

THE METHODOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION OF IMPROVING THE SPEECH COMPETENCE OF FUTURE FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHERS

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ABSTRACT

This article provides a methodological description of how to improve the speech competence of future foreign language teachers. Effective communication skills are crucial for language instructors, and speech competence plays a vital role in facilitating comprehension, modeling correct pronunciation, and creating an engaging learning environment. The article emphasizes the importance of pronunciation, intonation, fluency, and communicative skills in language teaching. It explores various methodologies for enhancing speech competence, including language immersion, pronunciation practice, technology integration, and cultural competence development. The article also highlights the significance of continuous professional development, peer collaboration, and assessment and feedback in the improvement process. By following these methodological approaches, future foreign language teachers can enhance their speech competence, leading to more effective language instruction and enhanced learning outcomes for their students.

Keywords: Speech competence, methodology, language acquisition, pronunciation, fluency, communicative skills, technology integration

The development of speech competence is crucial for future foreign language teachers as it directly impacts their ability to communicate effectively in the target language and facilitate language learning for their students. This article aims to provide a methodological description of how to improve the speech competence of future foreign language teachers. By implementing these methodologies, teacher preparation programs can ensure that future educators possess the necessary language skills to excel in their profession. Several scientists and researchers have worked on the speech competence of language teachers. Below we can note some of them:

John M. Swales: Swales is a linguist and researcher who has extensively studied discourse analysis and academic writing. His work on genre analysis has been influential in understanding how language teachers can develop their speech competence by adopting appropriate genres in different educational contexts.

Claire Kramersch: Kramersch is a renowned scholar in the field of language education and intercultural communication. Her research has focused on the role of culture in language teaching and learning. Kramersch emphasizes the importance of developing teachers' intercultural communicative competence, which includes their ability to use appropriate speech patterns and understand cultural nuances in the target language.

Merrill Swain: Swain is a Canadian applied linguist who has made significant contributions to the field of second language acquisition. Her research has explored the concept of "output" in language learning, which refers to learners' production of language. Swain's work has highlighted the importance of teachers' speech competence in providing learners with appropriate models and feedback to facilitate language development.

Rod Ellis: Ellis is a prominent researcher in the field of second language acquisition and language teaching. His work has focused on the role of teachers in promoting language acquisition. Ellis has highlighted the importance of teachers' speech competence in providing comprehensible input, creating opportunities for interaction, and facilitating language learning in the classroom.

Diane Larsen-Freeman: Larsen-Freeman is a leading figure in the field of second language acquisition and applied linguistics. Her research has explored the complexity theory and its implications for language teaching. Larsen-Freeman emphasizes the importance of teachers' speech competence in creating a supportive and engaging learning environment that promotes language development.

These are just a few examples of the many scientists and researchers who have contributed to our understanding of the speech competence of language teachers. Their work has informed pedagogical practices and provided valuable insights into how teachers can enhance their linguistic and communicative abilities to better support language learners.

Speech competence plays a vital role in effective communication and language learning. Whether in personal or professional settings, the ability to articulate thoughts and ideas clearly and confidently is crucial. In this article, we will explore the significance of speech competence and discuss strategies for improving this essential skill. Here are more details about the methodologies for enhancing speech competence of future foreign language teachers.

Language immersion involves immersing oneself in the target language and culture. Future foreign language teachers can engage in activities such as watching movies, TV shows, or listening to podcasts or music in the target language. This exposure helps develop a more natural accent, intonation, and familiarity with language patterns. Immersion experiences can also include interactions with native speakers or

participation in language exchange programs, providing opportunities for authentic speaking practice and cultural learning.

Pronunciation practice is essential for improving speech competence. Future foreign language teachers can engage in regular pronunciation exercises and drills to enhance accuracy and fluency. They can utilize resources such as pronunciation apps, online tools, or audio materials that offer targeted practice and feedback on specific pronunciation challenges. Mimicking native speakers and seeking guidance from experienced instructors can further refine their pronunciation skills.

