THE ROLE OF INTERACTIVE METHODS IN TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES

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Annotation. This article discussed several methods that help facilitate English language learning. Among them, interactive teaching technology (active learning) is considered the most effective. The benefits of using these methods were highlighted and explained through several examples such as project work, problem-based learning, and language immersion.

Key words. Interactive methods, methodology, passive learning, problem-based learning, project work.

Introduction. In today's rapidly developing era of technology, having a well-educated and broad-minded younger generation lays the foundation for them to stand out among their peers. Therefore, fostering students' critical thinking, analytical reasoning, and creative approach has become one of the most essential tasks facing every educational institution. It is well known that teaching foreign languages is one of the most effective methods in this regard, as proficiency in foreign languages not only enables communication but also broadens the scope of thinking.
Indeed, it is essential to approach seriously the teaching of foreign languages. Therefore, in order to make lessons more meaningful, educators should deliver knowledge in more innovative and engaging ways. Typically, many teachers are used to conducting lessons in a traditional format, where the teacher explains and the students listen. This format is referred to as "passive learning," in which the teacher plays the central role. In general, this method has been effective for centuries. However, the intellect and awareness of today's youth, who are growing up alongside modern technologies, have surpassed the limits of chalk and blackboard. In other words, such tools are no longer sufficient to capture and maintain their attention.

Main Part. According to the Presidential Decree of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated October 8, 2019, which approved the "Concept for the Development of the Higher Education System of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030," it is planned to increase the coverage of higher education in the country and to train highly qualified, creative, and systematic specialists who are capable of making independent decisions in line with international standards. The concept also emphasizes the creation of necessary conditions for students to demonstrate their intellectual abilities and develop into morally mature individuals. [1, p. 5] In this regard, higher education institutions in our country are increasingly adopting non-traditional teaching technologies over conventional teaching methods.
Non-traditional teaching technologies are aimed at increasing student engagement, establishing collaboration and responsive communication between educators and students, and integrating new, modern teaching methods into the learning process. Through such approaches, students are guided from a state of passive obedience to a mindset of conscious responsibility. [1, p. 96] This method of instruction is also referred to as "active learning". Unlike passive learning, where the teacher is at the center, active learning places the student at the core of the process. In this model, students not only interact actively with the teacher but also influence and engage with each other during the lesson.

The process of teaching and learning a second language is dynamic and requires creative approaches to effectively engage students. Among the various methods mentioned above, interactive learning techniques have been recognized as one of the most effective strategies for significantly enhancing language acquisition. The term "interactive" originates from the English word "interaction", where "inter" means mutual, and "action" refers to activity or engagement—together implying mutual activity or reciprocal engagement. [3, p. 12] This type of pedagogical collaboration has several distinctive features, including:

1.   Guiding students toward independent thinking, creativity, and inquiry;
2.   Ensuring consistent student interest and motivation throughout the learning process;
3.   Fostering continuous collaboration and responsive communication between teacher and student. [1, p. 86]

The purpose of using interactive methods is to make the learning process more meaningful, engaging, and dynamic. In addition, applying such techniques during foreign language lessons can enhance student participation and contribute to faster and more effective language acquisition.

Effective communication is the foundation of language learning, and interactive methods play a crucial role in developing and reinforcing these skills. Language learning is not merely about memorizing grammatical rules and vocabulary; its true essence lies in the ability to use the language in real-life situations. Interactive approaches allow learners to practice and improve their speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills within communication-based contexts. Activities such as debates, role-plays, simulations, and collaborative projects create a natural language environment in which students can exchange ideas, express themselves freely, and receive immediate feedback. Such active participation helps learners build confidence, fluency, and accuracy. [2, p. 18]

Here are I recommend some useful ideas for applying interactive methods in English language learning:

 Immersion in English – in this approach, the teacher conducts the entire lesson exclusively in English. A strict rule is enforced: no use of the native language. Instead, the teacher provides explanations for complex words in English. Clearly, when applying this method, some students may initially struggle to understand the teacher due to their limited language proficiency. In such cases, the teacher must be capable of effectively using gestures and non-verbal communication to convey meaning. For example, during a lesson, the teacher might say "Write down the vocabulary" while simultaneously demonstrating the action through hand gestures. Repeating this instruction in each lesson helps students internalize the phrase over time. As a result, even without deliberately memorizing vocabulary, learners naturally remember the words through frequent exposure and contextual reinforcement.

Project-based Learning – This is a pedagogical method widely used in both higher education institutions and general education schools to enhance students' creativity. Instead of directly explaining a new topic, the teacher assigns students the task of gathering relevant information and delivering a presentation on the subject. Students independently manage the lesson using various handouts, visual aids, and games, while the teacher observes and provides guidance or clarification when necessary. Although this method may pose certain challenges in terms of preparation and classroom management, research has shown that students tend to retain more knowledge when they learn from the speech and activities of their peers.

Problem-Based Learning (PBL) – Although this method is more complex and requires greater intellectual effort, it is considered highly effective and worthy of attention. In this approach, the teacher presents a real-life problem to the students (e.g., Why is it difficult to improve speaking and writing skills in a second language?). Students are divided into groups and asked to collaboratively explore the causes, background, and future implications of the issue, writing their ideas in English. They then work to find practical solutions to the problem, evaluating the pros and cons of each proposed resolution. Finally, each group presents and defends its position in

English, and, together with the teacher, they reach a collective conclusion. This method not only broadens students' thinking but also helps develop essential language skills such as writing and speaking.

Conclusion. Integrating interactive methods into foreign language teaching fosters increased student involvement, accelerates the learning process, and enhances intellectual development. Shifting from passive to active instruction provides learners with the opportunity to apply their knowledge in real-life scenarios. For educators, incorporating these strategies is essential to improving language acquisition and encouraging deeper learner engagement. Ultimately, both teachers and students embark on a collaborative journey toward linguistic and personal growth.

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