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ENHANCEMENT OF SPEAKING STYLE IN ENGLISH

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Abstract. This article discusses the major challenges that learners face when attempting to improve their speaking skills in English. These difficulties include grammatical inaccuracies, pronunciation problems, limited vocabulary, and lack of ideas during communication. The article analyzes these problems and proposes practical strategies for overcoming them. Among the suggested techniques are shadowing native speakers to improve pronunciation, recording one's own voice to detect errors, practicing speaking in front of a mirror to increase confidence, and expanding vocabulary through sentence construction and systematic repetition. The article concludes that consistent practice, conscious error correction, and exposure to authentic language materials play a crucial role in developing effective speaking skills.

Key words: speaking skills, pronunciation, shadowing technique, vocabulary development, recording voice, fluency, language learning strategies.

Introduction

In the modern globalized world, English has become one of the most widely used international languages. It functions as a universal medium of communication among people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds. English is used in various fields such as education, science, technology, business, and international cooperation. Therefore, the ability to communicate effectively in English, especially through speaking, has become an essential skill for learners around the world.

Speaking is considered one of the most important productive language skills because it enables individuals to express their ideas, opinions, and emotions in real-time communication. However, despite years of studying English, many learners still struggle to speak fluently and confidently. The difficulties they experience are usually related to pronunciation problems, grammatical inaccuracies, insufficient vocabulary, and lack of ideas during conversation.

These challenges often create psychological barriers such as fear of making mistakes, anxiety, and lack of confidence in communication. Consequently, many learners hesitate to participate actively in conversations. Therefore, it is important to identify effective methods that can help learners overcome these problems and improve their speaking style in English.

Pronunciation Problems in Speaking

One of the most important aspects of speaking is pronunciation. Accurate pronunciation allows speakers to be understood clearly and helps them communicate their ideas effectively.

However, pronunciation is often a challenging component for many language learners, especially when the sounds of the target language differ significantly from those of their native language.

Learners frequently struggle with difficult sounds, stress patterns, rhythm, and intonation. As a result, even if they know the correct vocabulary and grammar, they may still have difficulties expressing themselves clearly.

To improve pronunciation, several effective techniques can be applied.

Shadowing Technique

Shadowing is one of the most effective language learning techniques used to improve pronunciation and fluency. The shadowing method involves listening to native speakers and repeating their speech simultaneously or immediately after hearing it.

In this process, learners choose authentic materials such as interviews, podcasts, speeches, or news recordings spoken by native speakers. First, they listen to the audio several times in order to become familiar with the pronunciation, rhythm, and intonation patterns. After repeated listening, learners begin to imitate the speaker by repeating the Moreover, it improves both listening comprehension and speaking fluency simultaneously. Through continuous practice, learners gradually become more comfortable with producing English sounds.

Today, learners have access to many useful resources for practicing shadowing. Platforms such as educational podcasts, news programs, films, and online lectures provide excellent materials. Authentic resources like sentences aloud.

The advantage of shadowing is that it helps learners develop natural pronunciation patterns, including stress, rhythm, and intonation.

interviews, documentaries, and educational talks are particularly helpful because they expose learners to natural speech.

1. Regular shadowing practice can significantly increase speaking confidence and improve overall communication skills (John Rusell. (2024, May 24). Improve Your Pronunciation By “Shadowing” Others).

Recording One’s Own Voice

Another effective method for improving speaking skills is recording one’s own voice. When learners record their speech, they are able to listen to themselves objectively and analyze their pronunciation, grammar, and fluency.

This technique allows learners to identify common mistakes that they may not notice during real-time conversation. By listening to their recordings, students can detect mispronounced words, incorrect grammatical structures, or unnatural pauses.

After identifying these mistakes, learners can repeat the same speech again while trying to correct the errors. This process encourages self-reflection and promotes autonomous learning.

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In addition, regular voice recording helps learners monitor their progress over time. By comparing earlier recordings with more recent ones, students can clearly observe improvements in pronunciation, fluency, and confidence.

Practicing Speaking in Front of a Mirror

Practicing speaking in front of a mirror is another useful technique that can help learners improve their speaking skills. When students speak while observing themselves in a mirror, they can pay attention to their mouth movements, facial expressions, and articulation.

