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THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERACTIVE METHODS IN TEACHING ENGLISH

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***Abstract.** Increasing the quality of education, advancing teaching methodologies, and employing them effectively to captivate students' full attention are increasingly crucial in contemporary education. In pursuit of this goal, the education system has transitioned to a self-improvement system, with the primary goal of providing students with the most comprehensive and abundant knowledge. The article emphasizes the significance of modern interactive teaching methods in promoting creative thinking, problem-solving abilities, independent study habits, and teamwork skills among students.*

***Keywords.** Interactive methods, technique, technology, passive method, active method, discussion, debate.*

Introduction. Learning foreign languages has been a requirement since ancient times. Knowing and speaking foreign languages was only necessary for trade and commerce, and for those who were interested in studying in foreign countries, several centuries ago. However, now it is difficult to imagine our world without the ability to speak foreign languages because knowing a foreign language is considered very important in every field.

Main part. In today's fast-paced society, students are increasingly pressured to quickly grasp and comprehend various subjects, including foreign languages. Proficiency in at least one foreign language is now a fundamental component of professional expertise. Following our nation's independence, there has been a heightened focus on science, particularly foreign languages. Utilizing contemporary innovative technologies and methods to teach all subjects is a crucial requirement in today's society. Various methods of teaching have been classified into distinct categories since ancient times. The passive method, a teaching approach from the past, is no longer widely used but is still employed by some educators. In this method, students simply listen while the teacher delivers the lesson. However, the active method has since emerged as a more popular and effective teaching approach. Initially met with resistance by teachers accustomed to the passive method, many have now embraced the active method. The passive method was particularly prevalent in the Soviet education system, where only the teacher was allowed to speak during lessons. Despite the passage of time, the influence of this educational system is still noticeable. In contrast, the active method encourages student participation and discussion during lessons. Students are now encouraged to ask questions, share their thoughts, and engage in dialogue with the teacher. This interactive approach benefits both students and teachers alike.[2]

The active method has historically been significant in global education systems, but it is no longer prevalent in developed countries due to the emergence of interactive teaching approaches. Interactivity in education necessitates a fundamental shift in the delivery of instruction. The educational practices in developed nations demonstrate that the most effective way to educate modern individuals is through student-centred interactive methods that view students as active participants in the learning process. The interactive method is widely adopted as the primary approach in European education systems. This method involves not only dialogue between the teacher and students but also discussions among students during topic exploration. In addition to their inherent engaging

nature, games are recognized for their capacity to teach problem-solving skills, foster creativity, and cultivate leadership, collaboration, and other valuable interpersonal skills.

Using the interactive method is crucial in all lessons, but it holds particular importance in language classes. Language instruction should involve discussions not only between teachers and students but also among students themselves. Incorporating technology, such as computers, short films, music, and hands-on activities, is essential. Engaging students in active participation in English lessons can be challenging and relies heavily on the teacher's skills. The effectiveness of teaching a topic can vary greatly depending on how it is presented by different teachers. Today's young learners greatly benefit from interactive methods, making it imperative for educators to prioritize this approach in teaching. The proven effectiveness of the interactive method underscores the importance of its widespread adoption in education. Similarly, a new chapter was initiated in our country after President Sh. M. Mirziyoyev implemented a series of directives regarding the instruction of foreign languages. As per these directives, modern textbooks, techniques, and technologies were developed. The current educational landscape is witnessing an increasing demand for interactive methods, innovative technologies, and information technologies to enhance the learning process. Interactive methods have been identified as the most efficient approaches to language acquisition. The significance of modern methods and innovative technologies in education is substantial, particularly in the teaching of foreign languages like English. Various effective approaches can be utilized during lessons, such as incorporating video materials, listening exercises, reading tasks, writing activities, speaking practice, dialogues, movies or cartoons, as well as utilizing tape recorders and CDs. These innovative technologies provide a more contemporary alternative to traditional teaching methods.[3]

Interactive teaching methods are extensively employed in Uzbekistan to enhance the quality of education and improve teaching effectiveness, aiming to ensure students acquire a deeper understanding of the subject matter. It is evident

that the success of interactive teaching methods directly correlates with the overall achievement levels in the educational setting. Therefore, these methods should be rooted in didactic approaches for optimal results in every lesson.

