PRAGMATIC COMPETENCE'S SIGNIFICANCE IN LANGUAGE LEARNING.

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Abstract. *The concept of pragmatic competency and how it affects language learning are examined in this article. The ability to use language successfully in social circumstances by comprehending and applying language usage that is acceptable for the given scenario, social expectations, and cultural standards is known as pragmatic competence. The article explains how pragmatic competence helps learners become more proficient in language generally, improves communication skills, and helps them navigate social situations more easily. It also looks at ways to include pragmatic competency in language learning, like role-playing exercises and clear teaching of pragmatic conventions. The article underscores the significance of pragmatic competence in language acquisition and underscores its function in cultivating proficient and self-assured communicators.*

Key words: *Practical proficiency, ability to communicate, contextual language use, acts of speech, conversational implicature, politeness techniques, limitations.*

ЗНАЧЕНИЕ ПРАГМАТИЧЕСКОЙ КОМПЕТЕНТНОСТИ В ИЗУЧЕНИИ ЯЗЫКА.

Аннотация. *В данной статье рассматривается понятие прагматической компетентности и то, как она влияет на изучение языка. Способность успешно использовать язык в социальных обстоятельствах, понимая и применяя использование языка, приемлемое для данного сценария, социальных ожиданий и культурных стандартов, известна как прагматическая компетентность. В статье объясняется, как прагматическая компетентность помогает учащимся лучше владеть языком в целом, улучшает коммуникативные навыки и помогает им легче ориентироваться в социальных ситуациях. В нем также рассматриваются способы включения прагматической компетентности в изучение языка, такие как ролевые упражнения и четкое обучение прагматическим конвенциям. В статье подчеркивается значение прагматической компетентности в овладении языком и подчеркивается ее функция в воспитании опытных и уверенных в себе коммуникаторов.*

A key component of total communicative competence in a second or foreign language is pragmatic competence, or the capacity to utilize language responsibly and effectively in context.

Despite the fact that lexical and grammatical knowledge are fundamental building blocks, pragmatic competence enables language learners to successfully negotiate the social, cultural, and situational complexities of everyday communication.

Understanding speech acts, conversational implicature, politeness techniques, and other pragmatic elements that influence meaning in addition to the words used directly is necessary for pragmatic competency. Even students with excellent language skills may find it difficult to communicate effectively or steer clear of pragmatic blunders and misunderstandings if they lack this pragmatic awareness.

In today's globalized world, when language learners increasingly need to engage across many cultural and social contexts, developing pragmatic competence is especially vital. In addition to language competency, navigating these pragmatic demands calls for an understanding of sociocultural norms, discourse conventions, and how to modify one's language use accordingly.

The importance of pragmatic competence in learning second and foreign languages will be discussed in this article, along with how it contributes to the development of all-encompassing communicative skills, how it relates to other areas of language proficiency, and practical teaching strategies that support pragmatic development in the language classroom.

Beyond just grammatical accuracy and vocabulary knowledge, pragmatic competence is essential for language learners to communicate effectively in real-world, context-dependent situations. Pragmatic competence involves an understanding of how to use language appropriately based on the social, cultural, and situational factors at play.

Some key components of pragmatic competence include:

Speech acts: the ability to recognize and perform different types of speech acts, such as requests, apologies, refusals, etc. and understand their contextual implications.

Conversational Implicature: the capacity to infer implied meanings and "read between the lines" of utterances, beyond the literal words used.

Politeness strategies: knowledge of culturally- appropriate ways to modify language to be more or less polite depending on the context.

Without pragmatic competence, language learners may produce grammatically correct sentences that still come across as inappropriate, rude, or confusing in a given context. Pragmatic failures can lead to misunderstandings, miscommunications, and breakdowns in communication.

Developing pragmatic competence is particularly important for learners who need to communicate in multilingual, multicultural contexts. Recognizing and adapting to divers pragmatic norms is crucial for successful intercultural exchange.

Speaking skill encompasses the productive ability to communicate orally in a language. It involves the capacity to:

● Articulate sounds, words, and sentences with correct pronunciation, intonation, and fluency

● Convey meaning, ideas, and intentions effectively in real -time interaction

● Adjust language use based on the communicative context and goals

● Participate in conversations by initiating, responding, and maintaining exchanges

Strong speaking skills enable language users to engage in spontaneous, meaningful, and goal-oriented oral communication. This requires not just linguistic knowledge, but also pragmatic competence to use language appropriately for various communicative purposes and situations.

Pragmatic Competence and the Limitations of Linguistic Knowledge Alone

While grammatical accuracy and lexical knowledge form the foundational building blocks of language proficiency, research has shown these linguistic resources are insufficient on their own for achieving comprehensive communicative competence. Learners must also develop pragmatic competence - the ability to use language appropriately and effectively in context.

Studies have documented numerous instances of pragmatic failures, where language learners produce grammatically correct utterances that still come across as inappropriate, impolite, or confusing due to a lack of pragmatic awareness (Bardovi-Harlig & Dörnyei, 1998; Kasper & Rose, 2002). For example, a language learner may inadvertently make a direct request that is perceived as rude in the target culture, or fail to recognize and respond to implied meanings in a conversation.

Such pragmatic breakdowns can lead to misunderstandings, communication breakdown, and negative perceptions of the language learner's competence, even if their linguistic skills are otherwise strong. As Taguchi (2011) notes, "Pragmatic failure can have more serious consequences for language learners than grammatical mistakes" (p. 289).

The Multidimensional Nature of Pragmatic Competence

Pragmatic competence is a multifaceted construct that encompasses an array of contextualized language skills. Key components include:

Speech act knowledge: The ability to recognize and appropriately perform different speech acts like requests, apologies, refusals, etc.

Conversational implicature: The capacity to infer implied meanings and "read between the lines" of utterances.

Politeness strategies: Knowledge of culturally-appropriate ways to modify language to be more or less polite.

Discourse norms: Awareness of conventions for turn-taking, topic management, and other interactional patterns.

Developing this pragmatic knowledge is particularly important for language learners who need to communicate across diverse cultural and social contexts, where the pragmatic "rules" may differ significantly from their first language.

Integrating Pragmatic Instruction in the Language Classroom

Given the crucial role of pragmatic competence, researchers and practitioners have emphasized the importance of incorporating pragmatic instruction alongside the teaching of grammar, vocabulary, and other linguistic features (Taguchi & Roever, 2017). This can involve:

● Raising learners' awareness of pragmatic features through consciousness-raising activities

● Providing explicit instruction on speech acts, conversational implicature, and other pragmatic concepts

● Engaging learners in role plays, simulations, and other interactive tasks to practice pragmatic skills in context

● Exposing learners to authentic language samples that illustrate pragmatic norms

By integrating pragmatic competence development into language curricula, instructors can better prepare learners for the pragmatic demands of real-world communication and support the growth of their overall communicative abilities.

In summary, while linguistic competence is necessary, pragmatic competence is equally crucial for achieving comprehensive language mastery and the ability to use a language effectively in context. Incorporating pragmatic instruction is key to developing well-rounded communicative abilities.

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