DEVELOPING SPEAKING SKILLS IN ENGLISH THROUGH COMMUNICATION

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Abstract. *The article discusses the process of developing oral English skills through active communication. It shows that the communicative approach ensures the formation of practical speaking skills, the development of confidence, fluency, and the ability to use the language in real-life situations. Particular attention is paid to role-playing, group discussions, project work, listening comprehension, and the use of modern technologies. The article also considers aspects of motivation, independent learning, and intercultural competence that contribute to effective English language acquisition. The article emphasizes that speaking skills can only be developed through practice, interaction, and regular use of the language, rather than simply memorizing rules and vocabulary.*

Key words: *English language, speaking skills, communicative approach, role-playing, discussions, project work, listening comprehension, motivation, independent learning, intercultural competence, language practice, fluency, active communication.*

In today's world, knowledge of English has become an integral part of a person's professional and personal life. It opens up access to international communication, educational and career opportunities, as well as global information. Among all language skills — reading, writing, listening, and speaking — special attention is paid to the development of speaking skills. The ability to speak English confidently allows you to interact effectively with other people, participate in discussions, express your own thoughts and ideas, and quickly adapt to an intercultural environment. One of the most effective ways to develop these skills is through a communicative approach to learning.

The communicative approach assumes that English language learning is built around real communication tasks, rather than just studying grammar and memorizing words. The main goal is for students to be able to use the language in practical situations, rather than just reproduce what they have learned. This approach makes lessons more interesting, motivating, and productive. It also promotes the development of critical thinking, the ability to analyze and express one's own opinion in a foreign language. Practicing communication in various situations helps students overcome the language barrier and builds confidence in using English.

One of the main methods used in the communicative approach is role-playing and simulating real-life situations. For example, students can act out dialogues in a store, airport, restaurant, or workplace. Such exercises allow them to practice vocabulary and grammatical structures in a context close to real life. In addition, role-playing develops the ability to listen to others, respond quickly to changing communication conditions, and formulate thoughts correctly. The use of situational tasks makes the learning process interactive, increases student engagement, and helps reinforce skills.

Another effective method is group discussions and projects. Working in small groups allows students to exchange ideas, discuss different points of view, and come to a common decision. During discussions, students learn to argue their position in English, ask clarifying questions, and actively interact with others.

Project activities involving presentations, interviews, or role-playing promote a deep understanding of the material and encourage independent use of the language.

This approach develops not only language skills but also social skills, including teamwork, responsibility, and leadership.

Special attention is paid to listening and repeating what is heard in the process of developing speaking skills. Students listen to dialogues, interviews, podcasts, or videos in English and then reproduce what they have heard in their own words. This practice helps them learn natural speech patterns, intonation, pronunciation, and the speed of speech of native speakers. The combination of listening and speaking allows students not only to understand foreign speech, but also to use it confidently in communication.

Modern technologies play a key role in the learning process. Online platforms, video conferencing, interactive applications, and social networks provide students with the opportunity to practice the language in real-life situations, receive feedback from teachers, and communicate with native speakers. The use of technology makes learning more dynamic and motivating. In addition, digital resources help diversify the learning process by providing audio and video materials, pronunciation exercises, interactive tasks, and self-assessment tests.

Regular practice is one of the most important factors in successfully mastering speaking skills. Daily mini-dialogues, discussions of current topics, and short presentations help reinforce vocabulary and grammatical structures. Gradually increasing the complexity of tasks allows students to develop a higher level of fluency and confidence in using the language.

It is important that practice is systematic, includes a variety of communicative situations, and promotes active speech activity.

Student motivation is also a key element in the successful development of oral skills.

Positive feedback, praise for success, support in case of mistakes, and the creation of a safe learning environment contribute to the formation of internal motivation. When students feel progress and see the practical benefits of learning a language, they become more active and interested. Intrinsic motivation encourages independent practice, participation in discussions, and experimentation with the language.

An important aspect is intercultural competence. Learning English through communication includes learning about the cultural characteristics of the countries where it is the native language. Understanding traditions, etiquette, and communication norms helps students interact appropriately with representatives of different cultures, avoid misunderstandings, and build effective communication. This makes the learning process more meaningful and practical, while developing intercultural communication skills.

It is also worth noting that the use of game elements and creative tasks contributes to more effective learning. Interactive games, quizzes, role-playing, and situation modeling not only make the process more exciting, but also stimulate active language use. Such tasks develop quick thinking, quick reactions, and the ability to express thoughts clearly and logically. The combination of creativity and communicative practice helps to reinforce the material studied and forms a habit of free speech.

It is equally important to plan the learning process with a gradual increase in the complexity of tasks. The initial stages include simple dialogues and short monologues, allowing students to adapt and feel confident. Subsequent stages involve more complex discussions, debates, and presentations, which develop the ability to think in a foreign language, argue one's point of view, and participate in lengthy communication interactions.

This approach promotes the harmonious development of all aspects of oral speech: pronunciation, fluency, grammatical accuracy, and appropriate use of vocabulary.

Regular feedback is a key component of successful speaking skill development. The teacher analyzes mistakes, corrects pronunciation and intonation, and suggests more natural ways of expressing ideas. It is important that feedback is constructive and supportive, encouraging students to continue improving and actively practicing. Combining individual and group feedback helps students recognize their strengths and weaknesses, leading to targeted skill improvement.

It is also important to note the role of self-regulation and independent learning. Modern methods involve students actively in planning their learning process, choosing topics for discussion, and preparing for dialogues and presentations. Independent work develops responsibility, self-discipline, and goal-setting skills, which are essential for effective English language acquisition. Students who actively practice speaking outside of class, participate in language clubs, watch English-language videos, and keep personal diaries in English demonstrate a higher level of language proficiency and confidence in communication.

Thus, developing English speaking skills through communication is a complex and multi-level process. A communicative approach, the use of role-playing, discussions, project work, regular listening and practice, as well as a supportive learning environment and motivation create the conditions for the formation of sustainable and effective communication skills. Students learn to express their thoughts freely, correctly, and confidently, which is an essential element of successful English language learning and preparation for international communication.

In conclusion, speaking skills are developed not only through the study of grammar and vocabulary, but above all through active interaction, participation in dialogues, and practice in real communication. Effective English language teaching requires a comprehensive approach that combines communicative practice, technological tools, independent work, and motivation.

Developing these skills opens up new opportunities for students in education, career, and intercultural interaction, making English language learning a meaningful and effective process.

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