

INTERACTIVE METHODS OF TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES

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This paper explores the theoretical foundations, types, and practical applications of interactive methods in teaching foreign languages. It is reported that traditional approaches are increasingly being replaced or supplemented by interactive methods that promote students' engagement and communication competence. It also examines the advantages, challenges, and implications for teachers and students in modern educational contexts.

Keywords: foreign language education; interactive teaching methods; communicative approach; task-based learning; collaborative learning; role-playing; digital learning tools.

ИНТЕРАКТИВНЫЕ МЕТОДЫ ПРЕПОДАВАНИЯ ИНОСТРАННЫХ ЯЗЫКОВ

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В данной статье исследуются теоретические основы, типы и практическое применение интерактивных методов в преподавании иностранных языков. Сообщается, что традиционные подходы все чаще заменяются или дополняются интерактивными методами, которые способствуют вовлечению студентов в учебный процесс и развитию их коммуникативных навыков. Также рассматриваются преимущества, проблемы и последствия для преподавателей и студентов в современных образовательных условиях.

Ключевые слова: обучение иностранным языкам; интерактивные методы обучения; коммуникативный подход; проблемное обучение; совместное обучение; ролевые игры; инструменты цифрового обучения.

Foreign language teaching has evolved significantly over the past few decades, moving from teacher-centered instruction toward more communicative and learner-centered models. The shift has been driven by the recognition that language learning is not simply the acquisition of grammatical structures but a social process requiring active participation, meaningful communication, and contextualized practice. Interactive methods of teaching, therefore, play a central role in developing learners' linguistic, pragmatic, and intercultural competencies.

Interactivity in education refers to dynamic processes that foster communication between teachers and students, as well as among students themselves. In language learning, this involves real or simulated communicative exchanges, collaborative problem-solving, and the use of digital technologies that enhance engagement and motivation. The implementation of interactive techniques contributes not only to language acquisition but also to the development of critical thinking, creativity, and social skills [1].

The Communicative Approach (CLT) and Task-Based Language Teaching (TBLT) form the methodological basis for interactive learning. CLT focuses on using language as a tool for real communication, while TBLT emphasizes completing meaningful tasks that reflect authentic language use. Both methods rely heavily on interaction as a mechanism for developing fluency, accuracy, and sociolinguistic awareness.

Finally, sociocultural theory underscores the role of cultural context and social relationships in language learning. Through interaction, learners internalize linguistic norms and cultural meanings, making their language use more authentic and contextually appropriate.

Interactive methods encompass a wide range of techniques and tools designed to engage learners actively in the learning process. Some of the most effective include:

1. Role-Playing and Simulations

Role-playing allows learners to use the target language in realistic scenarios, such as ordering food at a restaurant, participating in a job interview, or discussing a problem with a friend. Simulations, often more complex, can replicate professional or intercultural environments, such as business negotiations or academic conferences. These activities enhance communicative competence, build confidence, and encourage spontaneous language use.

2. Group Projects and Collaborative Learning

Collaborative tasks require students to work together to achieve common goals – preparing a presentation, writing a dialogue, or creating a short film in the target language. Group interaction fosters negotiation of meaning, peer correction, and mutual support, making language learning both social and enjoyable.

3. Interactive Games and Gamification

Gamification integrates elements of competition, reward, and play into the learning process. Language learning platforms such as Duolingo, Kahoot! and Quizlet use interactive formats to motivate learners and reinforce vocabulary and grammar in an engaging way. Classroom games, including

word puzzles or language quests, also promote participation and reduce anxiety.

4. Problem-Based and Inquiry-Based Learning

These approaches encourage students to use the foreign language to explore questions, solve problems, and conduct small-scale research. For instance, learners might investigate cultural differences or analyze authentic media materials. Such activities promote higher-order thinking skills while using the target language as a tool for discovery.

5. Digital and Multimedia Interaction

Technology plays a vital role in modern interactive teaching. Online discussions, virtual classrooms, video conferencing, and language learning apps create new opportunities for communication beyond the classroom. Interactive whiteboards, podcasts, and social media also provide platforms for authentic language exposure and production [2].

Interactive teaching methods offer numerous pedagogical and psychological benefits. Firstly, they increase learner motivation by making classes dynamic and personally relevant. Active participation gives students a sense of ownership and responsibility for their progress. Secondly, interactivity enhances retention and comprehension, as students use language meaningfully rather than memorizing isolated structures.

Furthermore, these methods improve communication and collaboration skills, essential in both academic and professional contexts. They help learners develop intercultural awareness by simulating real-world situations and exposing them to diverse perspectives. Finally, interactive learning supports differentiated instruction, as activities can be adapted to various learning styles and proficiency levels [3].

Despite their advantages, interactive methods also present challenges. Teachers may face difficulties managing time, organizing group work, or maintaining discipline during interactive activities. Moreover, implementing interactive approaches requires a shift in teacher roles – from information providers to facilitators and mentors – which can be demanding for instructors accustomed to traditional methods.

Technical limitations, especially in under-resourced educational settings, can restrict access to digital tools and internet-based resources. Additionally, learners with low language proficiency or introverted personalities may initially struggle to participate actively in communicative tasks. Therefore, effective scaffolding and supportive classroom environments are essential for the success of interactive methods.

To maximize the benefits of interactive teaching, educators should:

- *Integrate interactivity gradually*, combining traditional instruction with interactive tasks.

- *Use technology strategically*, ensuring that digital tools serve pedagogical goals rather than distract from them.
- *Provide clear instructions and feedback* to guide learners through collaborative and communicative activities.
- *Encourage reflection*, allowing students to analyze their performance and set learning goals.
- *Promote inclusivity*, ensuring that every student, regardless of language level or personality type, can participate meaningfully.

Teacher training programs should also emphasize interactive methodologies, equipping educators with both theoretical understanding and practical classroom strategies.

Interactive methods represent a transformative trend in foreign language education. By fostering communication, collaboration, and creativity, they prepare students to use the target language effectively in real-life situations. Although these methods demand flexibility and careful planning from teachers, the impact on learner engagement and language competence is undeniable. As technology continues to evolve, the integration of interactive tools and approaches will further enrich the process of foreign language acquisition, making it more personalized and effective.

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