Strategies for interactive learning

The potential approaches to interactive learning are virtually endless, with only creativity and resources as the limiting factors. Here are some of the most frequently used interactive learning techniques, arranged from less demanding to more demanding in contrast to traditional lectures.

1. Lecturing

While interactive methods are often compared to traditional lectures, lecturing can be an engaging and interactive experience, as seen in popular TED Talks. Effective learning occurs when the lecturer connects new information to students' existing knowledge and real-life experiences, while also sparking curiosity and imagination through narrative techniques that introduce conflict and resolution. These approaches should not be solely for entertainment but should naturally arise from the subject matter itself. Instructors can enhance the interactivity of lectures by pausing to invite clarifying questions from students.

2. Brief Writing Exercises

Certain interactive techniques can be quickly implemented with minimal preparation. Short writing tasks, serving as a form of formative assessment, offer students the opportunity to revisit, comprehend, and analyze content. These tasks can be tailored to different cognitive levels: prompting students to recall lecture content reinforces foundational understanding, encouraging them to explain a key concept in their own words enhances comprehension, and tasking them with applying information to solve a new problem builds their skills in practical application.

3. Think-Pair-Share

A straightforward interactive approach is the "Think-Pair-Share" technique. In this method, the teacher introduces a problem or question, prompting students to individually think about and write down their responses, including reasons and

evidence. Following this, students share their answers with a partner, engaging in respectful discussion encouraged by the instructor. Lastly, students present their insights (both personal and from their paired discussions) to the whole class, with the instructor fostering additional questioning and critique.[4]

4. Discussion

The "Think-Pair-Share" strategy combines writing briefly and engaging in discussions. Discussions play a crucial role in interactive classrooms, whether students are conversing in pairs, small groups, or as a whole class. These discussions can range from short exchanges to being the main focus of a class session. The level of instructor involvement in these discussions may vary based on educational objectives. In interactive learning, discussions should aim to promote the open exchange of ideas while building and evaluating arguments through logical reasoning and supporting evidence.

5. Debate

Similar to discussions, debates encourage students to share their thoughts and analyze each other's perspectives. Debates are especially useful when instructors aim to broaden students' understanding of differing viewpoints. In contrast to discussions that seek agreement, debates are competitive and may downplay the commonalities between opposing ideas. Instructors need to recognize that debates can promote a confrontational approach and oversimplify complex issues. One way to address this is by utilizing "panel" debates, which can better recognize the intricacies and nuances of the topic at hand.

6. Problem-Based Learning

Problem-based learning is an interactive strategy that is both challenging and rewarding for students and instructors. Unlike other methods that present material first and then ask students to apply specific knowledge to a well-defined problem, problem-based learning starts with an open-ended, often real-world problem. This approach requires students, often working in groups, to assess their existing knowledge, identify gaps that need to be filled to address the problem, determine how to acquire the necessary information, develop hypotheses or experiments, find

a solution, and present their findings. Based on the belief that open-ended inquiry enhances student engagement, the key advantage of this approach is that the knowledge gained is immediately placed in a meaningful context.[5]

In **conclusion**, the importance of learning foreign languages has transcended mere necessity to become an essential skill in today's interconnected world. The shift towards interactive teaching methods, particularly in language education, reflects the growing recognition of the effectiveness of engaging students as active participants in the learning process. From traditional lectures to problem-based learning, various interactive techniques offer educators the flexibility to enhance student understanding and retention across diverse subjects. Embracing these methods not only improves teaching efficacy but also equips students with the critical thinking and communication skills vital for success in the modern era.

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