

MODERN METHODS AND STRATEGIES FOR TEACHING FOREIGN  
LANGUAGES

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**Abstract.** *This paper explores contemporary methods and approaches for effectively teaching foreign languages. It also highlights the application of innovative technologies in English language instruction. The main objective of the article is to emphasize the importance of modern techniques in enhancing the process of intensive English teaching.*

**Keywords:** *Instructional techniques, student-focused approach, communication-based teaching strategies, cooperative learning, engaging methods, holistic approach.*

**Introduction:**

Our country's demand for highly qualified specialists who can establish business relations and cooperate with international partners—and who possess professional-level foreign language skills—is clearly reflected in the academic programs of universities. Today, knowing a foreign language goes beyond cultural knowledge; it is a crucial factor in achieving success and building a promising career. A solid foundation in language learning at the university level is essential to reach high proficiency. In fact, students at many universities in the country study at least two foreign languages. Over the past two decades, methods for teaching English have significantly evolved. The entire approach to English language education is constantly changing. In reality, there is a wide range of strategies available for teaching foreign languages to learners.

Currently, English learning is becoming more student-centered and efficient in terms of time. Therefore, it is important to apply modern teaching techniques when instructing foreign languages. These contemporary methods contribute to a deeper and more effective understanding of core scientific and technological concepts. As a result, key components of modern language teaching include:

**1. Learner-Centered Approach**

A key feature of modern teaching methods in basic science and technology (BST) is their focus on the learner. These methods emphasize the active participation of students during classroom and lab sessions. In this approach, the teacher takes on the role of a facilitator, while learners are fully engaged in the learning process. Students take a leading role in classroom interactions, making them central to the educational experience.

**2. Task-Based or Activity-Based Learning**

In basic science and technology (BST), the teacher or facilitator designs tasks or activities that encourage students to learn through participation. This approach is known as activity-based or task-oriented learning. Students are invited to actively take part in classroom interactions by engaging in these interactive tasks.

### **3. Resource-Based Learning**

Teachers of basic science and technology (BST) are expected to be well-equipped with resources. They should gather and provide all necessary learning materials to help students grasp topics more effectively. These resources can be sourced from the school environment or other accessible locations. Additionally, students themselves can contribute by bringing relevant materials or resources to support their learning.

### **4. Interactive in Nature**

A defining feature of modern teaching methods is their interactive nature. Teachers encourage students to work in pairs, small groups, or individually to complete learning tasks and achieve specific goals. This collaborative approach allows students to share knowledge, develop teamwork skills, and foster a spirit of cooperation. Such experiences also prepare them for real-world situations beyond the classroom.

### **5. Integrative in Nature**

A crucial aspect of modern teaching methods is their integrative approach. Teachers connect topics from one subject, such as social sciences, to other relevant issues like drug use, domestic violence, safety, pollution, food distribution, crime, and more. This integration allows students to expand their knowledge by exploring multiple topics while studying just one.

### **6. Peer Collaboration**

Modern teaching methods not only motivate students by allowing them to share their ideas, respond to questions, present their research, and actively engage during interactions in BST classes, but also consider students' interests, needs, and emotions when selecting participants. Through instructional activities, students learn to collaborate effectively and develop respect for the work of their peers. In the BST curriculum, students' interests are prioritized, and they are guided towards achieving their personal goals and career aspirations. In language classes, teaching focuses on encouraging critical thinking and language skills, with significant interactions occurring between students and teachers both inside and outside the classroom.

Innovative teaching methods encourage students to challenge their existing beliefs and inspire them to learn by placing them in situations where they see themselves as problem-solvers and agents of change. However, while using these methods, teachers often encounter certain challenges and requirements. Educators are continuously exploring creative ways to present content effectively to learners. It is the teacher's responsibility to adopt appropriate, modern strategies to enhance student learning. Teachers play a crucial role in a student's academic journey, making it essential for them to embrace new teaching approaches. A strong education system relies on the combination of skilled educators and innovative instructional methods.

Compared to traditional approaches, modern teaching techniques are more engaging and interactive, helping to maintain students' attention through the use of animations, videos, and other multimedia tools.

The visual medium is considered more effective than other methods for delivering instructions, as it enables faster comprehension and longer retention of concepts compared to reading alone.

Modern teaching methods are more time-efficient, allowing teachers to complete the syllabus more quickly. They also eliminate the need for traditional blackboard writing, streamlining the teaching process.

Explaining content using a blackboard is less effective compared to the clarity provided by videos and animations in modern teaching methods.

The principle of mastering all aspects of foreign language culture through communication.