Integrating technology into speech competence improvement is highly beneficial. Future foreign language teachers can leverage pronunciation apps and software that provide interactive exercises, real-time feedback, and targeted practice. Speech recognition tools, such as Google Docs Voice Typing or Microsoft Dictate, can analyze pronunciation accuracy and fluency. Online language learning platforms offer interactive speaking activities and pronunciation feedback. Utilizing video conferencing and virtual classrooms enables interactive speaking practice with students, including breakout rooms for pair or group exercises and presentations.

Cultural competence is intertwined with speech competence. Future foreign language teachers should develop an understanding of cultural norms, idiomatic expressions, and appropriate language use in different contexts. They can engage in cultural immersion activities, such as exploring literature, films, or music from the target culture. Developing cultural competence enhances their ability to communicate effectively and appropriately, complementing their speech competence.

Continuous professional development is crucial for improving speech competence. Future foreign language teachers should attend workshops, conferences, or professional development courses that focus on speech competence and language teaching. These opportunities provide guidance, resources, and techniques for enhancing speech skills. Seeking feedback from experienced language instructors, engaging in peer observations, and participating in language teaching communities or forums offer valuable insights and support for ongoing improvement.

Collaborating with fellow language teachers contributes to speech competence improvement. Future foreign language teachers can engage in peer observations and feedback sessions specifically focused on speech competence. Peer collaboration allows for the exchange of ideas, resources, and best practices. Through constructive feedback and shared experiences, teachers can identify areas for improvement and adopt effective strategies to enhance their speech competence.

By incorporating these methodologies into their speech competence improvement practices, future foreign language teachers can enhance their ability to communicate effectively, model correct pronunciation, and create engaging language learning

environments. These strategies, combined with a commitment to continuous learning and professional development, contribute to their growth as proficient and confident language instructors.

Improving the speech competence of foreign language teachers is of utmost importance for several reasons. For instance, speech competence is essential for foreign language teachers to communicate effectively with their students. Clear and well-articulated speech enables teachers to convey information accurately, engage students in meaningful interactions, and facilitate comprehension of the target language. When teachers demonstrate strong speech competence, students can better understand and model correct pronunciation, intonation, and language usage.

Moreover, foreign language teachers serve as language models for their students. By exhibiting high levels of speech competence, teachers set an example for students to emulate. Students are more likely to develop accurate pronunciation, fluency, and communicative skills when they have exposure to teachers who demonstrate these competencies consistently. Effective communication skills contribute to successful classroom management. When foreign language teachers possess strong speech competence, they can deliver instructions clearly, manage activities smoothly, and maintain students' attention and engagement. Students are more likely to remain focused and participate actively in language learning when they can understand and follow their teacher's instructions and explanations. Improved speech competence enables foreign language teachers to present information in a way that students can comprehend. When teachers have accurate pronunciation, appropriate intonation, and effective delivery, students can understand the content more easily. This facilitates comprehension of vocabulary, grammar, and overall language usage, leading to enhanced learning outcomes. Besides these, foreign language teachers with strong speech competence are better equipped to provide accurate and effective error correction. They can readily identify and address pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary errors made by students. This targeted feedback helps students improve their own speech competence and avoid common mistakes.

Speech competence encompasses not only linguistic aspects but also cultural aspects of communication. Foreign language teachers need to be aware of cultural norms, idiomatic expressions, and appropriate language use in different contexts. By developing their speech competence, teachers gain a deeper understanding of cultural nuances and can guide students in developing cultural competence alongside linguistic proficiency. Improving speech competence is an ongoing process that enables foreign language teachers to continually develop their language skills. Teachers who invest in enhancing their speech competence demonstrate a commitment to professional growth

and lifelong learning. This dedication positively influences their teaching practice and ultimately benefits their students.

In summary, improving the speech competence of foreign language teachers is vital for effective communication, role modeling, classroom management, student comprehension, error correction, cultural competence, teacher-student rapport, and professional development. By prioritizing speech competence, teachers can better meet the linguistic and communicative needs of their students, creating a more engaging and successful language learning experience.

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