



THE ART OF EFFECTIVE SPEAKING

Ro'zaxon Matqurbonova Zokirjon qizi

student, Samarkand state institute of foreign languages

Abstract

This article highlights the significance of speaking skills in foreign language education. It emphasizes the importance of mastering correct language usage for spontaneous and fluent speech. The article discusses the psychological and physical processes involved in speaking and the need for educators to prioritize students' language processing skills.

Key words

Oral communication, speaking abilities, pronunciation, speech, exercises

To improve speaking abilities, several components are crucial: clear pronunciation, grammar knowledge, and a rich vocabulary. Effective speaking skills can be fostered through the appropriate selection of tasks and exercises within classroom settings. Building upon the distinction between dialogic and monologic speech, a typology of exercises has been developed to provide tailored tasks for enhancing both forms of speech.

- Monologic speech exercises focus on developing the ability to deliver coherent and organized speeches, presentations, or narratives. These exercises may involve tasks such as storytelling, summarizing, or presenting arguments.

- Dialogic speech exercises emphasize the skills of engaging in effective conversations, discussions, or debates. They may include tasks such as role-playing, simulations, or group discussions.

Another typology of exercises proposed by several authors is:

- Preparatory tasks and exercises: These activities lay the foundation for effective speaking by developing foundational skills such as pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary.

- Tasks and exercises to strengthen speaking: These exercises focus on improving fluency, accuracy, and confidence in speaking. They may involve practicing specific speech patterns, delivering short speeches, or engaging in structured conversations.

- Tasks and exercises that create speaking: These activities provide opportunities for learners to generate their own speech content, such as storytelling, role-playing, or presenting original ideas.

- Tasks and exercises that simulate speaking and come close to real communication: These exercises aim to replicate real-life speaking situations, such as participating in debates, giving presentations, or engaging in spontaneous conversations. Effective speaking requires preparation, including developing foundational skills like pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary. Without this preparation, constructing, composing, or imitating speech becomes challenging.

Preparatory speaking exercises. These imitative exercises are closely supervised by the teacher and focus on developing foundational skills through repetition and reproduction. a) Tasks and exercises that improve pronunciation and articulation b) Distinguish between tasks and exercises to increase vocabulary.

A) Improve pronunciation and discriminative listening.

There are two types of exercises and assignments. These are:

1. Imitation exercises in which students imitate as much as possible the pronunciation of what they hear. 2.

Discriminative listening involves distinguishing between different sounds. Words that sound the same (homophones) and phrases or sentences that are phonetically similar should be noted. The goal of these exercises is to enhance the student's auditory skills and familiarize them with the sound system of the target language.

Benefits of these exercises:

- Improved pronunciation and intonation
- Enhanced listening comprehension
- Increased vocabulary retention
- Reduced confusion between similar-sounding words
- Greater confidence in speaking and listening

Pronunciation does not have to be perfect, but it should be understandable so that there are no misunderstandings in communication.

B) Vocabulary formation

1. Learners engage in brief, structured conversations that follow a specific pattern. These dialogues typically consist of two or three sentences that are repeated multiple times. This activity is often done in pairs, with each learner taking turns producing the target language.

2. Word recall exercises. These exercises focus on quickly recalling vocabulary words. They include:

- Chain exercises: Learners produce a word or phrase related to a given word or phrase, forming a chain of associations.
- Association games: Learners connect words or phrases based on their relationships, such as synonyms, antonyms, or categories.
- Picture-guided exercises: Learners recall words or phrases associated with images or pictures.

These exercises are typically under the time pressure and promote faster word retrieval. They are effective for revising vocabulary and improving fluency.

When teaching vocabulary, prioritize speaking over writing. However, writing can be used to reinforce vocabulary after it has been introduced orally.

Contextualization is crucial:

All vocabulary items, sentences, and memory aids (mnemonics) should be presented in meaningful contexts. This helps learners understand the words' usage and how they fit into the target language.

Benefits of contextualized vocabulary instruction:

- Improved comprehension and retention
- Enhanced ability to use words in real-world situations
- Reduced risk of vocabulary being forgotten or confused
- Greater motivation and engagement in learning

3. Exercises on the use of speeches: The purpose of these exercises is to master and strengthen the speech. Here, the focus is on formulaic expressions, such as greetings, thanks and requests, apologies, introducing yourself, etc. The use of communication exercises should be used to the specific situation and target group. Students should be equipped with pre-formulated phrases for common challenging communication situations. Speeches can only consist of one word and must be typical. This article aims to highlight the significance of speaking skills in foreign language education. The main goal is to demonstrate that mastering the correct usage of the target language is essential for achieving spontaneous and fluent speech. Speaking is a complex activity that involves psychological and physical processes. Effective language teaching requires educators to prioritize the development of students' language processing skills. This first informs the readers about the speech. Educators should allocate sufficient time and create a conducive environment for students to engage in conversations and discussions. By moving beyond scripted dialogues from textbooks, teachers can foster natural and authentic communication, helping students become more comfortable and proficient in speaking the target language. In language classrooms, it is crucial to create a supportive and encouraging environment where students feel comfortable speaking without fear of making mistakes. Teachers should aim to foster a sense of freedom and open communication among students. Positive feedback and encouragement are essential for boosting students' confidence and promoting their willingness to express themselves. Regular oral tests can effectively assess students' speaking skills and provide opportunities for them to practice and improve. Instead of relying solely on written assessments,

teachers can incorporate conversational tasks to evaluate students' vocabulary and grammar knowledge in a more authentic context. To facilitate effective speaking skill development, a diverse range of exercises and activities should be employed. Providing students with ready-made phrases and expressions can empower them to navigate challenging communication situations. For advanced learners, simulation and developmental exercises can be particularly beneficial, allowing them to engage in realistic and meaningful conversations.

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