

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING METHODOLOGY IN THE 21ST CENTURY: INNOVATIVE METHODS

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### ABSTRACT

The article explores diverse approaches to English language instruction, emphasizing the adoption of innovative techniques for enhancing students' English communication skills. Emerging methods, including group discussions, role-playing, and brainstorming, contribute to boosting students' confidence in using English.

**Keywords:** encompass English language, innovation, teaching methods, experiential learning, and cross-training.

### INTRODUCTION

Contemporary societal changes necessitate adaptations across various facets of human existence, with education standing as no exception. The evolution of the education system demands a thorough examination and integration of new pedagogical approaches. Societal dynamics and global challenges underscore the imperative to introduce innovations, and the significance of exploring this topic is particularly evident in the context of education modernization, where a paramount focus lies on the quality of knowledge.

The contemporary foreign language classroom requires the incorporation of innovative technologies to enhance the efficiency of the educational process and ensure the attainment of planned learning objectives. Interactive learning emerges as a distinctive approach to organizing cognitive activities, characterized by continuous active engagement, rooted in dialogue, simulation of real-life scenarios, and the open exchange of ideas. It signifies a mutual learning environment where both students and teachers act as equal participants, with the teacher assuming the role of a genuine leader and organizer of the learning process[4].

A creative teacher enjoys vast opportunities and an expansive field for innovative initiatives, as practical experimentation allows for the assessment of the effectiveness of diverse teaching methods. This involves refining and structuring research within the educational process and proposing new technologies and methodologies.

The nature of a foreign language as an academic discipline underscores that communication serves not only as the ultimate learning goal but also as a means to achieve it. The responsibility for facilitating this lies with the teacher, who strives to employ every conceivable means to achieve this end.[5]

Given that language remains the universal foundation for thought, proficiency in a foreign language should be viewed as a catalyst for improving intellectual abilities such as memory, imagination, critical thinking, logical reasoning, and creativity.

Interactive learning, conducted in a dialogue mode, involves participants in the pedagogical process interacting with the aim of mutual understanding, collaborative problem-solving, and the development of students' personal attributes.

The assimilation and retention of educational material are most effective when students actively engage with the material rather than passively receiving information from the teacher[6].

It is crucial to highlight that delivering high-quality student education is inconceivable without leveraging modern educational technologies. Innovative approaches to teaching foreign languages, grounded in individual direction, self-improvement, and the exploration of creative potential, create favorable conditions for enhancing the educational process in higher education institutions. These methodologies facilitate a person-centered approach to learning, enabling the individualization and differentiation of learning experiences to accommodate the diverse abilities and knowledge levels of students[7].

English, as the predominant language of international communication, plays a crucial role in preventing social isolation and creating opportunities for personal development. Recognized as the world's most widely spoken language, English serves as a primary tool for cultural and educational exchange. The increasing global importance of English is reflected in its inclusion as a mandatory subject at both local and global education levels in numerous countries.

The methodology of teaching foreign languages is deemed highly significant, yet it remains an insufficiently addressed topic. In the era of globalization and technological advancement, the rapid obsolescence of knowledge necessitates a contemporary approach to education. Given the constant change in the lives of the younger generation, education must evolve to meet current standards. Achieving optimal learning outcomes for Generation requires the implementation of innovative educational methods[5].

Innovative language teaching entails a creative teacher approach to presenting material, incorporating two main components: information transmission and reception. Effectively engaging students and ensuring long-term retention of material for future use are essential goals for any teacher. To achieve this, a reevaluation of classroom experiences is imperative, accompanied by the introduction of innovative techniques. Various tools, such as audio and video resources, brainstorming, off-site classes, and role-playing games, can be employed to capture students' attention and enhance the effectiveness of the teaching process.

The use of puzzles and games (e.g., board games, crosswords) is an effective educational strategy that combines learning with entertainment, often referred to as "edutainment." Engaging in these activities helps students think creatively and overcome challenges while diverting their attention from language correctness to the message being conveyed. By making learning enjoyable, students focus on winning rather than linguistic forms. The primary objective is to stimulate students' imagination, curiosity, and interest in the language.

Additionally, incorporating audiovisual materials, textbooks with models and diagrams, filmstrips, films, and infographics in the classroom aids in developing students' imagination. Imagination, defined as a mental process involving the creation of images of existing and non-existent objects, is crucial for managing emotions, conducting thought experiments, setting goals, and achieving them. Visualization techniques not only increase interest in the topic but also enhance understanding of language structure and concepts[4].

Brainstorming, another effective method, involves students sharing diverse opinions on a given topic, overcoming language barriers, and encouraging creative ideas. The teacher divides the class into small groups, poses a specific question or topic in English, and ensures that students communicate exclusively in English during the activity. This approach fosters creativity, motivation, and stress resistance.

Engaging in activities outside the classroom, such as visiting museums or parks, facilitates the absorption of thematic vocabulary related to the study location. This collaborative approach improves communication and monologue speech skills while providing a fresh and exciting learning experience.

Role-playing activities challenge students to step out of their comfort zones and enhance interpersonal skills. Students prepare dialogues based on everyday situations modeled by the teacher, reinforcing vocabulary and immersing themselves in the language environment[5].

An examination of English language instruction in higher education revealed a gap in acknowledging the motivational sphere of students and understanding the relationship between motivational readiness and knowledge acquisition. Consequently,

there is an urgent need for research into students' motivational spheres, along with the development of strategies for correction and enhancement.

The primary motivations for students studying English as a professional discipline in higher education are centered around professional and personal improvement. The innovative role of a foreign language teacher within the developmental education system provides them with the freedom to engage in methodological and didactic activities.

### CONCLUSIONS

In summary, contemporary approaches to teaching foreign languages address communicative, cognitive, and educational challenges simultaneously, offering a holistic solution.

In conclusion, the efficacy of communicatively oriented foreign language instruction in higher education hinges on teachers' willingness and ability to draw from the positive experiences of both domestic and foreign scholars. Pedagogical methods grounded in a humanistic approach not only unlock the creative potential of students but also contribute to the ongoing development and self-improvement of the educational and communicative processes.

In conclusion, the 21st-century English teacher should embrace innovative methods, abandoning traditional teaching concepts. Teachers must not only grasp the discipline but also exhibit resourcefulness and creativity to captivate students and deliver clear explanations. The inevitable shift toward interactive learning and a transformed role of education aligns with the development of multimedia and the emergence of a technologically savvy youth generation [3].

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