

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DIRECT METHOD FOR IMPROVING STUDENT'S SPEAKING SKILL**Khayrullaeva Sevara Utkir kizi,**

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Abstract: This article provides a comprehensive analysis of the Direct Method as an effective approach in foreign language teaching, particularly in developing students' speaking skills. The Direct Method is based on the principle of natural language acquisition, where learners are exposed directly to the target language without relying on translation. This study examines the historical background, key principles, teaching techniques, advantages, and disadvantages of the method in detail. Special attention is given to how the Direct Method enhances oral communication, fluency, and pronunciation through continuous interaction and real-life language use. At the same time, the article critically evaluates its limitations, such as insufficient focus on grammar and challenges in large classroom settings. The research concludes that although the Direct Method is highly beneficial for improving communicative competence, it is most effective when combined with other teaching methodologies to create a balanced and holistic learning environment.

Аннотация: В данной статье представлен всесторонний анализ прямого метода как эффективного подхода в обучении иностранным языкам, особенно в развитии устной речи учащихся. Прямой метод основан на принципе естественного усвоения языка, при котором обучающиеся непосредственно погружаются в изучаемый язык без опоры на перевод. В работе подробно рассматриваются исторические предпосылки, ключевые принципы, методики преподавания, а также преимущества и недостатки данного метода. Особое внимание уделяется тому, как прямой метод способствует развитию устной коммуникации, беглости речи и правильного произношения благодаря постоянному взаимодействию и использованию языка в реальных жизненных ситуациях. В то же время статья критически оценивает его ограничения, такие как недостаточное внимание к грамматике и сложности применения в больших классах. В исследовании делается вывод о том, что, несмотря на высокую эффективность прямого метода в развитии коммуникативной компетенции, наилучшие результаты достигаются при его сочетании с другими методиками обучения, что обеспечивает более сбалансированный и комплексный образовательный процесс.

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqola chet tillarni o'rgatishda, ayniqsa talabalar nutq ko'nikmalarini rivojlantirishda samarali yondashuv sifatida To'g'ridan-to'g'ri usulning keng qamrovli tahlilini taqdim etadi. To'g'ridan-to'g'ri usul tabiiy tilni egallash tamoyiliga asoslanadi, bunda o'rganuvchilar tarjimaga tayanmasdan to'g'ridan-to'g'ri maqsadli tilga duch keladilar. Ushbu tadqiqot usulning tarixiy asoslari, asosiy tamoyillari, o'qitish texnikalari, afzalliklari va kamchiliklarini batafsil o'rganadi. Maxsus e'tibor To'g'ridan-to'g'ri usul og'zaki muloqotni, ravonlikni va talaffuzni doimiy muloqot va haqiqiy hayotdagi til qo'llanilishi orqali qanday yaxshilashiga qaratilgan. Shu bilan birga, maqolada uning grammatikaga yetarlicha e'tibor bermasligi va katta sinf sharoitlaridagi qiyinchiliklari kabi cheklovlari tanqidiy baholanadi. Tadqiqot shuni ko'rsatadiki, To'g'ridan-to'g'ri usul kommunikativ kompetentsiyani oshirishda juda foydali bo'lsa-da, u boshqa o'qitish metodologiyalari bilan birgalikda qo'llanganda eng samarali bo'lib, muvozanatli va kompleks o'quv muhitini yaratadi.

Key words: Direct Method, foreign language teaching, speaking skills, natural language acquisition, immersion, communicative competence, inductive learning, fluency development

Introduction

Foreign language teaching has undergone significant transformations over the years as educators continuously seek more effective ways to help learners acquire language skills. Traditional methods such as the Grammar-Translation Method focused primarily on reading and writing, often neglecting the development of speaking and listening abilities. As a response to these limitations, the Direct Method emerged as a revolutionary approach that emphasizes oral communication and the natural use of language.

The Direct Method, also referred to as the Natural Method, was developed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in Europe. It was introduced as a reaction against the limitations of translation-based teaching, which did not adequately prepare learners for real-life communication. Influential educators such as François Gouin, Maximilian Berlitz, and Wilhelm Viëtor played a crucial role in shaping this method. They believed that language learning should imitate the process of first language acquisition, where learners understand meaning through context, repetition, and direct exposure rather than translation. This article explores the implementation of the Direct Method in improving students' speaking skills, highlighting its principles, techniques, benefits, and limitations in a detailed and analytical manner.

