

## THE ROLE OF PRAGMATICS IN TEACHER-STUDENT INTERACTION

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### Abstract

This article explores the role of pragmatics in teacher speech, focusing on how context-sensitive language use affects the teaching and learning process. It highlights the importance of pragmatic competence in maintaining a respectful, motivating, and culturally appropriate classroom environment. The study also examines practical strategies teachers use to model effective communication and foster positive interaction with learners.

**Keywords:** Pragmatics, teacher speech, classroom communication, speech culture, pragmatic competence, language teaching, respectful interaction

In modern pedagogy, effective communication plays a crucial role in the educational process. Among the various components of speech culture, pragmatics is essential in ensuring that teacher speech is not only grammatically correct but also contextually appropriate and socially acceptable. Pragmatics, as a subfield of linguistics, focuses on the use of language in social interaction, including aspects such as politeness, formality, indirectness, and the speaker's intention. For teachers, mastering pragmatic skills is vital to creating a constructive and inclusive classroom atmosphere.

### 1. The Nature of Pragmatics in Teacher Communication

Pragmatics refers to the rules and strategies for using language effectively in communication, taking into account the speaker, the listener, the context, and cultural norms. In the classroom, teachers constantly engage in speech acts such as giving instructions, asking questions, providing feedback, and managing behavior. Each of these acts requires not only linguistic accuracy but also pragmatic appropriateness. For example, the way a teacher corrects a student's mistake can significantly influence the student's motivation and confidence. A pragmatically skilled teacher might say, "That's an interesting try; let's think of another way to say it," rather than bluntly stating, "You are wrong."

### 2. Importance of Pragmatic Competence in the Classroom

Pragmatic competence allows teachers to adjust their speech to suit different learners, learning styles, and social situations. It also helps prevent misunderstandings

that may arise from direct or culturally insensitive language. In multilingual and multicultural classrooms, pragmatics ensures that communication remains respectful and effective. Moreover, teachers serve as language models; therefore, their pragmatic behavior influences students' language development and social interaction skills.

### 3. Strategies for Enhancing Pragmatic Use in Teacher Speech

There are several strategies teachers can apply to use pragmatic language effectively. These include:

- Using polite requests and suggestions instead of commands.
- Employing positive reinforcement and supportive feedback.
- Being sensitive to students' emotional states and cultural backgrounds.
- Using intonation, pauses, and body language to clarify meaning.
- Encouraging student talk through open-ended and inclusive questions.

By integrating these strategies, teachers not only deliver content but also cultivate a speech culture based on respect, understanding, and encouragement.

In conclusion, pragmatics in teacher speech is a fundamental aspect of professional communication in education. It plays a key role in creating a supportive, respectful, and interactive learning environment. Teachers who are aware of pragmatic principles and apply them in their daily interactions contribute to the development of students' language skills and social competence. Therefore, training in pragmatic competence should be an essential part of teacher education programs.

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