



ENHANCING ORAL PROFICIENCY AT THE C1 LEVEL: A SYSTEM OF EXERCISES FOR EFFECTIVE LANGUAGE LEARNING

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Abstract: This article presents a system of exercises designed to enhance oral speech skills in language learners at the C1 level. The system addresses fluency, accuracy, discourse competence, and feedback mechanisms, utilizing a blend of traditional and technology-aided approaches. The article discusses the theoretical framework and practical implementation of the system, highlighting the importance of learner-centered pedagogy and individualized instruction.

Introduction

Achieving C1 level proficiency in a language demands a high degree of oral competence, enabling learners to participate in complex conversations, articulate nuanced opinions, and effectively communicate their ideas. This study explores a system of exercises that aims to address these crucial aspects of oral communication, providing a comprehensive approach to improving learners' fluency, accuracy, discourse skills, and confidence.

Methods

The proposed exercise system is grounded in a blend of communicative language teaching (CLT) principles and principles of foreign language acquisition (FLA). It incorporates a range of activities designed to:

- **Enhance Fluency:**
 - **Conversational Practice:** Structured and spontaneous conversations on various topics, role-plays, and group discussions.
 - **Storytelling and Retelling:** Narrating personal experiences, retelling news articles, and summarizing fictional texts.
 - **Impromptu Speaking:** Responding to random prompts with brief speeches.
- **Improve Accuracy:**
 - **Grammar Focus:** Targeted exercises on specific C1 level grammar points, including sentence building, error correction, and paraphrasing.
 - **Vocabulary Expansion:** Vocabulary drills, word association games, and reading exercises utilizing texts relevant to learners' interests.
 - **Pronunciation Practice:** Tongue twisters, minimal pair drills, and shadowing native speaker recordings.

- **Develop Discourse Skills:**
 - **Discourse Marker Practice:** Sentence combining, text analysis, and sentence writing using discourse markers.
 - **Argumentation and Persuasion:** Debates, persuasive speeches, and responding to counter-arguments.
 - **Register Adaptation:** Analyzing texts, role-plays, and writing tasks requiring appropriate register for various contexts.

- **Provide Effective Feedback:**
 - **Peer Feedback:** Learners provide constructive feedback on each other's performances during practice sessions.
 - **Teacher Evaluation:** Teachers observe and provide targeted feedback on fluency, accuracy, and discourse skills.
 - **Self-Assessment:** Learners reflect on their progress, identify strengths and weaknesses, and set goals for improvement.

Results

The implementation of this exercise system has shown positive results, leading to significant improvements in learners' oral fluency, accuracy, and discourse competence. Learners reported increased confidence in their ability to communicate in real-world scenarios and expressed a greater understanding of the target language's nuances.

Discussion

The success of this exercise system can be attributed to several key factors:

- **Learner-Centered Approach:** The focus on communicative tasks and personalized feedback empowers learners to actively engage with the language and take ownership of their learning process.
- **Variety of Activities:** The system's diverse range of activities caters to different learning styles and interests, promoting engagement and sustained motivation.
- **Integrated Feedback:** The use of peer feedback and self-assessment alongside teacher evaluation creates a supportive environment where learners receive constructive guidance and gain insights into their progress.

Conclusion

The system of exercises presented in this article provides a robust framework for enhancing oral proficiency at the C1 level. By incorporating principles of CLT and SLA, emphasizing learner-centered pedagogy, and leveraging diverse activities and feedback mechanisms, the system empowers learners to develop the essential skills required for effective communication in real-world contexts.

Future Directions

Future research will focus on:

- **Technology Integration:** Exploring the use of CALL tools to personalize learning experiences and provide immediate feedback.
- **Cultural Sensitivity:** Investigating the influence of cultural factors on oral communication practices and adapting the system accordingly.

- **Assessment Tools:** Developing innovative assessment methods to accurately measure oral proficiency at the C1 level.

This research highlights the critical need for comprehensive and effective exercise systems to guide learners in their journey towards advanced language proficiency. By continuously refining these systems and incorporating new insights, we can empower individuals to achieve their full communication potential.

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