

MODERN APPROACHES TO DEVELOPING STUDENTS' SPEECH COMPETENCE IN PRIMARY EDUCATION

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Abstract: This article analyzes the relevance of developing speech competence among primary school students and examines modern approaches to this process. Particular attention is paid to the role of interactive methods, game-based technologies, an integrated approach, and multimedia tools in the formation of students' speech competence. The study highlights that the effective use of contemporary pedagogical technologies contributes to improving students' communicative skills, enriching vocabulary, and developing coherent and expressive speech in the context of primary education.

Keywords: primary education, speech competence, modern approach, communicative approach, integrated approach, interactive technologies, game-based technologies, information and communication technologies.

In the context of modern educational reforms, the development of students' speech competence in primary education has become one of the key priorities of the teaching and learning process. Speech competence is not limited to the ability to speak correctly; it also includes skills such as listening, understanding, expressing thoughts clearly, participating in dialogue, and using language appropriately in various communicative situations. At the primary school level, these skills form the foundation for students' academic success, social interaction, and personal development.

Rapid changes in society, the expansion of information and communication technologies, and the increasing demands placed on learners require teachers to apply modern and effective pedagogical approaches. Traditional teaching methods alone are no longer sufficient to fully develop students' speech abilities. Therefore, the introduction of modern approaches—such as communicative, interactive, integrated, and technology-based methods—has become essential in primary education. These approaches encourage active participation, creativity, and collaboration, enabling students to use language in meaningful and real-life contexts.

At the same time, the age-specific psychological and cognitive characteristics of primary school students must be taken into account. Children at this stage learn language most effectively through interaction, play, and visual support. Game-based technologies, multimedia resources, and interactive tasks help maintain learners' interest, motivate them to communicate, and create a supportive learning environment. Such methods also promote the development of vocabulary, pronunciation, grammatical accuracy, and coherent speech.

Therefore, the purpose of this article is to examine modern approaches to forming speech competence in primary education and to highlight the pedagogical significance of interactive methods, game-based technologies, integrated instruction, and multimedia tools. By analyzing these approaches, the study aims to demonstrate their effectiveness in enhancing students' communicative abilities and improving the overall quality of primary education.

The development of speech competence in primary education requires a systematic and learner-centered approach that integrates modern pedagogical strategies with the psychological characteristics of young learners. The findings discussed in this article indicate that traditional

teacher-centered methods, which mainly focus on memorization and repetition, are insufficient for fostering effective communicative skills. In contrast, modern approaches emphasize active student participation, meaningful interaction, and real-life communication, which significantly enhance learners' speech development.

One of the most effective approaches is the communicative approach, which prioritizes the use of language as a tool for communication rather than as a set of isolated rules. Through dialogues, role-plays, storytelling, and group discussions, students are encouraged to express their thoughts freely and confidently. This approach helps reduce speech anxiety and develops fluency, as learners practice language in authentic contexts. The discussion shows that when students are given opportunities to communicate regularly, their vocabulary range expands, and their ability to construct coherent sentences improves.

Interactive methods also play a crucial role in shaping speech competence. Techniques such as pair work, group activities, brainstorming, and problem-solving tasks create a collaborative learning environment where students learn from each other. These methods promote social interaction and develop listening and speaking skills simultaneously. The discussion highlights that interactive learning increases students' motivation and engagement, making the learning process more dynamic and effective.

Game-based technologies are particularly important in primary education, as play is a natural form of learning for young children. Educational games, language games, and role-playing activities help students acquire speech skills in an enjoyable and stress-free atmosphere. The use of games encourages spontaneous speech, improves pronunciation, and supports the development of communicative confidence. According to the analysis, game-based learning not only enhances speech competence but also contributes to the emotional and social development of students.

Furthermore, the integration of multimedia and information and communication technologies (ICT) has transformed the teaching of speech skills. Audio-visual materials, interactive presentations, digital storytelling, and educational applications provide rich language input and support different learning styles. The discussion reveals that multimedia tools help students better understand linguistic concepts, improve listening comprehension, and model correct pronunciation and intonation. When used effectively, ICT enhances students' independent learning skills and encourages continuous practice beyond the classroom.

In addition, the integrated approach, which connects language learning with other subjects, supports holistic development. By linking speech activities with mathematics, science, art, and social studies, students can use language meaningfully across different contexts. This approach helps reinforce vocabulary and concepts while promoting critical thinking and creativity. The discussion demonstrates that integrated learning makes speech development more purposeful and relevant to students' everyday experiences.

Overall, the discussion confirms that the effective formation of speech competence in primary education depends on the balanced use of modern approaches. Communicative, interactive, game-based, integrated, and technology-supported methods complement each other and create favorable conditions for developing students' speech skills. Teachers play a key role in selecting appropriate strategies, designing engaging tasks, and creating a supportive environment that encourages students to express themselves confidently and creatively.

The development of speech competence in primary education is a complex and continuous process that plays a fundamental role in shaping students' academic achievement, social interaction, and overall personal growth. As discussed in this article, speech competence is not limited to correct pronunciation or grammatical accuracy; it also encompasses the ability to

understand, express, and communicate ideas effectively in various learning and life situations. Therefore, forming this competence at the primary level is essential, as it serves as the foundation for further learning across all subjects.

The analysis demonstrates that modern approaches to teaching significantly enhance the effectiveness of speech development. Communicative and interactive methods create opportunities for meaningful language use, allowing students to actively participate in discussions, dialogues, and collaborative tasks. Game-based technologies, in particular, are highly effective for young learners, as they align with children's natural learning styles and psychological needs, making the learning process engaging and emotionally supportive. These methods help students develop confidence, fluency, and motivation to communicate.

Moreover, the integration of multimedia tools and information and communication technologies enriches the educational process by providing diverse language input and visual support. Such tools facilitate better comprehension, improve listening and speaking skills, and encourage independent learning. The integrated approach, which connects speech development with other academic subjects, further strengthens students' ability to apply language knowledge in real-life contexts, promoting holistic and meaningful learning.

In conclusion, the effective formation of speech competence in primary education requires the systematic and balanced application of modern pedagogical approaches. Teachers must thoughtfully combine communicative, interactive, game-based, and technology-enhanced methods while considering the individual characteristics of learners. Creating a supportive, motivating, and interactive learning environment is essential for nurturing students' speech abilities and preparing them for successful communication in both academic and everyday contexts.

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