompetensiya, til o'rganish, o'quvchi faolligi, hamkorlikda o'rganish, o'qitish metodlari.

Introduction

In recent years, language education has undergone significant transformation. Traditional methods, which primarily focus on grammar rules and memorization, are no longer sufficient to meet the needs of modern learners [6]. Today's students require more engaging and practical approaches that allow them to use language in real-life contexts.

Interactive teaching methods have become one of the most effective ways to improve student engagement. These approaches are based on active participation, where learners are not passive recipients but active contributors to the learning process [7]. Activities such as group discussions, role plays, pair work, and problem-solving tasks encourage students to communicate more freely and confidently. Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) emphasizes the use of language for meaningful communication [4]. Interactive methods support this approach by creating opportunities for students to express ideas, share opinions, and engage in real-life scenarios. For

instance, role plays enable learners to practice everyday situations such as ordering food or asking for directions, making learning more practical and relevant.

Interactive teaching is not limited to classroom activities; it also involves a shift in the teacher's role. A modern teacher acts as a facilitator who guides students and creates a supportive learning environment [5]. Instead of simply delivering information, the teacher encourages learners to think critically, ask questions, and discover answers independently.

An effective teacher is flexible, creative, and responsive to students' needs. Such teachers adapt their strategies and foster a positive atmosphere where students feel comfortable expressing themselves without fear of making mistakes [4].

Collaboration and Student Development

Collaboration is a key element of interactive learning. When students work together, they learn not only from the teacher but also from their peers. Group activities promote teamwork, responsibility, and respect for diverse perspectives (Scrivener, 2011). Moreover, collaborative learning increases motivation and engagement, as students feel more involved in the process.

Challenges of Interactive Methods

Despite their advantages, interactive methods present certain challenges. Classroom management during group activities can be difficult, especially when students are unfamiliar with this approach. Some learners may feel shy or reluctant to participate. In such cases, teachers should provide clear instructions and create a supportive environment that encourages participation [3].

Assessment is another concern. Traditional tests may not accurately reflect students' communicative abilities. Therefore, alternative assessment methods such as presentations, projects, and oral tasks should be used to evaluate students more effectively [5].

Balancing Traditional and Interactive Approaches. While interactive methods are highly beneficial, they should be combined with traditional approaches. Grammar and vocabulary remain essential components of language learning, but they should be taught within a communicative context [4]. A balanced approach ensures more comprehensive learning outcomes.

Conclusion

Interactive teaching methods are essential for improving the quality of language education. They enhance student engagement, promote communication, and develop critical thinking skills. Although challenges exist, their benefits outweigh the difficulties. Teachers should continuously develop their professional skills and apply a variety of methods to create an effective learning environment. Ultimately, successful language teaching depends not only on what is taught but also on how it is taught.

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