



THE ROLE OF FEEDBACK IN INTENSIVE LANGUAGE LEARNING

Students: Xalibekova Xoligul va Sunnatova Maftuna

*Senior lecturer at the Faculty of Foreign Languages at Jizzakh State
Pedagogical University (JDPU): Safarova Dildora Mamatovna*

*Students of the 3rd year, group 2m 741-22, specializing in Foreign
Language and Literature at the Faculty of Foreign Languages, Jizzakh State
Pedagogical University*

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Abstract: *mThis article explores the pivotal role of feedback in intensive language learning programs. It categorizes various types of feedback, including formative, summative, explicit, implicit, and source-based feedback (teacher, peer, and self-assessment), and examines how each contributes to language acquisition. The discussion highlights how immediate, clear, and balanced feedback accelerates learning, enhances motivation, and fosters learner autonomy in fast-paced environments. Best practices for providing effective feedback are outlined, emphasizing the importance of timely, personalized, and culturally sensitive responses. The article concludes by asserting that feedback remains a critical component of successful language education in both traditional and modern contexts.*

Introduction

Language learning is a complex process that involves the development of several interrelated skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. In recent years, the use of intensive language learning programs has grown significantly due to their effectiveness in promoting rapid progress. One of the key elements that contribute to the success of these programs is feedback. Feedback serves not only as a tool for correcting errors but also as a mechanism for motivation, guidance, and reflection.



This article explores the role of feedback in intensive language learning, its types, its impact on learners, and best practices for providing effective feedback.

Types of Feedback

Feedback in language learning can be broadly categorized into formative and summative feedback. Formative feedback is provided during the learning process and is aimed at helping learners improve continuously. It includes corrections, suggestions, and encouragement given in real-time. Summative feedback, on the other hand, is typically given at the end of a learning unit or course to evaluate learners' performance.

Another important distinction is between explicit and implicit feedback. Explicit feedback clearly indicates the error and provides the correct form, such as saying, "You should say went, not goed." Implicit feedback, however, is more subtle and often involves reformulation or recasting. For example, if a learner says, "She go to school," the teacher might respond, "Yes, she goes to school every day."

Feedback can also be classified based on its source: teacher feedback, peer feedback, and self-assessment. Each type has its benefits, and a combination often produces the best results in intensive learning settings.

The Importance of Feedback in Intensive Learning Environments

Intensive language programs are characterized by their high frequency of instruction and rapid pace. In such environments, feedback becomes even more critical. Since learners are exposed to large amounts of information in a short period, immediate and effective feedback helps reinforce correct usage and prevent fossilization of errors.

1. Accelerated Progress: Feedback allows students to quickly identify their mistakes and correct them, which leads to faster improvement.
2. Increased Motivation: Positive and constructive feedback boosts learners' confidence and encourages them to stay engaged.
3. Personalization: Feedback allows teachers to address individual learners' needs.



4. Promotes Autonomy: Through feedback, especially self- and peer-assessment, students learn to monitor their own learning.

Best Practices for Providing Effective Feedback

For feedback to be truly effective in an intensive language learning context, it must be:

- Timely: Immediate feedback is more likely to be remembered and internalized.
- Specific and Clear: Vague comments are less helpful than specific observations.
- Balanced: Effective feedback includes both praise and suggestions for improvement.
- Interactive: Feedback should invite reflection and dialogue.
- Culturally Sensitive: Teachers should adapt their feedback approach to learners' backgrounds.

Conclusion

Feedback plays a central role in intensive language learning by enhancing learner engagement, accelerating progress, and supporting individualized instruction. It is not merely a tool for correction but a powerful pedagogical strategy that facilitates active learning and long-term retention. For teachers and learners alike, understanding the dynamics of effective feedback can lead to more successful and fulfilling language learning experiences.

As language education continues to evolve, especially with the integration of technology and blended learning, the role of feedback will remain pivotal. Whether delivered in a classroom, online, or through AI-based applications, the quality and delivery of feedback will significantly influence learners' outcomes. Therefore, educators must continue to refine their feedback techniques to align with the goals of intensive and dynamic language learning environments.

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