The communicative method is based on the idea that communication should be taught through actual communicative practice. In this approach, communication serves as a means for education, learning, and personal development. It is viewed as a social process involving the exchange of experiences and ideas, which reflect both material and spiritual culture. Through communication, individuals engage in emotional and rational interactions, influencing one another. This type of interaction is fundamental to effective education.

Therefore, in communicative teaching methodology, communication functions as a means of teaching, learning, development, and education.

The process of learning foreign language communication reflects the real dynamics of dialogue through key elements such as motivation, focus, information exchange, innovation, situational context, character interaction, and the use of speech tools. These components together create a learning environment that mirrors real-life situations, enabling learners to effectively acquire and apply communication skills.

Learning a foreign language also involves understanding its culture, which is complex and interconnected. This complexity is reflected in the unity of its educational, cognitive, moral, and developmental aspects. Each of these aspects is equally important in practice, and true mastery in one area is only possible through sufficient development in the others.

In this context, every task or exercise within the learning process incorporates all four aspects of foreign language culture and is assessed based on the presence of these elements.

The principle of structuring foreign language education as an integrated system.

This principle means that the communicative learning system is constructed by the reverse: first scheduled final product (target), then determined the tasks that can lead to this result. This takes place within the course, each year, the cycle of lessons and one lesson and applies to all aspects. This approach provides a systematic training, with all its qualities: integrity, hierarchy, unity of purpose.

Systematic study builds on the students' mastery of the laws of each of its aspects. All training in the organizational plan is built on the basis of the rules of cyclicity and concentricity. Cyclicity manifested in the fact that a certain amount of material absorbed within the cycle of lessons, each of which includes a certain number of lessons. Any cycle of stages based on the development of a skill and ability in each type of speech activity.

The systematic organization of the learning process also includes the structured acquisition of language skills across multiple levels of education. These levels include:

1. Educational levels – such as elementary, junior, middle, and senior stages.
2. Study periods – which are organized into steps according to the learning progression.
3. Stages of skill development – including the formation of lexical and grammatical skills, and the development of communicative abilities.

4. Learning stages within these steps – such as substitution, transformation, reproduction, and combination activities.

Each level has its own distinct features, shaped by the psychological and pedagogical characteristics of the learners.

Therefore, the learning situation is not limited to typical speech contexts but also includes the broader context of educational activity and classroom interaction.

#### The Principle of Individualization in Foreign Language Learning

In the communicative approach, the learner is viewed as a unique individual. Each student possesses specific abilities—both general and language-related. Communicative learning focuses on identifying a student's initial skill level and supporting their further development. This is achieved through specialized tools, such as diagnostic tests to assess abilities, and targeted exercises to enhance them.

Through collaborative activities, students also cultivate personal qualities essential for effective communication and teamwork.

In communicative language learning, joint activities are structured in a way that helps students understand their shared responsibility—each student's contribution affects the success of the group. Combining communication with other types of activities brings the learning process closer to real-life communication, which often occurs alongside other tasks, not just for the sake of speaking.

To help students effectively master all aspects of the foreign language, a system of support tools—like guidelines and targeted exercises—is provided. These help develop both language skills and the ability to learn independently, which reflects a personalized approach to learning.

Importantly, the more independence a student gains, the more effectively they learn. For this reason, communicative methods place strong emphasis on encouraging independent thinking, especially through discussions and problem-solving.

Finally, autonomy is closely linked to assessment. In communicative teaching, control is gradually shifted—from teacher-led assessment to peer assessment, and finally to self-assessment. This includes both subtle (hidden) and conscious control, with students being taught to understand evaluation criteria and apply them themselves.

The functionality principle in foreign language teaching emphasizes that students should recognize the value of acquiring not only practical language skills but also the ability to apply this knowledge in cognitive and developmental contexts. It focuses on mastering the functions of speech activities—reading, writing, speaking, and listening—as essential tools for communication. Rather than solely focusing on linguistic forms, this principle prioritizes learning the communicative functions performed through language.

A functional model for selecting speech means in foreign language courses involves choosing specific expressive tools across various linguistic levels tailored to each speech function (reading, writing, speaking, listening). Depending on the communicative goal, each function can be supported by a range of expressive means, from a minimum to a maximum set, including both verbal and non-verbal forms of expression.

The following is an overview of the intensive method of teaching English.

One of the key principles of this method is collective interaction, which plays a leading role in activation. This principle connects the goals of training and education and outlines the

means, methods, and conditions of the educational process. The educational process based on this principle is characterized by students interacting with each other, which helps them expand their knowledge and improve their skills.

**Conclusion:**

It is essential to recognize that all the principles mentioned above are closely connected, dependent on one another, and support each other. As a result, following this system effectively requires observing all these principles and understanding how they work together in harmony.

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