

INTERACTIVE METHODS OF TEACHING ORAL SPEECH

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Abstract: This article explores the effectiveness of interactive methods in teaching oral speech, emphasizing their role in fostering active learner engagement and communication skills. It discusses various interactive approaches, such as project-based learning, cooperative learning, game-based learning, and learning through practice, highlighting their benefits in improving fluency, pronunciation, and confidence in oral communication. The article also provides specific strategies for A2-B1 level learners, including role-playing, guided discussions, linguistic exchanges, and situational activities. Additionally, it addresses techniques for supporting learners who face challenges in oral skills, such as providing structured feedback, encouraging repetition, and using reinforcement activities. By implementing these interactive methods, educators can create a dynamic and engaging learning environment that enhances oral competency effectively.

Key Words: Interactive teaching methods, oral speech development, communicative learning, project-based learning, cooperative learning, game-based learning, role-playing, guided discussions, linguistic exchanges, oral fluency, pronunciation improvement, A2-B1 language learning, active learning strategies, learner engagement, teaching oral communication, situational learning activities.

Interactive methods are pedagogical approaches that promote active learner engagement in the learning process. These methods emphasize interactivity, exchange, and active participation of learners rather than a traditional teacher-centered approach.

Interactive methods aim to create a dynamic learning environment where learners are encouraged to interact with each other and acquire knowledge. Role-playing, case studies, critical debates, problem-solving activities, interactive voting, and discussion forums are just a few examples of active methods used in universities. To implement them, special attention must be given to student supervision by providing structured teaching with a clear and rigorous progression, fostering social interactions and collaborative work (peer learning), and offering continuous feedback throughout the process to inform students about their progress while encouraging self-evaluation. Since their objective is to actively engage students in their learning by allowing them to reflect, critique, evaluate, and create, active methods are an excellent way to fulfill the mission of university education.

Interactive methods can take various forms, such as group discussions, role-playing, group projects, debates, case studies, simulations, practical activities, learning games, investigations, and presentations. These methods often incorporate the use of technology, digital tools, and multimedia resources to enhance interactivity and learner engagement.

There are several interactive and effective methods for oral competency training:

Project-Based Learning Method: This method emphasizes practical and concrete activities that involve learners in real or simulated projects. For example, learners can work together to create a presentation on a specific topic, organize a debate, conduct a fictional

interview, or stage a real-life situation. These activities promote oral communication, collaboration, and learning through practice.

Cooperative Learning Method: Cooperative learning encourages learners to work in teams or small groups to complete tasks and solve problems. This approach promotes oral communication and collaboration among learners. For example, learners can participate in role-playing activities, guided discussions, debates, or group projects where they exchange ideas, argue their points, and make collective decisions.

Game-Based Learning Method: Playful activities and games are interactive approaches that stimulate oral competency learning in a fun and engaging way. For example, role-playing games, board games adapted for language learning, card games with questions and answers, riddles, or simulation games can be used to encourage learners to express themselves orally, solve linguistic problems, and interact with one another.

Learning Through Practice Method: This method emphasizes the regular practice of oral skills in real-life situations. Learners are encouraged to use the target language authentically and immerse themselves in oral communication activities. This may include informal discussions, presentations, interviews, role-plays, debates, or situation simulations. Learning through practice helps learners develop confidence and fluency in using spoken language.

Listening and Repetition Method: This method involves listening to and repeating sentence models and dialogues in the target language. Learners listen to audio recordings or watch videos and then repeat what they hear out loud. This helps improve pronunciation, intonation, rhythm, and speech fluency. Repetition exercises can be combined with interactive activities to encourage learners to use learned expressions and structures in a more creative and spontaneous manner.

The interactive methods for developing oral competency in learners at A2-B1 levels focus on creating opportunities for authentic and meaningful oral interactions. These methods aim to enhance learners' ability to communicate clearly and effectively in everyday situations. Here are some examples of interactive methods suitable for learners at A2-B1 levels:

Role-Playing Games: Role-playing games involve learners taking on specific roles and interacting in simulated scenarios. For example, learners might play the roles of a client and a vendor, a patient and a doctor, or a tourist and a guide. These activities allow learners to practice real-world communication situations and develop their oral expression skills.

Guided Discussions: Organize guided discussions on relevant topics for the learners. Provide questions or themes and encourage them to express themselves, share their opinions, and interact with one another. Guided discussions help learners work on fluency, opinion expression, and argumentation skills.

