

MODERN METHODS OF TEACHING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

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The field: Philology and teaching languages: English

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18045019>

Abstract. This article examines modern methods and approaches used in the effective teaching of foreign languages. It also discusses the integration of innovative technologies into English language instruction. The primary aim of the paper is to underline the significance of contemporary techniques in improving the efficiency of intensive English teaching.

Keywords: Instructional techniques, student-focused approach, communication-based teaching strategies, cooperative learning, engaging methods, holistic approach.

Introduction

Our country's need for highly qualified specialists who can build business relationships and collaborate with international partners—while demonstrating strong professional foreign language competence—is clearly visible in university curricula. Today, foreign language proficiency is not limited to cultural enrichment; it has become a key requirement for professional achievement and career growth. Developing strong language skills during university education is therefore essential for attaining high levels of mastery. In many universities across the country, students are required to learn at least two foreign languages.

Over the last twenty years, English language teaching methods have undergone notable transformations. Approaches to English education continue to evolve, offering a variety of strategies for teaching foreign languages effectively. At present, English learning has become more student-oriented and time-efficient. For this reason, implementing modern teaching methodologies in foreign language instruction is crucial. These innovative techniques allow learners to grasp fundamental scientific and technological concepts more deeply and effectively.

Modern methods of teaching a foreign language focus on student-centered learning and real-world communication, moving away from traditional rote memorization. Key approaches include the **communicative method**, which uses language for practical communication, and **immersion**, which places learners in a natural, authentic environment. Additionally, modern techniques heavily integrate **technology**, such as virtual reality and AI for personalized learning, and use **task-based learning**, where students learn by completing activities.

1. Learner-Centered Approach

A key feature of modern teaching methods in basic science and technology (BST) is their focus on the learner. These methods emphasize the active participation of students during classroom and lab sessions. In this approach, the teacher takes on the role of a facilitator, while learners are fully engaged in the learning process. Students take a leading role in classroom interactions, making them central to the educational experience.

2. Task-Based or Activity-Based Learning

In basic science and technology (BST), the teacher or facilitator designs tasks or activities that encourage students to learn through participation. This approach is known as activity-

based or task-oriented learning. Students are invited to actively take part in classroom interactions by engaging in these interactive tasks.

3. Resource-Based Learning

Basic Science and Technology (BST) teachers are expected to be well-prepared with various instructional resources. They need to collect and provide all essential materials that help students understand lessons more easily. These resources may come from the school environment or any other available source. Students can also participate by bringing useful items or materials that support the learning process.

4. Interactive in Nature

A key characteristic of modern teaching methods is their emphasis on interaction. Teachers encourage learners to work together in pairs, small groups, or individually to complete tasks and reach specific objectives. This collaborative method enables students to exchange ideas, develop teamwork abilities, and build a sense of cooperation. Such activities also prepare them for practical, real-life situations outside the classroom.

5. Integrative in Nature

Another important element of modern teaching approaches is their integrative style. Teachers link concepts from one subject—such as social sciences—to related issues like drug abuse, domestic violence, safety, pollution, food distribution, and crime. This cross-subject connection helps learners broaden their understanding by exploring several topics while studying a single subject.

6. Peer Collaboration

Modern instructional methods motivate students by involving them in sharing ideas, answering questions, presenting findings, and taking active roles during BST lessons. Teachers also consider students' interests, needs, and emotions when forming groups or selecting participants. Through various classroom activities, learners develop cooperation skills and learn to appreciate each other's work. In BST and language classes, students' interests are given priority, guiding them toward their personal goals and future careers. Language teaching, in particular, focuses on promoting critical thinking and improving communication skills, supported by meaningful student-teacher interactions both inside and outside the classroom.

Modern teaching methods save time and help teachers cover the syllabus more efficiently. They also reduce the need for traditional blackboard instruction, making the overall teaching process smoother. Compared to blackboard explanations, modern tools—such as videos and animations—provide clearer, more engaging demonstrations.

