

THE ROLE OF CLT FOR YOUNG LEARNERS. COMMUNICATIVE LANGUAGE TEACHING

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Annotation: This article examines the role of Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) in teaching English to young learners at school age. It highlights how CLT supports natural language acquisition through interaction, meaningful communication, and learner-centered activities. The article discusses the importance of CLT in developing speaking and listening skills, increasing learner motivation, and improving social interaction among children. In addition, the role of the teacher as a facilitator and the value of creating a supportive learning environment are emphasized. The article concludes that CLT is an effective approach for helping young learners use English confidently and prepare for real-life communication.

Key words: Communicative Language Teaching, express, approach, confidence, language competence.

Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) is widely recognized as one of the most effective approaches for teaching foreign languages, particularly to young learners at school age. This approach focuses on communication as both the goal and the means of language learning. For school children, CLT plays a significant role in developing language competence, confidence, and positive attitudes toward learning a new language. Young learners acquire language differently from adults. Children learn best through interaction, imitation, and meaningful use of language rather than through memorization of grammar rules. CLT supports this natural learning process by encouraging students to use language actively in classroom communication. Instead of focusing only on accuracy, the approach values fluency and meaning, which is especially suitable for children who are still developing their cognitive and linguistic abilities.

One important role of CLT for school children is the development of speaking and listening skills. Through pair work, group discussions, role plays, songs, and games, learners are given opportunities to communicate in English in a natural and relaxed way. These activities help children become familiar with everyday language use. Even if learners make mistakes, they learn to express their ideas freely, which gradually builds their confidence and communicative competence.

Another key advantage of CLT is increased learner motivation. Traditional language lessons often rely on repetitive exercises and written tasks, which can be boring for young learners. In contrast, communicative activities are interactive and enjoyable. When children participate in games, storytelling, or problem-solving tasks, they feel more engaged and interested in the lesson. As a result, they develop a positive attitude toward English and become more willing to participate in classroom activities. CLT also contributes to the development of social skills among young learners. Working in pairs or small groups teaches children how to cooperate, share ideas, and listen to others. These skills are essential not only for language learning but also for personal and social development. Through communicative tasks, learners practice turn-taking, polite interaction, and teamwork, which are valuable life skills.

Furthermore, CLT helps create a learner-centered classroom environment. In this approach, the teacher does not dominate the lesson but acts as a facilitator and guide. Teachers design meaningful tasks and encourage learners to communicate, while students take an active role in the learning process. This helps children become more independent and responsible for their own learning. Teachers can also better understand students' strengths and weaknesses by observing how they use language in real communication. Another important role of CLT is reducing fear and anxiety in language learning. Many children are afraid of making mistakes when learning a foreign language. CLT creates a supportive atmosphere where mistakes are seen as a natural part of learning. This helps learners feel more comfortable using English. In addition, CLT prepares young learners for real-life communication. Instead of learning isolated vocabulary or grammar rules, students learn how to use language in meaningful situations. This practical focus helps learners see the purpose of learning English and prepares them for future academic and social communication.

In conclusion, Communicative Language Teaching plays a crucial role in teaching young learners at school. It supports natural language acquisition, improves communication skills, increases motivation, and develops social abilities. By creating an interactive and supportive learning environment, CLT helps children use English confidently and effectively. Therefore, applying CLT in schools can greatly enhance the quality of language education and better prepare learners for real-life communication.

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