

## ENHANCING SPEAKING SKILLS FOR SECOND LANGUAGE LEARNERS

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**Abstract :** This paper explores the various approaches and strategies that can be employed to improve the speaking skills of second language learners. The ability to effectively communicate orally in a second language is essential for language learners to fully develop their language proficiency and engage in meaningful interactions within a target language community.

**INTRODUCTION:** The ability to speak fluently and accurately is a highly valued skill in and out of the language classrooms. Students may be able to understand spoken or written language, but they are often judged by their ability to express themselves orally in the language. However, speaking in a new language poses a special challenge to many L2 students. They need to know about the different language elements (e.g., vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation) but also develop skills that enable them to use these language elements for oral communications in various situations. In addition, they also need to learn how to start, maintain and end a conversation, introduce suitable topics, take notes of the reactions of the people they are interacting with and respond accordingly, broach a culturally sensitive subject carefully, and learn how to manage a difficult, face-threatening conversation without sounding rude or disrespectful. Human communication is a complex process (Harmer, 2007). Yet communicating is a vital part of human life. Language consist of four skills which is reading, writing, listening and speaking, speaking is used as twice more than reading and writing skills (Rivers, 1981). Speaking and writing is categorized as productive skills whereas reading and listening is labelled as receptive skills (Torky, 2006). Speaking and listening are skills that are co-dependent with one another. Through a conversation we need to listen attentively in order to reply the speech or express our thoughts (Educational leadership, 2008).

**Literature review:** Acquiring a second language (L2) can present both opportunities and difficulties. Of the four language abilities—listening, speaking, reading, and writing—speaking is frequently viewed as the most intimidating for individuals learning an L2. Nevertheless, through regular practice and successful techniques, individuals can enhance their speaking abilities and achieve fluency in their L2. In this piece, we will examine a range of methods that L2 learners can utilize to enhance their speaking skills. Embracing immersion experiences is among the most efficient methods for enhancing speaking skills in a second language. This involves engaging in discussions with native speakers, participating in language exchange groups, and actively seeking opportunities to use the language in real-life situations.

Speaking involves the verbal expression of words or sentences that reflect a person's thoughts. It is a crucial skill in both first and second languages, serving as a key measure of language proficiency (Thornbury, 2005; Nunan, 1995). The significance of speaking in acquiring a foreign language proficiency cannot be overstated. Compared to writing, listening, and reading, speaking is prioritized for learning a second or foreign language (Thornbury, 2005; Nunan, 1995). The noticeable nature of speaking sets it apart from other language skills; individuals tend to observe a speaker's manner of speech before

focusing on their reading, writing, or listening abilities. Consequently, learners of a second language must develop a strong grasp of vocabulary and sentence structure to effectively communicate their thoughts.

In daily life, speaking is a fundamental aspect of human interaction, with the average person generating tens of thousands of words daily (Thornbury, 2005; Nunan, 1995). Professions that require frequent speaking, such as salespersons, educators, and promoters, involve even higher word output. The purpose of speech varies depending on the speaker's objectives, with several components of speaking that second language learners need to consider. Phonology, for instance, can be challenging to master as learners must be mindful of word pronunciation, especially in English where spelling does not always align with pronunciation, causing confusion. Speech speed is another crucial element, requiring speakers to regulate their pace for effective communication and processing time. New speakers must continuously assess their speech by seeking feedback from conversation partners to track their improvement (Thornbury, 2005; Nunan, 1995).

The complexities of speaking make it a demanding skill to acquire, yet many consider it a central aspect of language proficiency. The inherent desire to engage in real-time communication and maintain direct connections with others serves as a strong motivator for individuals to achieve fluency and accuracy in English (Thornbury, 2005; Nunan, 1995).

**Conclusion:**In conclusion, mastering speaking skills in a second language is a gradual process that requires dedication, practice, and a multifaceted approach. By embracing immersive experiences, refining pronunciation, expanding vocabulary, and seeking consistent practice and feedback, L2 learners can cultivate their speaking abilities and achieve fluency and confidence in their second language. With the right strategies and determination, the journey to becoming a proficient speaker in a second language is both achievable and rewarding.

#### **Work cities:**

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