

## MODERN METHODS OF TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES TO YOUNG CHILDREN

*Toshtemirova Sabrina Toshpulat qizi*

*Shakhrisabz State Pedagogical Institute Faculty of Philology*

*Department of Foreign Language and Literature (English), 3<sup>rd</sup> year student*

*e-mail: [toshtemirovas303@gmail.com](mailto:toshtemirovas303@gmail.com)*

**Abstract:** This thesis analyzes modern methods used in teaching foreign languages to young children. It explores age-specific characteristics, motivation for learning, and effective approaches such as Total Physical Response, the communicative method, storytelling, songs, and the use of technology. Moreover, the role of modern technologies including mobile applications, online platforms, and virtual reality in the educational process is discussed. The research shows that foreign language teaching can be highly effective when interactive and engaging methods tailored to children are employed.

**Keywords:** Communicative method, modern technologies, online platforms, games, interactive activities, virtual reality.

Nowadays, the process of globalization is bringing numerous changes to the education system. In particular, learning foreign languages has become a relevant issue not only for adults but also for young children. Scientific research shows that learning a foreign language at an early age significantly impacts a child's linguistic, cognitive, social, and cultural development. Therefore, applying effective teaching methods at preschool and primary levels is a key priority. Alongside traditional grammar-based and rote-learning methods, modern teaching approaches—such as interactive, communicative, and game-based strategies help foster a positive attitude toward the foreign language, increase student engagement, and promote strong language acquisition.

### **1. Learning Characteristics of Young Children**

For young learners, language acquisition is a natural process. They absorb language through communication, games, songs, and movement. Their thinking is mostly tied to concrete images and actions. Hence, visual materials (pictures, videos, animations), auditory materials (songs, dialogues), and kinesthetic activities (dance, pantomime) play a crucial role in their learning. Since it is difficult for children to maintain attention for long periods, lessons should be enriched with various interactive elements. Activities such as games, role-playing, creative tasks, and storytelling enliven the lesson and ensure children's active participation.

### **2. Modern Teaching Methods**

a) Total Physical Response (TPR) Developed by James Asher, this method is based on learning through physical movement. The teacher gives commands (e.g., "Stand up", "Open the door"), and the children perform the corresponding actions. This approach integrates physical activity and listening, facilitating natural language acquisition. It is especially effective in turning passive vocabulary into active use.

**b) TPR Storytelling (TPRS)**

An advanced form of TPR, this method is based on learning through storytelling. Stories capture children's attention, activate memory, and help learners understand words and phrases in context. Created by Blaine Ray, this method enhances imagination, creativity, and speaking skills.

c) Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) This method emphasizes learning language as a tool for real-life communication, not just grammar. Role plays, Q&A sessions, group work, and interviews are used in class to apply language practically. Children are encouraged to express themselves without fear of making grammar mistakes.

d) Task-Based Language Teaching (TBLT) In this approach, lesson activities are organized around completing specific tasks—for example, "Shopping at the supermarket", "Creating a daily schedule", or "Talking about one's family". This method helps develop critical thinking, planning, and problem-solving skills.

**e) Storytelling and Songs**

Auditory-based language learning is one of the most effective methods for children. Cartoons, audiobooks, and children's songs increase motivation, improve pronunciation and intonation. Children memorize and learn many words in context through familiar songs or stories.

f) Games and Interactive Activities Didactic games, flashcards, memory games, dominoes, role-playing, pantomimes, and dramatizations ensure children's active involvement. These methods make the language learning process fun and memorable.

**3. Use of Technology****a) Mobile Applications**

Today's children grow up in a digital environment. Apps like Lingokids and Duolingo ABC, specifically designed for children, help develop language skills using multimedia content, games, and quizzes. These apps allow for learning at an individual pace.

**b) Online Platforms**

Online platforms like GoGo Lingo, Novakid, and ABCmouse offer lessons conducted by professional teachers. The lessons are tailored to the child's age, interests, and language level. These platforms also provide videos, interactive exercises, and online assessments.

**c) Virtual Reality (VR)**

Through VR, children can learn in immersive environments. For instance, they can practice ordering food in a virtual restaurant or checking in at an airport. This helps them understand how language is used in real-life situations.

**4. The Role of the Teacher**

Modern methods define the teacher not just as an information provider but as a facilitator, motivator, and guide in the learning process. The teacher must consider the learners' needs, learning styles, and interests when designing lessons. They are responsible for creating a motivating environment, providing individual approaches, and maintaining a supportive atmosphere.

Modern methods significantly enhance the effectiveness of teaching foreign languages to young children. These methods boost student interest and help form solid language skills. Through interactive, communicative, and technology-integrated approaches, children feel more confident and actively participate in class. Teachers must creatively select and adapt methods according to learners' age, individual needs, and lesson objectives.



**References:**

1. Asher, J. (2000). Learning Another Language Through Actions. Sky Oaks Productions.
2. Ray, B. (1990). Fluency Through TPR Storytelling. Command Performance Language Institute.
3. Richards, J. C., & Rodgers, T. S. (2001). Approaches and Methods in Language Teaching. Cambridge University Press.
4. Lingokids. (2024). Modern parents are turning screentime into learning with Lingokids app. New York Post.
5. GoGo Lingo. (2010). GoGo Lingo Makes Education Entertaining. Wired.
6. Novakid. (2023). Modern methods and techniques for teach a child English.