

IMPORTANCE OF INTEGRATING FOUR SKILLS IN LANGUAGE TEACHING

Odilova Ziyodaxon

Farg'ona viloyati Beshariq
tumani

1-son politexnikumi

Ingliz tili fani o'qituvchisi

Abstract:

The two fundamental processes that underpin today's student and teacher activities are teaching and learning. The learning process places the teacher and the student in relation to one another as well as what it teaches and requires. These days, there is a lot of emphasis placed on teaching children how to learn on their own and giving them the tools they need to be independent employ the most cutting-edge techniques for mindful, sustainable, dynamic, and creative learning This topic aims to educate readers on the value of using all of their skills during class time. To meet the needs of the pupils in various classes, the instructor is free to employ a range of teaching and learning techniques. He integrates these techniques when learning. and adjusts in accordance with the growing linguistic proficiency and autonomy of pupil development, the uniformity of this procedure. The communication method, task-based approaches, and functional methods are at the core of education. These approaches are implemented using a variety of tactics and procedures based on language proficiency (hearing, speaking, reading, and writing). Together, the teacher and students organize the teaching and learning process. The instructor arranges communication activities in an effective manner, offers and suggests resources, and facilitates teaching and learning. resources available to pupils. In modern education, instructors not only perform the function of educators, but also the supervisor's role. In the process of learning, they create cooperative relationships together. The instructor gives the pupils clarification and assesses their comprehension of the lessons that are

taught. This entails making clear the guidelines for the field of work as well as the roles that students play in the many activities. The instructor recommends and facilitates the usage of audiovisual resources. Electronic, and facilitates the use of information technology by students both within and outside of the classroom. It provides Students can use the website based on their age and educational qualifications. On a teaching hour should be applied all four language skills strategies , but they escalate from level to level depending on the objectives . Setting the students in the spotlight makes the student actively participate in linguistic interaction , preparing it for a new phase of his education or of being able to face the demands of the labor market.

Keywords: Reading, writing, listening, speaking

Learning any language can be challenging and easy at the same time. Language serves many important purposes, and the absence of it means a lack of communication. The four essential language skills - reading, writing, listening, and speaking - are crucial for language learning. They are separate but interconnected, and they play a vital role in reaching proficiency in any language.

In an ESL classroom, teachers should set high standards and create the necessary conditions for effective learning. Integrating the four language skills in a way that helps students meet set standards and develop their communicative competence is essential for successful English language teaching. For example, integrating listening and speaking skills fosters effective oral communication, while integrating reading and writing skills helps students achieve effective written communication. Providing opportunities for students to develop their reading and writing skills by exposing them to gradually challenging materials and tasks is important for their overall language development. The ultimate goal is to help students read, write, listen, and speak effectively.

Incorporating activities that involve all four language skills - listening, speaking, reading, and writing - will help learners become proficient in all aspects of

communication. By gradually exposing students to challenging tasks and materials, teachers can help them develop their skills over time. Activities that integrate the four skills simultaneously provide students with well-rounded language development. For example, teachers can use activities such as pronunciation practice, role play, and oral speed reading to promote listening and speaking skills, while also incorporating reading and writing activities like grammar drills and journal entries. This approach ensures that students are able to use all four skills together to achieve effective language development.

Two activities that utilize all four skills in tandem are self-introduction and reading and retell. The self-introduction involves answering personal questions such as name, age, grade level, place of residence, family members, favorite sports, animals, colors, and subjects. These responses are then organized into a self-introduction. Students are provided with visual aids to prompt each component of the self-introduction. The teacher can use these visuals to guide the students through a self-introduction, with the students listening, and then encourage them to introduce themselves to one or two of their peers, thereby practicing speaking. The visuals can be modified, and students can be asked to introduce themselves to classmates they have not interacted with before. This activity can be adapted to serve as a regular warm-up exercise, creating opportunities for learners to converse in the target language.

After covering listening and speaking in the oral self-introduction, a scenario can be developed in which learners must write a self-introduction to a potential homestay host. The same picture prompts can be used, reorganized to display a salutation, closing, and signature, encouraging practice with reading and writing skills.

The visual prompts offer learners assistance without requiring them to memorize a specific text. In multilevel second language classes, graded readers can serve as excellent starting points for an activity that integrates the four skills - a reading and retell exercise. First, learners choose a book or story at their own proficiency level and read it. Then, they receive a structured framework to help them summarize their thoughts about the story (writing). This summary is intended to assist learners in

understanding the level of detail needed for a retell. After repeated practice reading the summary silently and aloud, students are tasked with selecting two or three illustrations from the book to aid them in recounting the story. They practice telling the story using the chosen pictures and recalling the content from the template. Subsequently, students find a partner who has not read the same story and verbally share their story with one another using the selected illustrations (speaking). Additionally, the partners not only listen to the retell but also complete a feedback checklist (writing) about the retelling. After reviewing the feedback, partners switch roles.

What is the significance of activities that involve all four language skills?

Engaging in activities that involve all four language skills in the classroom serves several important purposes: it provides learners with structured support, opportunities for expression, real-life language use contexts for exchanging information, tangible proof of their own abilities (demonstrating learning), and most importantly, helps build confidence.

