

TEACHER'S SPEECH AS A COMMUNICATIVE TOOL

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Abstract:

Teacher's speech plays a vital role as a communicative tool in the classroom, significantly influencing the effectiveness of the teaching-learning process. It encompasses both verbal and non-verbal elements such as tone, intonation, clarity, body language, and pacing, which help in delivering content, managing the classroom, and engaging students. A teacher's language choice, questioning strategies, and feedback methods are instrumental in fostering a supportive and interactive learning environment. Moreover, teacher talk aids in scaffolding students' cognitive and linguistic development, particularly in language learning settings. This paper explores the communicative functions of teacher speech, analyzing its impact on student participation, motivation, and comprehension. Emphasis is placed on the need for conscious and reflective use of speech by educators to optimize classroom communication and promote effective learning.

Keywords

Teacher talk, Classroom communication, Instructional language, Verbal interaction,

Non-verbal communication, Classroom management, Teacher-student interaction,

Pedagogical discourse, Feedback strategies, Educational communication,

Language modeling, Motivation through speech, Questioning techniques,
Discourse functions, Teacher effectiveness

Аннотация:

Речь учителя играет важную роль как коммуникативный инструмент в классе, значительно влияя на эффективность учебного процесса. Она включает как вербальные, так и невербальные элементы, такие как тон, интонация, четкость, язык тела и темп речи, которые помогают в передаче информации, управлении классом и вовлечении учащихся. Выбор языка, стратегии задавания вопросов и методы обратной связи, используемые учителем, способствуют созданию поддерживающей и интерактивной образовательной среды. Кроме того, речь учителя способствует когнитивному и языковому развитию учащихся, особенно в условиях изучения иностранного языка. В данной работе исследуются коммуникативные функции речи учителя, а также её влияние на участие учеников, мотивацию и понимание учебного материала. Особое внимание уделяется необходимости осознанного и рефлексивного использования речи педагогами для оптимизации общения в классе и повышения эффективности обучения.

Ключевые слова

Речь учителя, Коммуникация в классе, Инструктивный язык, Вербальное взаимодействие, Невербальное общение, Управление классом, Взаимодействие учителя и ученика, Педагогический дискурс, Стратегии обратной связи, Образовательная коммуникация, Языковое моделирование, Мотивация через речь,

Техники задавания вопросов, Функции дискурса, Эффективность учителя.

Teacher's speech, often referred to as teacher talk, is a fundamental element of classroom communication. It includes all the verbal and non-verbal means teachers use to interact with students, convey information, maintain discipline, encourage engagement, and facilitate understanding. In both general education and language learning contexts, teacher speech shapes the classroom environment and affects how students process and retain information.

Functions of Teacher's Speech

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Teacher speech in the classroom serves multiple purposes that go beyond simply delivering content. It plays an essential role in shaping the learning environment, guiding student behavior, and fostering communication. Below are the major functions:

Instructional Function

This is the core function of teacher speech. It involves:

Explaining new concepts clearly and concisely.

Giving directions for tasks, activities, and homework.

Demonstrating skills (e.g., problem-solving or grammar usage).

Clarifying student misunderstandings.

Example:

"First, read the text. Then underline the main ideas."

Goal:

To help students understand and apply knowledge effectively.

Managerial (Organizational) Function

Teacher talk is also used to manage the classroom and maintain order, including:

Starting and ending lessons.

Transitioning between activities.

Giving behavioral instructions.

Controlling time and group dynamics.

Example:

“Now close your books and get ready for the quiz.”

Goal:

To create a structured and efficient learning environment.

. Interactional Function

This function focuses on building relationships and fostering communication between the teacher and students:

Greeting students and using their names.

Showing empathy or encouragement.

Creating a positive emotional tone.

Encouraging student participation.

Example:

"That's a great answer, thank you for sharing!"

Goal:

To build trust and make students feel valued and comfortable.

Evaluative Function

This function involves giving feedback and assessment, both formally and informally:

Correcting mistakes (gently and constructively).

Praising success.

Encouraging improvement.

Providing grades or informal evaluations.

Example:

"Good try, but remember the past tense of 'go' is 'went.'"

Goal:

To guide student progress and reinforce learning.

. Motivational Function

Teacher speech can motivate and inspire students, helping them stay engaged:

Using positive reinforcement.

Setting goals.

Expressing enthusiasm for the subject.

Encouraging self-confidence.

Example:

"I know this is difficult, but you're doing great — keep going!"

Goal:

To boost learner confidence and effort.

Metacognitive Function

Teachers help students think about their own learning: Asking reflection questions.

Encouraging self-assessment.

Teaching strategies for learning.

Example:

"What strategy did you use to solve that problem?"

Goal:

To develop independent, self-aware learners.

Cultural and Social Function

In multicultural or language classrooms, teacher speech helps students:

Understand classroom norms and expectations.

Adapt to academic or social language.

Learn cultural values embedded in language.

Example:

"In English-speaking cultures, it's polite to say 'please' and 'thank you' during requests."

Goal:

To support intercultural understanding and appropriate social behavior.

Features of Effective Teacher Speech

Effective teacher speech is characterized by:

Clarity and Simplicity: Using age-appropriate and level-appropriate language.

Pacing and Pausing: Allowing students time to process and respond.

Intonation and Stress: Highlighting key information through vocal emphasis.

Non-verbal Elements: Body language, facial expressions, gestures, and eye contact.

Teacher Talk in Language Classrooms

In English language teaching (ELT), teacher talk is particularly crucial because it serves as both a linguistic model and a communication medium. It helps with:

Scaffolding: Supporting learners through guided interaction.

Comprehensible Input: Providing input slightly above the learners' level ($i+1$).

Interactive Opportunities: Using questioning and dialogue to develop communicative competence.

Balancing Teacher Talk and Student Talk

While teacher speech is necessary, overuse can hinder student involvement. Research suggests that a balance between teacher talk and student talk leads to better learning outcomes. Strategies to improve this include:

Asking open-ended questions.

Encouraging peer interaction.

Reducing teacher-centered lectures.

Providing wait time after questions.

Reflection and Training

Modern teacher training emphasizes reflective teaching, where educators analyze and improve their own speech patterns using:

Self-observation tools (audio/video recordings).

Feedback from peers or mentors.

Classroom discourse analysis.

In conclusion, teacher's speech is more than a delivery mechanism—it's a dynamic and interactive tool that influences the effectiveness of instruction and the quality of classroom interaction. By being intentional about how they speak, teachers can foster a more engaging, inclusive, and successful learning environment.

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