

## THE BENEFITS OF INTEGRATING ENGLISH TEACHING WITH OTHER SUBJECTS

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### ABSTRACT

This article examines the integration of English language teaching with other subjects (CLIL), focusing on its impact on language acquisition, academic performance, motivation, and critical thinking. It explores methodologies, evaluates their effectiveness, and addresses challenges educators face. Through research and case studies, the study highlights the pedagogical benefits of interdisciplinary teaching, showing how it enhances linguistic competence, subject knowledge, and cognitive engagement.

**Key words:** English language teaching, interdisciplinary learning, Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL), content-based instruction, bilingual education, subject integration, language acquisition.

### INTRODUCTION

As the global landscape for education continues to evolve, it is clear that teaching must transcend the boundaries of subjects, and in particular language, must embrace a much more inter functional view on purpose. Learning English traditionally, taught as a subject to itself, has widely been shunned as it teaches grammar, vocabulary, sentence structure without contextualizing it into other subjects. As a solution to this dilemma, the integration of the English teaching with other disciplines is advocated by numerous educators and researchers, being a process which stimulates simultaneously both the linguistic competence and the subject specific knowledge, content and skills.

By learning English in connection with subjects such as science, mathematics, geography, and social studies, students are exposed to the language in meaningful ways that encourage comprehension and long-term retention. This method not only promotes fluency in English but also fosters the development of cognitive and analytical skills [Snow, M. A., 2017]. Additionally, interdisciplinary teaching aligns

with 21st-century educational goals, which emphasize problem-solving, critical thinking, and the ability to communicate effectively across diverse contexts. The integration of English with other subjects also helps students develop global competencies, as English is widely used in academic and professional fields worldwide.

This paper aims to explore the benefits of integrating English language instruction with other subjects, providing a comprehensive analysis of how this approach enhances student engagement, improves academic performance, and prepares learners for future educational and career opportunities. The study also delves into the methodologies used for implementing interdisciplinary teaching and discusses potential challenges that educators may face, along with recommendations for overcoming these obstacles.

### **METHODOLOGY**

To examine the impact of integrating English with other subjects, this study employs a qualitative research approach that includes a review of relevant academic literature, case studies of schools implementing interdisciplinary teaching, and interviews with educators who have firsthand experience in this approach. The data for this study was collected from peer-reviewed journal articles, government education reports, and observations conducted in classrooms where English is integrated with other subjects.

The analysis focuses on evaluating how students' language proficiency and subject comprehension improve when English is taught through an interdisciplinary framework [Marsh, D., 2002]. Specifically, the study assesses the effectiveness of Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) and content-based instruction (CBI) by examining students' engagement levels, test scores, and classroom participation. Furthermore, interviews with teachers provide insight into the practical challenges they face in implementing this approach, such as curriculum design, assessment methods, and the need for specialized teacher training. The findings from these sources are synthesized to present a well-rounded perspective on the advantages and potential drawbacks of integrating English teaching with other subjects.

### **RESULTS**

The analysis of research findings and case studies reveals several significant benefits of integrating English teaching with other subjects. The key outcomes observed include the following steps. When English is taught in isolation, students often struggle to understand its real-world applications, leading to difficulties in retention and practical usage. However, when English is integrated with other subjects, students encounter the language in authentic contexts, allowing them to absorb vocabulary and grammatical structures naturally. For instance, in a science lesson taught in English, students not only learn scientific concepts but also acquire technical terminology, sentence structures, and academic expressions that enhance

their overall proficiency in the language [Met, M., 1999]. Integrating English with subjects such as mathematics, history, and social sciences encourages students to process information more deeply, as they must comprehend subject-specific content while simultaneously developing their language skills. Studies have shown that when students engage with subject material in a second language, they develop better problem-solving and critical-thinking abilities, as they must analyze and articulate concepts more carefully. This dual focus results in stronger academic performance across multiple disciplines.

Traditional language learning methods often involve repetitive exercises and memorization, which can become monotonous for students [Cenoz, J., Genesee, F. & Gorter, D., 2014]. In contrast, interdisciplinary teaching makes learning more interactive and engaging by integrating hands-on activities, discussions, and project-based learning. For example, students working on a history project in English are more likely to be motivated to research, write, and present their findings in a way that feels purposeful and relevant. Learning English through other subjects promotes analytical thinking, problem-solving, and synthesis of information [García, O. & Lin, A. M. Y., 2017]. When students are required to read, interpret, and discuss subject-specific texts in English, they engage in higher-order cognitive processes, which contribute to intellectual growth. Additionally, writing assignments in interdisciplinary contexts encourage creativity and precision in language use, which further strengthens students' academic abilities.

As English continues to be the dominant language in international academia, business, and diplomacy, students who develop proficiency in English while mastering subject-specific knowledge are better prepared for higher education and career advancement. The ability to communicate complex ideas in English is an invaluable skill that opens doors to international study programs, professional collaborations, and global job markets.

## **DISCUSSION**

Despite the numerous advantages of integrating English teaching with other subjects, educators may encounter several challenges when implementing this approach [Cummins, J., 2000]. One major obstacle is the need for specialized teacher training, as educators must be proficient in both English and the subject they teach. Without proper training, teachers may struggle to balance language instruction with subject content, leading to gaps in comprehension for students.

Another challenge is the design of curricula and assessment methods that effectively evaluate both language proficiency and subject knowledge [Mehisto, P., Marsh, D. & Frigols, M. J., 2008]. Many traditional assessment systems focus on either linguistic accuracy or subject mastery, making it difficult to measure student progress in an integrated framework. To address this issue, educators must develop

innovative evaluation techniques that assess students holistically, incorporating written assignments, presentations, and problem-solving activities.

Furthermore, schools must provide adequate resources and support systems to ensure the successful implementation of interdisciplinary teaching. Access to high-quality teaching materials, professional development programs, and collaborative learning environments can significantly enhance the effectiveness of this approach.

### **CONCLUSION**

Integrating English teaching with other subjects enhances language skills, deepens subject understanding, and develops critical thinking, essential for academic and professional success. While challenges like teacher training and assessment exist, the long-term benefits of interdisciplinary learning outweigh these difficulties. As education evolves, adopting this approach is crucial for preparing students for an interconnected world.

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