This practice is particularly helpful for improving pronunciation because learners can observe how their lips and tongue move while producing specific sounds. Such awareness helps them develop better control over speech production.

2. Furthermore, mirror practice contributes to increasing self-confidence. When learners regularly practice speaking in front of a mirror, they become more comfortable expressing themselves verbally. This practice is especially beneficial for those who feel nervous when speaking in front of others (Asna Hutabarat and Dabora Chaterin Simanjuntak. A Phenomenological Study: Speaking Anxiety Overwhelms English Learners).

Grammar Accuracy in Speaking

Another important factor that influences speaking style is the correct use of grammar. Grammar provides the structural foundation of language and ensures that communication is clear and meaningful.

Many learners understand grammar rules theoretically but find it difficult to apply them during spontaneous conversation. This difficulty often results in grammatical errors while speaking.

To improve grammatical accuracy in speech, several practical strategies can be implemented.

Focusing on One Rule at a Time

Instead of trying to master all grammar rules simultaneously, learners should focus on one specific rule at a time. For example, if students have difficulties with verb tenses or countable and uncountable nouns, they should concentrate on practicing that particular rule during conversations.

By consistently applying one rule in various speaking situations, learners gradually develop automatic control over grammatical structures.

Speaking Slowly and Clearly

Speaking too quickly often leads to grammatical mistakes because learners do not have enough time to organize their thoughts. Therefore, speaking slowly and clearly can help reduce errors.

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Taking short pauses while speaking allows learners to structure their sentences properly and choose appropriate grammatical forms. As learners gain more experience and confidence, their speaking speed will naturally increase without sacrificing accuracy.

Daily Practice Through Short Speaking Activities

Daily speaking practice is essential for improving grammatical accuracy. Students can practice by describing daily events, narrating stories, or expressing opinions on different topics.

For instance, on the first day learners may describe past events using the past tense. On the next day they may try to use multiple tenses while telling a short story. Such exercises allow learners to practice grammar in meaningful contexts.

Regular practice helps learners internalize grammatical patterns and apply them more naturally during conversation.

Vocabulary Development for Speaking

Another common obstacle that learners face in speaking English is limited vocabulary. Without sufficient vocabulary knowledge, learners often struggle to express their ideas clearly and accurately.

Many students believe that memorizing vocabulary lists does not significantly improve speaking ability. This perception arises because learners sometimes know the meaning of words but cannot use them naturally in conversation.

Therefore, vocabulary learning should be combined with active usage strategies.

Creating Sentences with New Words

One effective way to remember vocabulary is to create sentences using newly learned words. This process helps learners understand how words function in different contexts.

Students can begin with simple sentences and gradually move toward more complex structures. Through repeated practice, vocabulary becomes part of the learner's active language system.

Regular Repetition and Review

Repetition is a key principle in vocabulary acquisition. Newly learned words should be reviewed regularly in order to transfer them from short-term memory to long-term memory.

Learners can revise vocabulary through speaking exercises, flashcards, or writing activities. Frequent exposure to new expressions allows learners to recall them more easily during communication.

Generating Ideas for Speaking

Sometimes learners struggle to speak not because of linguistic limitations but because they lack ideas to discuss. In such cases, developing background knowledge and critical thinking becomes important.

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Reading newspapers, articles, books, and online resources can help learners gain new information and perspectives. Exposure to various topics expands learners' knowledge and provides them with ideas for discussion.

Another useful technique is brainstorming. In brainstorming activities, learners write down as many ideas as possible about a particular topic within a short period of time. This activity trains the brain to generate ideas quickly and supports spontaneous speaking.

Conclusion

In conclusion, developing effective speaking skills in English requires continuous practice and the application of appropriate learning strategies. Many learners experience difficulties in speaking due to pronunciation problems, grammatical inaccuracies, limited vocabulary, and lack of ideas.

However, these challenges can be overcome through systematic practice. Techniques such as shadowing native speakers, recording one's own voice, practicing in front of a mirror, focusing on specific grammar rules, and actively using new vocabulary can significantly improve speaking performance.

Moreover, reading, brainstorming, and engaging in regular communication activities help learners develop both linguistic competence and confidence in speaking.

Therefore, consistent effort, motivation, and exposure to authentic language materials are essential factors in achieving fluency and effectiveness in English speaking.

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