Reading is an enjoyable way to acquire knowledge. We come across countless quotes and proverbs about the value of reading. How true are these statements? They are indeed true - reading brings wisdom. Through reading, we acquire extensive knowledge, making it the most prominent language skill. However, the question here is about developing a habit of reading or becoming proficient at it. Presently, students, adults, and even educators read very little. It is a well-known fact that in the past, when there were no televisions, computers, or other forms of entertainment, reading was a primary leisure activity among the educated population.

In the past, people would spend extensive hours engrossed in books, traveling to distant lands, experiencing love, cherishing triumphs, and reliving history - all within their minds. Unfortunately, over time, individuals have gradually lost their inclination and enthusiasm for reading. In today's world of technology and entertainment, the practice of reading has diminished across all segments of society. There are numerous other captivating and exhilarating alternatives available besides books. It is regrettable

because reading presents an effective means of enhancing language skills, such as vocabulary and eloquence. A broad vocabulary enhances one's listening ability, as comprehension improves, and enables better writing through a wider pool of words. Clearly, extensive vocabulary contributes to improved speaking skills. It is recommended to allocate at least thirty minutes a day for reading to stay updated on various writing styles and new vocabulary. Therefore, cultivating a reading habit is highly important. Once a strong and genuine reading habit is established, the associated skills will hopefully naturally fall into place. Nevertheless, the best and simplest approach is to make a small daily effort to read a piece, and success is sure to follow.

Writing is a valuable skill to possess. Individuals with proficient writing abilities consistently excel in articulating their thoughts. Writing reflects one's intellectual capacity and their ability to express themselves. While the writing process is typically taught in educational institutions, the real question is whether individuals implement this knowledge in practice. Do they begin writing as soon as they read the question? The prewriting phase lays the foundation for effective writing, allowing for brainstorming on various aspects related to the topic or theme. This involves selecting a topic, narrowing it down, and considering the purpose, audience, and the writing format. At this stage, the focus is not on constructing complete sentences or paragraphs, but rather on defining an idea and initiating the writing process. Subsequently, the first draft is a compilation of initial thoughts, where words take shape into sentences and paragraphs. The third step involves revision, which essentially means "seeing again." During revision, ideas are refined within their compositions. This includes rereading the rough draft, sharing it with a writing group or anyone, and making revisions based on feedback. This may involve adding or substituting thoughts and words to enhance the overall composition.

The same process also involves deleting and relocating words within the draft. Editing represents the subsequent crucial stage—a cleanup process where unnecessary content is removed, allowing ideas to shine. This phase involves putting the piece of writing into its final form and refining it by focusing on accurate punctuation,

capitalization, grammar, usage, and paragraph structure. The primary objective is to ensure that the writing is "optimally readable." The final stage involves publishing your completed piece. Each step is flexible and can be repeated as many times as necessary until the writing is perfected. I consistently advise my students to work through at least three drafts. So, there you have it with writing. Is it easy? It would indeed become straightforward if you cultivate a habit and practice it as diligently as you would rehearse your favorite song or dance routine. Tip: Avoid using electronic shorthand (such as "u" for "you").

Listening is another essential component of language. The more adept you are as a listener, the greater your success and satisfaction will be. Listening goes beyond simply hearing—it represents a receptive state that allows for understanding of the spoken message, granting the listener an active role in the communication process. We must cultivate a strong interest in becoming better listeners. The concept that we "listen" with more than just our ears, extending beyond the mere sound, holds true. Like any member of society, being a good listener is a crucial skill as it is an integral part of the communication process. A skilled listener demonstrates readiness and possesses the ability to interpret sound into words and understand their contextual meaning. A proficient listener then links these meanings to other experiences and shares responsibility with the speaker. In an academic context, listening skills play a vital role in the teaching-learning cycle, as students learn better when they can listen effectively. A teacher also greatly benefits from possessing strong listening skills. Throughout, it is important to prioritize the enhancement of listening skills in order to become a more effective communicator. The listener's attitude is another key factor in developing this skill.

Speaking is an incredibly important skill. Once you have listened to words, written down ideas, and heard thoughts, the next step is to express yourself through speaking. How you communicate verbally will significantly impact the level of expressiveness you convey. Speaking takes on various forms—be it in public, friendly, or academic contexts, each requiring the same level of skill. It's been observed that

during speech, individuals typically use around five syllables per second and employ more than forty different speech sounds. Therefore, every time you speak, your audience must process these syllables, recognize the sounds, and translate them into words and thoughts. Your role is to assist them in this process. If you slur or muffle sounds, or fail to articulate clearly, your listeners will miss important information, affecting your effectiveness as a speaker. Hence, it's crucial to focus on proper pronunciation, diction, and building a strong vocabulary. Tip: Refrain from providing one-word answers or questions.

For students, mastering language skills is academically beneficial and holds the potential to work wonders as they transition into adulthood—a truly magical journey. It's important to note that the four language skills do not exist in isolation; rather, they form an interconnected cycle where disrupting one element can lead to a collapse of the entire chain. In today's competitive world, your proficiency in language, particularly in English, can significantly impact your life. Therefore, it is crucial for you to comprehend these four skills and consistently put in the effort to develop them. The outcomes will be truly remarkable!

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