Main Features of the Direct Method

One of the most defining characteristics of the Direct Method is the exclusive use of the target language during instruction. In this approach, teachers avoid using the students' native language and instead rely on gestures, visual aids, and contextual clues to convey meaning. This creates an immersive learning environment that encourages students to think directly in the target language, thereby reducing dependence on translation.

Another important feature is the emphasis on natural language acquisition. The method is designed to replicate the way children learn their first language, which involves listening, imitation, and gradual understanding. Students are exposed to meaningful input and are encouraged to respond through speaking, which helps them develop confidence and fluency over time. The Direct Method also prioritizes speaking and listening skills over reading and writing, particularly at the initial stages of learning. This focus allows students to develop strong oral communication skills, which are essential for real-life interactions. Grammar is taught inductively, meaning that students learn grammatical structures through examples and usage rather than through explicit rules. This approach helps learners internalize language patterns naturally. Additionally, the use of real-life situations and visual materials is a key component of the Direct Method. Teachers often incorporate everyday scenarios, objects, pictures, and actions to make the learning process more engaging and meaningful. This contextualized learning enhances students' understanding and retention of vocabulary and expressions.

Techniques Used in the Direct Method

The Direct Method employs a variety of teaching techniques that aim to create an interactive and student-centered learning environment. One of the most common techniques is the use of realia, which refers to real objects brought into the classroom to demonstrate meaning. For example, a teacher may use actual items such as books, pens, or fruits to teach vocabulary, making the learning experience more concrete and memorable. Another important technique is the use of question-and-answer sessions. Teachers frequently ask questions in the target language and encourage students to respond in full sentences. This not only improves speaking skills but also promotes active participation and critical thinking. Demonstration and acting are also widely used to explain new concepts without translation. Teachers may use gestures, facial expressions, and body language to convey meaning, helping students understand the language in a natural and

intuitive way. Furthermore, the Direct Method encourages spontaneous use of language. Students are motivated to express their thoughts freely without relying on memorized sentences. This practice helps develop fluency and confidence, which are essential components of effective communication.

Advantages of the Direct Method

The Direct Method offers several significant advantages, particularly in the development of speaking skills. One of the most notable benefits is the improvement of oral communication. Since students are constantly exposed to the target language, they become more comfortable speaking and listening, which leads to greater fluency and better pronunciation.

Another advantage is that the method promotes a natural learning process. By mimicking first language acquisition, students learn language in a more intuitive and less stressful way. This reduces anxiety and increases motivation, making the learning experience more enjoyable. The emphasis on active participation is also a major strength of the Direct Method. Students are not passive recipients of information but are actively involved in the learning process through discussions, role-plays, and interactive activities. This engagement enhances their overall language proficiency. Additionally, vocabulary acquisition is more effective in this method because words are learned in context rather than in isolation. This contextual learning improves retention and helps students use vocabulary appropriately in different situations.

Disadvantages of the Direct Method

Despite its many benefits, the Direct Method also has certain limitations that need to be considered. One of the main drawbacks is the limited focus on grammar. Since grammar is taught inductively, students may not fully understand complex grammatical structures, which can lead to errors in language use. Another challenge is that the method requires highly skilled teachers who are fluent in the target language and capable of explaining concepts without translation. This makes it difficult to implement in contexts where such teachers are not available. The Direct Method is also less suitable for large classrooms, where individual interaction between teachers and students is limited. In such settings, it becomes challenging to ensure that all students participate actively and receive adequate attention. Furthermore, beginners may find the method overwhelming because they are not allowed to use their native language. This can lead to confusion and frustration, especially in the early stages of learning.

Finally, the method can be time-consuming, as it focuses on gradual language acquisition through practice and exposure rather than direct instruction. This may slow down progress in certain areas, particularly reading and writing.

Discussion

The effectiveness of the Direct Method has been widely discussed in linguistic research. Scholars such as Krashen emphasize the importance of comprehensible input, which aligns with the principles of the Direct Method. However, other researchers argue that explicit grammar instruction is also necessary for achieving accuracy in language use.

In practice, many educators combine the Direct Method with other approaches, such as Communicative Language Teaching, to create a more balanced learning environment. This integrated approach allows students to benefit from both natural communication and structured learning.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Direct Method is a highly effective approach for improving students' speaking skills in foreign language learning. Its emphasis on immersion, natural communication, and active participation makes it particularly suitable for developing fluency and confidence. However, its limitations, such as lack of explicit grammar instruction and challenges in large classrooms, suggest that it should not be used as a stand-alone method. Instead, combining the Direct Method with other teaching strategies can lead to more comprehensive and successful language learning outcomes.

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