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Developing Linguistic Competence in Students in Teaching Foreign Languages

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Abstract: This article explores effective ways of developing linguistic competence in students in the process of teaching foreign languages. Linguistic competence, which includes knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, phonology, and syntax, plays a crucial role in language acquisition. The study aims to analyze modern teaching methods and their impact on students' linguistic development. Both theoretical and practical approaches are considered, including communicative language teaching, task-based learning, and the integration of digital technologies. The findings show that interactive and student-centered approaches significantly improve linguistic competence. The article concludes with recommendations for teachers to enhance language instruction.

Keywords: linguistic competence, foreign language teaching, grammar, vocabulary, communicative approach

Introduction. In recent years, the demand for effective foreign language teaching has increased significantly due to globalization and international communication needs. One of the central goals of language education is the development of students' linguistic competence. Linguistic competence refers to the ability to understand and produce language correctly based on knowledge of its system, including grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and sentence structure.

Despite the importance of linguistic competence, many students face difficulties in mastering language rules and applying them in real communication. Traditional teaching methods often focus on memorization rather than practical usage, which limits students' ability to use the language effectively.

This study aims to investigate methods of developing linguistic competence in students and to identify the most effective strategies in foreign language teaching.

Methods. This research is based on both qualitative and quantitative approaches. The study includes:

- Analysis of scientific literature on language teaching methodologies
- Classroom observations
- Surveys conducted among students and teachers

The participants of the study were university students learning English as a foreign language. Various teaching methods were applied during lessons, including communicative activities, grammar-focused exercises, and the use of digital tools.

The collected data were analyzed to determine which methods contributed most effectively to the development of linguistic competence.

Results

The results of the study indicate that students who were taught using interactive and communicative methods showed significant improvement in their linguistic competence. In particular:





- Students improved their grammar accuracy through contextual learning
- Vocabulary retention increased when words were taught in meaningful situations
- Pronunciation improved through listening and speaking activities
- Students became more confident in constructing sentences

On the other hand, students who were taught using traditional methods demonstrated slower progress and had difficulty applying their knowledge in real-life communication.

Development of Grammatical Competence

Grammatical competence is a fundamental component of linguistic competence and refers to the ability to use language structures accurately and appropriately. It includes knowledge of syntax, morphology, sentence formation, and the correct use of tenses, articles, and prepositions.

In foreign language teaching, developing grammatical competence is often considered one of the most challenging aspects for students. Traditional approaches usually focus on memorizing rules and completing mechanical exercises. However, such methods do not always lead to effective language use in real communication.

Modern teaching approaches emphasize teaching grammar in context rather than in isolation. Contextualized grammar instruction allows students to understand how grammatical structures function in real-life situations.

Communicative activities play a key role in enhancing grammatical competence. Through speaking and writing tasks, students practice using grammar naturally while focusing on meaning. Error correction should be supportive and constructive.

Additionally, the use of digital tools and interactive platforms can significantly support grammar learning. Online exercises and multimedia resources provide immediate feedback and allow students to practice at their own pace.

As a result, integrating grammar instruction with communication and technology leads to more effective development of grammatical competence in students.

Discussion. The findings of this study confirm that modern teaching approaches are more effective in developing linguistic competence than traditional methods. Communicative language teaching encourages students to use language actively, which helps them internalize linguistic rules naturally. Task-based learning also plays an important role, as it allows students to focus on meaning while using correct language structures. Additionally, the use of digital technologies provides students with more opportunities for practice. These results are consistent with previous research, which emphasizes the importance of student-centered learning and interaction in language acquisition.

Conclusion. In conclusion, the development of linguistic competence is essential for successful foreign language learning. The study shows that interactive, communicative, and technology-based teaching methods significantly enhance students' linguistic abilities.

Teachers are recommended to:





- Use communicative activities in the classroom
- Teach grammar in context rather than isolation
- Integrate digital tools into lessons
- Encourage active student participation

By applying these strategies, teachers can effectively support students in developing strong linguistic competence.

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