

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SHADOWING TECHNIQUE TO IMPROVE STUDENTS’ SPEAKING PRONOUNCIATION PERFORMANCE AT UNIVERSITY LEVEL

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Annotation: *Establishing students’ pronunciation and speaking needs a promising instructional method. One of the teachers’ efforts to develop students’ pronunciation is applying the shadowing technique. The shadowing technique was able to facilitate students to practice pronunciation skills. This advanced technique used to improve oral translation skills, especially in interpreting and simultaneous translation. It involves listening to a spoken text in the source language and repeating it aloud simultaneously or with minimal delay. Below is a detailed overview of this method, including its applications and benefits.*

Key words: *Shadowing, pronunciation improvement, simultaneous, feedback, interpreting training, cognitive flexibility, focus and memory, skill development.*

INTRODUCTION

Shadowing, or echoing, is an imitation technique where one is imitating another speaker, or certain aspects or elements of someone else’s speech. Shadowing in English is one of the best ways to improve your English speaking skills as it helps improve pronunciation, intonation, and vocabulary. It can also help you unconsciously improve other things in English such as rhythm, stress, grammar, and more. The shadowing method has proven effective in improving the pronunciation and overall performance of EFL students. Research shows that shadowing, which involves repeating speech immediately after hearing it, helps learners enhance both fluency and pronunciation accuracy. Key studies suggest that shadowing improves segmental (individual sounds) and suprasegmental (intonation, rhythm, stress) aspects of speech.

For example, studies involving Japanese and Mexican EFL learners found that participants who engaged in regular shadowing sessions exhibited better control over stress, intonation, and fluency compared to control groups. In one study, Japanese learners demonstrated significant improvements in prosody and speech rate after participating in multiple shadowing sessions without scripts. Similarly, Mexican learners using shadowing as a supplementary exercise achieved higher fluency scores compared to their counterparts in traditional learning settings. Moreover, shadowing encourages active listening and immediate speech production, fostering better language retention. It also provides continuous exposure to authentic language patterns, which can be particularly beneficial for learners in non-immersive EFL environments.

How the Shadowing Method Works:

1. Listening and Repeating: The translator listens to an audio passage (in person or via recording) and repeats it in the same language as quickly as possible.
2. Simultaneous Practice: Advanced users try shadowing in the target language, performing simultaneous translation (interpreting while listening)
3. Continuous Feedback: Recording the shadowing session helps the translator review their pronunciation, fluency, and accuracy for later improvement.

Applications of the Shadowing Method

- Interpreting Training: This technique is especially useful for students of consecutive and simultaneous interpreting, as it trains the brain to multitask by processing and reproducing spoken language at the same time.
- Pronunciation Improvement: Shadowing helps improve pronunciation, intonation, and rhythm in both the source and target languages.
- Language Learning: Beyond translation, shadowing can be used by language learners to enhance listening comprehension and speech fluency.

Advantages of the Shadowing Method

- Real-Time Skill Development: Practicing simultaneous repetition improves the translator's ability to think and speak in real time.
- Cognitive Flexibility: Shadowing develops multitasking abilities, as translators must listen, process, and reproduce speech at once.
- Enhanced Focus and Memory: It improves attention to detail, memory retention, and fast decision-making, which are crucial in interpreting.

Challenges and Drawbacks

- Cognitive Load: Beginners may find it mentally exhausting since the brain has to listen, translate, and speak simultaneously.
- Requires Regular Practice: Success with shadowing demands consistent practice and self-assessment, which can be time-consuming.
- Accuracy Risks: There is a risk of errors in meaning or omissions if the translator struggles to keep pace with the speaker.

CONCLUSION

The shadowing method is an effective technique for developing interpreting skills, language proficiency, and real-time cognitive processing abilities. Although challenging at first, it is widely used in translation and interpreting programs as a way to build fluency, accuracy, and quick thinking in both languages.

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