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Section 2: Literary studies and society.

Section 3: Problems of comparative typology and translation studies, modern problems of philology.

Section 4: Integration of information and communication technologies into the language learning process.

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TEACHING LISTENING TO YOUNG LEARNERS: EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES AND TECHNIQUES

Shukurova Madina Askarovna

Doctor of philosophy in philological sciences (PhD), Associate professor of English linguistics department, BSU
e-mail: m.a.shukurova@buxdu.uz

Keywords: *teaching listening, young learners, listening skills, language development, teaching methods, active listening, visual aids, interactive activities, repetition, games in teaching*

Abstract: *This article explores the importance of developing listening skills in young learners and the methods and strategies that can help teachers effectively teach listening. The article discusses common challenges faced by educators when teaching listening to children and suggests practical approaches, such as the use of visual aids, simplifying language, repetition, and interactive games. It demonstrates that creating a safe and supportive classroom environment is crucial for successful listening skill acquisition, which forms the foundation for further language development.*

Ключевые слова: *обучение слушанию, молодые ученики, навыки слушания, развитие языка, методы обучения, активное слушание, визуальные пособия, интерактивные задания, повторение, игры в обучении*

Аннотация: *Статья рассматривает важность развития навыков слушания у младших школьников, а также методы и стратегии, которые могут помочь учителям эффективно обучать детей слушанию. В статье обсуждаются основные трудности, с которыми сталкиваются педагоги при обучении детей слушанию, и предлагаются практические подходы, такие как использование визуальных пособий, упрощение языка, повторение и активные игры. Показано, что создание безопасной и поддерживающей атмосферы в классе способствует успешному освоению навыков слушания, что является основой для дальнейшего развития языка.*

Teaching listening skills to young learners is a crucial component of language acquisition. As language development occurs through exposure to spoken language, it's essential that educators provide young learners with opportunities to engage with listening in a way that is both meaningful

and enjoyable. This article will explore the importance of listening skills, challenges young learners face, and effective strategies to enhance listening comprehension.

Listening is one of the primary ways through which children acquire language. Before they can speak, children listen attentively to their surroundings, processing sounds, words, and phrases. This listening practice forms the foundation for developing vocabulary, understanding grammar, and constructing sentences. Listening also helps learners understand the rhythms, tones, and nuances of speech, which are vital to effective communication. For young learners, strong listening skills contribute not only to language development but also to cognitive development. By practicing listening, children improve their attention span, memory, and the ability to follow directions – skills that are applicable in all areas of learning.

Despite its importance, teaching listening to young learners can be challenging. Here are some common obstacles:

1. **Short Attention Spans:** Young children often struggle with maintaining focus for extended periods, which can make listening activities difficult.
2. **Limited Vocabulary:** Young learners may not have a broad vocabulary, which can hinder their understanding of spoken language.
3. **Complexity of Language:** The language used in listening activities can sometimes be too complex for young learners, especially when they are just beginning to grasp basic language concepts.
4. **Environmental Factors:** Distractions in the learning environment, such as noise, can affect young learners' ability to listen effectively.

Despite these challenges, with the right strategies, young learners can develop strong listening skills that will serve them throughout their education and beyond.

Effective Strategies for Teaching Listening:

1. **Use of Visual Aids** - Visual aids are highly effective for supporting listening comprehension in young learners. Pictures, flashcards, real objects, and even gestures can help children connect spoken language to meaning. For example, if you're teaching vocabulary related to animals, showing images or real-life examples of animals while saying their names can help children understand and retain the vocabulary.

2. **Interactive Listening Activities** - Young learners thrive in interactive environments where they can actively participate. Activities such as storytelling, songs, and role-playing not only engage their attention but also provide context for language use. Interactive activities encourage students to listen attentively while also allowing them to respond, reinforcing their understanding of the language. For example, songs with repetitive phrases or actions allow children to practice listening and engage with the material simultaneously.

3. **Simplify the Language** - To prevent young learners from feeling overwhelmed, it's important to tailor the language to their level of comprehension. Using short, clear, and simple sentences is crucial. Additionally, speaking slowly and emphasizing key words can help learners process the language more effectively. The use of exaggerated intonation can also help highlight the meaning of what's being said.

4. **Repetition and Familiarity** - Repetition is key in language learning. Listening to the same stories, songs, or phrases multiple times helps young learners internalize new language. Repeating the same listening activities builds confidence and improves comprehension. After listening to a story, for example, you could ask the students to repeat sentences, act out parts of the story, or identify objects mentioned in the story.

5. **Focus on Active Listening** - Active listening involves not only hearing but also processing and understanding the message. Encouraging children to listen actively can be done through simple tasks that ask them to identify specific details. For example, after listening to a short story or conversation, you might ask, "What color was the dog?" or "Who was playing in the park?" These questions prompt learners to pay closer attention to details and demonstrate comprehension.

6. **Incorporate Movement and Games** - Games that require movement can be highly effective for young learners, especially when trying to maintain their attention. For example, a game

of "Simon Says" encourages children to listen carefully and follow instructions. Similarly, "Listen and Find" can involve children listening to descriptions and matching them with objects in the classroom.

7. Create a Safe and Supportive Environment - Young learners may feel hesitant to participate if they feel insecure or nervous. Creating a positive and supportive environment is essential for fostering active participation. Praise and encouragement help boost learners' confidence and motivate them to engage in listening activities.

Conclusion. Teaching listening to young learners is a dynamic and essential part of language development. By incorporating a variety of strategies—such as using visual aids, simplifying language, and integrating interactive activities—educators can create a rich and engaging listening environment. While challenges may arise, with patience, creativity, and a strong focus on creating enjoyable learning experiences, young learners can develop strong listening skills that lay the foundation for lifelong language acquisition.

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