The Principle of Mastering Foreign Language Culture Through Communication

The communicative approach is built on the belief that language should be learned through real communication. In this method, communication becomes a tool for teaching, learning, and personal growth. It is considered a social process where people exchange ideas and experiences that reflect both material and spiritual culture. Through communication, individuals interact emotionally and intellectually, influencing each other, which plays a vital role in effective learning.

Therefore, in communicative methodology, communication serves as the primary means for instruction, development, and education.

The process of learning foreign-language communication mirrors real-life dialogue, involving motivation, attention, information exchange, creativity, situational context, character

interaction, and the use of language tools. Together, these elements create a classroom environment that resembles real communication, helping learners acquire and apply speaking skills more effectively.

Learning a foreign language also means understanding its culture, which is complex and interconnected. This complexity appears in the unity of educational, cognitive, moral, and developmental aspects. Each aspect is equally important, and true proficiency can only be achieved when all of them develop together. Therefore, every exercise in the learning process integrates these four cultural components and is evaluated based on their presence.

The Principle of Structuring Foreign Language Education as an Integrated System:

This principle states that the communicative learning system is built in reverse order: first, the final goal is identified, and then the tasks needed to achieve this outcome are determined. This approach is applied to the entire course, each academic year, lesson cycles, and individual lessons. Such a structure ensures systematic instruction characterized by unity, hierarchy, and coherence.

Systematic learning depends on students mastering the rules of each component of language. Organizationally, the entire training process follows the principles of cyclicity and concentricity. Cyclicity means that a set amount of material is learned within a lesson cycle, where each cycle focuses on developing specific skills in all types of speech activities.

A systematic approach also includes a structured progression of language skills across several educational levels:

1. Educational levels – such as elementary, junior, middle, and senior stages.
2. Learning periods – organized into sequential steps according to the learner’s progress.
3. Stages of skill formation – including the development of vocabulary and grammar, as well as communicative competences.
4. Learning stages within these steps – such as substitution, transformation, reproduction, and combination activities. Each level has its own distinct features, shaped by the psychological and pedagogical characteristics of the learners. Therefore, the learning situation is not limited to typical speech contexts but also includes the broader context of educational activity and classroom interaction.

The Principle of Individualization in Foreign Language Learning

In the communicative approach, the learner is viewed as a unique individual. Each student possesses specific abilities—both general and language-related. Communicative learning focuses on identifying a student’s initial skill level and supporting their further development. This is achieved through specialized tools, such as diagnostic tests to assess abilities, and targeted exercises to enhance them. Through collaborative activities, students also cultivate personal qualities essential for effective communication and teamwork. In communicative language learning, joint activities are structured in a way that helps students understand their shared responsibility—each student’s contribution affects the success of the group. Combining communication with other types of activities brings the learning process closer to real-life communication, which often occurs alongside other tasks, not just for the sake of speaking. To help students effectively master all aspects of the foreign language, a system of support tools—like guidelines and targeted exercises—is provided. These help develop both language skills and the ability to learn independently, which reflects a personalized approach to learning. Importantly, the more independence a student gains, the more effectively they learn. For this

reason, communicative methods place strong emphasis on encouraging independent thinking, especially through discussions and problem-solving. Finally, autonomy is closely linked to assessment. In communicative teaching, control is gradually shifted—from teacher-led assessment to peer assessment, and finally to self-assessment. This includes both subtle (hidden) and conscious control, with students being taught to understand evaluation criteria and apply them themselves.

In conclusion, modern teaching methods play a vital role in creating an effective and learner-centered educational environment. Their emphasis on interaction, integration, communication, and systematic development helps students acquire knowledge more deeply and meaningfully. By using technological tools such as videos and animations, teachers can present information more clearly and efficiently, reducing time and increasing student engagement.

The communicative approach further strengthens the learning process by treating communication as a fundamental tool for teaching, learning, and personal growth. It fosters real-life language use through meaningful interaction, cultural understanding, and emotional-intellectual exchange. Likewise, structuring foreign language education as an integrated system ensures that learners progress step by step, mastering linguistic, cultural, and communicative skills in a cyclical and organized manner.

Therefore, modern methods not only support academic achievement but also prepare students for real-world communication, critical thinking, and lifelong learning. These approaches make education more purposeful, holistic, and aligned with the demands of contemporary society.

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