

TEACHING METHODS FOR YOUNG ENGLISH TEACHERS IN UZBEKISTAN: TOWARD A MODERN, INTERACTIVE, AND CULTURALLY GROUNDED PEDAGOGY

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Abstract: In the context of Uzbekistan's ongoing educational reforms and its strategic orientation toward democratic development, the preparation and methodological support of young teachers play a vital role. This article explores effective teaching methods suitable for early-career educators, highlighting interactive approaches, game-based learning, and project-based methodologies as essential components for engaging modern students. It also considers the socio-cultural mission of education in Uzbekistan and reflects on how national values and global best practices can be integrated to enhance teaching quality.

Keywords: Young teachers, Uzbekistan, interactive teaching methods, project-based learning, game-based learning, pedagogical innovation, culturally responsive teaching, competency-based education, student engagement, educational reform

At the beginning of the 20th century, the Uzbek educator and reformist Abdullah Avloni famously stated, "Education for us is a matter of life or death, salvation or destruction, happiness or disaster." This idea remains profoundly relevant in present-day Uzbekistan, where nation-building is closely linked to the development of a forward-looking, intellectually capable, and morally sound generation. As the country aspires to join the ranks of developed and democratic states, the role of education—and by extension, the teachers who deliver it—is more critical than ever [1].

Young teachers today find themselves at the intersection of traditional educational values and innovative pedagogical demands. Their task is not only to impart academic knowledge but also to nurture students with high spiritual, moral, and civic consciousness. To fulfill this mission, young educators must be equipped with effective, modern teaching methodologies that foster student engagement, creativity, and critical thinking.

The Role of Interactive Methods in Modern Uzbek Classrooms

Interactive teaching methods have become a cornerstone of contemporary pedagogy. These approaches emphasize active student participation and meaningful engagement with lesson content. In contrast to passive memorization or unidirectional lectures, interactive methods turn the classroom into a dynamic environment where students are consistently involved in solving problems, discussing ideas, and reflecting

on their learning experiences [2].

For young teachers in Uzbekistan, adopting interactive teaching means not only applying specific techniques but also rethinking the structure and goals of each lesson. Lessons must be technologically designed, with careful attention to didactic strategies, student needs, and the learning objectives. This includes using group discussions, think-pair-share exercises, simulations, and question-answer formats to stimulate students' cognitive and communicative [3] .

The following general didactic principles should guide every lesson:

- Clear and purposeful lesson planning;
- Integration of ideological, ethical, and civic values;
- Relevance to real-life applications;
- Use of diverse teaching aids and multimedia tools;
- Engagement of all students through differentiated tasks;
- Continuous feedback and reflection.

These principles are aligned with the long-standing Uzbek pedagogical heritage, which emphasizes holistic development and deep respect for knowledge [4].

Game-Based Learning and Simulation Techniques

Game-based learning provides an effective tool for enhancing motivation and participation among schoolchildren, especially in language and social science subjects. Role-playing games, simulations, and competitive tasks not only entertain but also educate, allowing students to apply their knowledge in creative, problem-solving contexts.

In the contemporary educational landscape of Uzbekistan, where there is an urgent need to bridge theoretical knowledge with real-world skills, **Project-Based Learning (PBL)** stands out as a particularly effective and forward-looking teaching method. This approach not only enhances academic learning but also cultivates essential 21st-century competencies such as critical thinking, collaboration, time management, and communication. For young teachers—many of whom are navigating their initial years in the profession—PBL offers a practical and flexible framework to make lessons more meaningful and student-centered [5] .

What is Project-Based Learning?

PBL is a method in which students engage in extended inquiry, structured around complex, authentic questions or challenges, and work toward creating a tangible outcome. Unlike traditional rote-based education, where learners passively absorb facts, PBL empowers students to take ownership of their learning process. They explore topics in-depth, make decisions, analyze information, solve problems, and ultimately present their findings in a creative and public format.

In the context of Uzbekistan's national educational development goals, which emphasize independent thinking, active citizenship, and spiritual enrichment, PBL supports not only cognitive but also social and ethical growth. It aligns with the principles outlined in strategic documents such as the **National Program for Personnel Training** and the **Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan**, which call for learner-centered instruction and competence-based education [6].

Why Should Young Teachers Use PBL?

Young teachers often face the dual challenge of lacking classroom experience and seeking innovative ways to connect with the digital-native generation of learners. PBL addresses both these concerns:

- **Flexibility:** It allows teachers to adapt the topic and scope of the project based on student interest and ability.

- **Engagement:** Students are more likely to stay motivated when working on projects that have real-world significance and personal relevance.

- **Skill development:** Teachers can integrate academic content with practical skills such as public speaking, teamwork, and research techniques.

- **Language integration:** For foreign language teachers, projects naturally create a context for meaningful language use across listening, speaking, reading, and writing domains.

Implementation Tips for Young Teachers

1. **Start Small:** For beginners, it is advisable to start with mini-projects that span two to three lessons. As confidence and classroom management skills grow, more ambitious projects can be introduced [7].

2. **Set Clear Goals and Roles:** Students should understand what is expected from them and how the project will be assessed. Assigning roles (e.g., researcher, presenter, designer) helps maintain accountability within groups.

3. **Use Technology:** Online tools such as Canva, Google Docs, Padlet, or even smartphones can be incorporated to enhance the digital literacy component of the project [8].

4. **Connect to Curriculum Standards:** Projects should be aligned with the subject's learning objectives, ensuring that they supplement and reinforce the required knowledge and skills [9].

5. **Reflect and Evaluate:** After project completion, students should reflect on what they learned, what challenges they faced, and how they collaborated. Teachers should use rubrics to assess not only the final product but also the process, creativity, and teamwork.

Lessons as the Core of Pedagogical Practice

In Uzbekistan, the lesson remains the basic unit of instructional design. For young teachers, mastering the structure and methodology of effective lesson planning is fundamental. A well-designed lesson typically includes the following phases:

- Introduction and presentation of new material;
- Consolidation and reinforcement through practice;
- Application of knowledge via exercises or discussions;
- Assignment of meaningful homework tasks [10].

In this context, teaching is not a neutral act—it is a value-laden endeavor. Every lesson should reflect Uzbekistan's cultural identity, ethical heritage, and aspirations for peace, mutual respect, and international cooperation. Lessons that draw upon the rich pedagogical traditions of the Uzbek people can inspire students and give context to modern knowledge.

The future of Uzbekistan's education system lies in the hands of its young teachers. As the country progresses toward becoming a modern, democratic society, its classrooms must reflect both innovation and tradition. Interactive teaching methods, game-based learning, and project-oriented tasks offer effective tools for engaging students in meaningful learning experiences.

However, the success of these methods depends on the preparedness, creativity, and cultural awareness of teachers. Young educators must be empowered through continuous professional development, access to pedagogical resources, and mentorship. In doing so, they will not only teach content but shape the values, skills, and futures of the next generation of Uzbek citizens.

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