Group Activities: Organize group activities that require collaboration and oral communication. For example, learners can work together to solve problems, create projects, prepare presentations, or participate in group role-plays. These activities promote interaction among learners and give them a chance to practice the language interactively.

Linguistic Exchanges: Encourage learners to participate in linguistic exchanges with native speakers or other language learners. This can take place in person or online, through language partnerships or intercultural exchange programs. Linguistic exchanges provide valuable opportunities for learners to practice oral competency in an authentic context and develop intercultural understanding.

Audio and Video Recordings: Use audio or video recordings to provide language models for learners and encourage them to record and listen to their own speech. This helps improve pronunciation, intonation, and speech fluency. Learners can also record oral presentations to share with their classmates, fostering a collaborative learning environment.

These interactive methods offer several key advantages that not only promote the learning of oral skills but also provide an enriching and effective learning experience for learners at levels A2-B1. Here are some of the main benefits:

Active Engagement: Interactive methods encourage active engagement from learners in their learning process. This means they are actively involved in activities that require real oral communication, which improves knowledge retention and allows for a deeper understanding of the language.

Authentic Interaction: These methods provide opportunities for authentic oral interaction, where learners can practice the language in real and meaningful situations. This prepares them to communicate effectively in everyday contexts, thus boosting their confidence in their language skills.

Real-Time Reflection: Interactive methods allow learners to think and respond quickly using the target language. This helps them develop their ability to think and express themselves in real time, which is essential in real communication situations where speed and fluency are crucial.

Collaborative Learning: Interactive methods promote collaboration among learners. They work in teams, exchange ideas, solve problems together, and help each other in their learning. This encourages knowledge sharing and the development of interpersonal communication skills. In summary, these methods create a dynamic learning environment where learners are actively involved and can improve their oral skills in an authentic, collaborative, and reflective way.

Regular Practice: Interactive methods provide regular practice of oral skills. Learners have the opportunity to express themselves orally several times, which helps improve their fluency, pronunciation, and oral comprehension.

Intrinsic Motivation: Interactive methods stimulate the intrinsic motivation of learners. By actively involving them in interactive activities and giving them responsibilities in their own learning process, they feel more motivated to invest in and progress in their oral skills.

Immediate Correction and Feedback: Interactive methods allow for immediate correction and feedback from the teacher or peers. This helps learners become aware of their mistakes and improve their language skills more effectively.

By combining these advantages, interactive methods offer a dynamic and stimulating learning environment, thus promoting the development of oral skills for learners at A2-B1 levels. When it comes to adapting interactive methods for learners with difficulties in oral skills, here are some strategies to consider:

Encourage Progressive Participation: For learners facing difficulties with oral skills, it can be helpful to start with simple interactive activities and gradually guide them towards more complex ones. This creates a supportive learning environment where they can gain confidence and progressively develop their oral skills step by step.

Provide Models and Supports: Provide learners with language models through examples, audio or video recordings, and visual resources. This gives them references and support to express themselves. They can rely on these models to formulate their own ideas and phrases.

Encouraging repetition: Repetition is an effective strategy to improve oral competence. Encourage learners to repeat phrases, dialogues, or specific linguistic structures. This allows them to practice pronouncing words and phrases correctly, while also gaining confidence in their oral expression. **Propose reinforcement activities:** Plan reinforcement activities that specifically target the learners' difficulties in oral competence. These can include pronunciation exercises, oral comprehension activities with guided tasks, role-playing games targeting specific communication situations, etc.

Provide constructive feedback: Make sure to provide learners with constructive and specific feedback on their oral competence performance. This can include advice on pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, or sentence structure. Encourage them to continue their efforts and to identify specific areas where they can focus to improve. By adapting interactive methods to meet the specific needs of learners facing challenges in oral competence, you can help them progress, gain confidence, and effectively develop their linguistic skills. Here are some effective interactive methods for learners at A2-B1 levels to develop oral competence:

Role-playing games: Role-playing games allow learners to practice real-life communication situations. For example, they can simulate dialogues such as ordering in a restaurant, reserving a hotel room, or asking for directions. Role-playing games encourage speaking and develop learners' ability to express themselves in specific contexts.

Guided debates: Organize guided debates on topics of interest for the learners. Divide them into groups and assign them specific roles, such as defending a point of view or expressing an opposing opinion. Guided debates encourage speaking, argumentation, and the ability to express opinions in a structured manner.

Situational activities: Propose activities where learners must solve problems or complete tasks using the target language. For example, ask them to plan a trip, present a project, or conduct a sales simulation. These activities allow learners to practice their oral skills while developing creativity and problem-solving abilities.

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