



THE IMPORTANCE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING ENGLISH THROUGH SPEAKING

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ANNOTATION

In today's globalized world, the ability to communicate fluently in English has become one of the most important skills for students and professionals. Among the four language skills—listening, speaking, reading, and writing—speaking takes a central role because it directly reflects a learner's communicative competence. The process of teaching and learning English through speaking allows learners to actively practice the language, overcome communication barriers, and develop confidence in real-life situations. This article highlights the significance of speaking in English learning, methods of effective teaching, and innovative approaches that can enhance speaking skills in the modern classroom.

Keywords: Speaking, communication, interaction, methodology, fluency, dialogue, pronunciation, teaching strategies, role play, language competence.

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, English is recognized as the global language of business, science, and cultural exchange. Therefore, teaching and learning it cannot be limited to theoretical knowledge or grammar rules alone. Students must develop the ability to express their thoughts, opinions, and feelings in English effectively. Speaking plays a vital role in this process, since it encourages learners to put their language knowledge into practice.

Speaking skills are one of the most important skills we learn, as they allow us to communicate with others and express our thoughts and feelings. Speaking skills can be separated into formal and informal speaking skills, and we use both types of speaking skills in a variety of contexts throughout life.

Informal speaking skills are important for conversations with friends and family, helping us to form emotional connections. Formal speech, on the other hand, is necessary for workplaces, in presentations or for conversations with people you don't know. Formal language is important as it helps us to make a good impression on people and communicate politely.

MAIN PART

As an ESL or EAL student, speaking skills are considered the most important part of learning a language. In fact, many language learners measure their performance by how well they can speak it. As most effective foreign language learning takes place through interaction, it's a skill that can be honed to really build an understanding of the language and culture of English-speaking countries.

Yet it can be so easy to find speaking daunting or challenging. It isn't as straightforward as we may like. Teachers need to encourage students to speak as much as possible. They can make it as fun as the structure of their lessons will allow. This might be through role-play, group work or even projects.

The traditional methods of language teaching often concentrated on grammar and translation, which made students knowledgeable about rules but weak in communication. Modern methodology, however, places speaking at the center of language learning. Through speaking, students not only learn how to use vocabulary and grammar structures but also train themselves in pronunciation, intonation, and fluency. Speaking makes the classroom more interactive and student-centered, as learners engage in dialogues, discussions, role plays, and presentations.

One of the most effective ways of teaching English through speaking is the use of dialogical speech. In this method, students communicate with each other in pairs or groups, practicing real-life situations such as asking for directions, shopping, or debating on a topic. This approach develops quick reactions, creativity, and confidence. Role plays and simulations are also highly beneficial because they bring authenticity into the classroom and prepare learners for real communication beyond the academic setting.

Technology also supports the development of speaking skills. Watching movies, listening to podcasts, and participating in online discussions help learners adapt to different accents and speaking styles. Teachers can also use multimedia resources to create interactive tasks, which encourage students to speak more naturally.

Another important aspect of speaking is that it integrates the other language skills. For instance, listening is necessary for understanding conversations, reading helps students expand their vocabulary for discussions, and writing supports the organization of ideas before speaking. Therefore, teaching English through speaking promotes balanced language development.

Furthermore, speaking enhances students' self-confidence. Many learners feel anxious about using English, fearing mistakes or criticism. When teachers create a supportive environment with interactive activities, students gradually overcome these barriers and begin to speak more freely. Encouraging peer feedback and cooperative learning also increases motivation and engagement.

CONCLUSION

To sum up, teaching and learning English through speaking is of great importance in modern education. It helps learners achieve communicative competence, prepares them for real-life interactions, and makes the learning process more dynamic and meaningful. Teachers of the 21st century should move away from traditional passive methods and adopt interactive, innovative approaches that place speaking at the center of language learning. Only through constant practice and communication can learners truly master English and use it as an effective tool for global communication.

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