EFFECTIVE METHODS OF TEACHING ENGLISH TO YOUNG LEARNERS

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Abstract: This paper explores contemporary methodologies for teaching English to young learners, highlighting the ongoing evolution of instructional strategies in educational settings. The field of English language pedagogy has undergone significant advancements, integrating diverse approaches tailored to learners' cognitive and linguistic needs. By examining both traditional and innovative techniques, this study aims to identify the most effective strategies that foster engagement, comprehension, and long-term language retention. Furthermore, the discussion emphasizes the role of interactive, task-based, and technology-enhanced learning environments in optimizing the acquisition of English as a second language.

Keywords: pedagogical strategies, language acquisition, instructional techniques, cognitive development, interactive learning, learner engagement, digital tools.

Introduction.

Over the past few decades, English language teaching has experienced substantial transformations, incorporating a wide range of innovative

methodologies and pedagogical strategies. The rapid advancements in education, technology, and cognitive science have significantly influenced teaching practices, leading to the adoption of more dynamic and learner-centered approaches. These evolving methods aim to enhance students' linguistic competence by fostering interactive, engaging, and meaningful learning experiences. Among the most prominent approaches in modern English language teaching, two primary paradigms stand out. The first approach emphasizes a student-centered learning environment, where learners take an active role in their educational journey while teachers serve as facilitators. This method not only encourages self-directed learning but also promotes collaboration, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. The second approach, in contrast, follows a teacher-led instructional model, in which structured lessons, guided practice, and systematic assessment play a central role in shaping students' linguistic development. Both methods have their unique advantages and challenges, making it essential to explore their effectiveness in different learning contexts. This paper delves into the most effective methodologies for teaching English to young learners, analyzing how various instructional techniques influence language acquisition and long-term retention. By examining both traditional and contemporary approaches, this study aims to provide valuable insights into the best practices for enhancing English language education at the early stages of learning.

Main part

The second primary approach to teaching English encompasses a diverse array of instructional techniques, where in the teacher assumes a central role by assigning structured tasks and assessing students' progress. This teacher-led approach prioritizes the maximization of individual learning outcomes by providing clear guidance, well-organized content, and systematic evaluation. Among the most widely used traditional methods is the grammar-translation method, which

emphasizes the development of reading and writing skills through text-based exercises and grammar drills. In this approach, the students' native language plays a dominant role in facilitating comprehension, as translation is frequently used to reinforce understanding of English structures. Another significant methodology is the emotional-semantic approach, which is particularly beneficial for young learners. This method takes into account how children and adolescents perceive, interpret, and process information. Unlike the grammar-translation approach, the training method within this paradigm fosters independent learning by encouraging students to engage with structured materials, comprehend explanations, and reinforce knowledge through various interactive exercises. Students are typically provided with pre-designed instructional materials that are clearly explained by the teacher. Through this structured learning process, they acquire theoretical knowledge, memorize essential linguistic rules, and apply them in practice. This method is particularly effective in online learning environments, where students have access to well-organized programs that facilitate self-paced study. One of the key advantages of this approach is the availability of carefully curated digital resources, which systematically present information essential for enhancing English proficiency. In virtual learning settings, the use of texts, short stories, and fairy tales has proven to be an effective means of language acquisition. Additionally, students benefit from various exercises, listening activities, and translation tasks, which aid in developing both comprehension and retention skills. Furthermore, modern English language teaching incorporates several active learning techniques to engage students more effectively. These include:

- a round table where the teacher formulates a problem and offers students a task: to assess the significance of the problem, demonstrate all the pros and cons, determine the possible outcome, etc.

- brainstorming, which is aimed at discussing and solving a problem. When using this method, the audience is divided into two groups

– "idea generators" who propose ideas, and "experts" who, at the end of the "assault", evaluate the position of each "generator".

- a business game where the teacher prepares a game on the studied topic and explains the rules to the students. As a rule, the proposed tasks simulate tasks and situations of real communication, for example, finding and applying for a job, signing a contract, traveling, etc.

- a game-based technique has the advantage of being voluntary, which increases student engagement and interest. The teacher conducts a wide variety of vocabulary and grammatical construction games with the students, during which the children quickly memorize them and learn how to apply them in speech.

Thus, regardless of the method used to learn English at school, motivation plays a crucial role. Additionally, regularity and consistency are key to successful learning. Humanity is not merely a witness to a rapidly changing world but an active participant in the evolution of global culture, science, and technology. In this regard, studying global languages is essential. English, as one of the most widely spoken languages, serves as a second language for 40% of the world's population. Given the fact that English language teaching has been widespread in the educational technology market in recent years, the question, "What methods should be used to teach English?" has become increasingly relevant. In the past, English teaching primarily emphasized grammar. Much time was spent reading and translating texts, memorizing passages, and writing dictations—making the process tedious. Today, the educational services market is primarily shaped by consumer demand. According to S.G. Ter-Minasova, a leading expert in linguistics and foreign language teaching, "The study of foreign languages, especially English, is becoming increasingly relevant due to the functionalization of language teaching

and the acceleration of global integration. But modern language learners are not interested in the history or theory of language. English has become a necessity to meet their daily needs." Currently, students studying English are offered a number of methods. One of them is the fundamental method. It requires a minimum of 2-3 years of study and a thorough study of grammar. This method is mainly used in the training of professional translators, and by the end of the course students will be able to look at the world through the eyes of a native speaker. Based on this approach, language is studied as a comprehensive means of communication. Currently, the fundamental method retains its original purpose, though it faces competition from other methods. One of them is the linguosociocultural method. This method requires language learning in a social and cultural environment. Its supporters criticize students who focus on studying "dead" lexical and grammatical forms. In their opinion, "personality is a product of culture.

Conclusion

In conclusion, when teaching English to young learners, it is crucial to consider their cognitive abilities and age-appropriate learning strategies instead of viewing language acquisition as a regid requirement. By incorporating interactive activities and technology, we can establish a strong foundation for their language development. Education plays a fundamental role in shaping individuals in today's rapidly evolving world. Since English is one of the most widely spoken languages worldwide, modern teaching approaches must continually evolve to meet students' needs. The incorporation of innovative teaching methods, digital tools, and interactive learning strategies has greatly improved language education. To ensure successful learning outcomes, teachers should explore advanced techniques, incorporate multimedia tools, and encourage creative cooperation between students and educators. By doing so, the educational process can become more dynamic, fostering both language proficiency and critical thinking skills.

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