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The Impact of Grammar Knowledge on Speaking Skills

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Abstract

Grammar knowledge is one of the essential components of language proficiency and plays a significant role in developing speaking skills. Effective communication requires not only vocabulary knowledge but also the ability to organize words into meaningful and grammatically correct sentences. Many English language learners struggle with speaking because of limited grammar competence, lack of confidence, and fear of making mistakes. This article discusses the impact of grammar knowledge on speaking skills, examines the relationship between grammar and oral communication, and analyzes common difficulties faced by learners. The paper also explores effective methods for improving grammar in speaking activities and highlights the importance of communicative grammar teaching. The study concludes that strong grammar knowledge improves speaking accuracy, fluency, confidence, and communication effectiveness.

Keywords: grammar knowledge, speaking skills, communication, English language learning, grammar teaching, fluency, accuracy, ESL learners.

Introduction

Speaking is one of the most important language skills because it enables people to communicate ideas, emotions, opinions, and information. In English language learning, speaking is often considered the main indicator of language proficiency. However, many learners experience difficulties in speaking English fluently and accurately.

One of the major factors affecting speaking performance is grammar knowledge. Grammar provides the structural system of language and helps speakers form meaningful sentences. Without grammar, communication becomes unclear and sometimes impossible. Learners may know many vocabulary words, but without grammar knowledge, they cannot organize those words correctly.

In modern language teaching, there has been ongoing debate about the importance of grammar in speaking skills. Some researchers believe communication should be prioritized over grammatical accuracy, while others argue that grammar is essential for effective communication. In reality, successful speaking requires a balance between fluency and accuracy.

This article examines the impact of grammar knowledge on speaking skills, discusses the relationship between grammar and oral communication, and presents strategies for improving grammar in speaking activities.

The Importance of Grammar in Language Learning





Grammar is the system of rules that governs language structure. It explains how words are combined into phrases and sentences. Grammar helps speakers communicate clearly and correctly.

For example:

Incorrect sentence:

She go to school yesterday.

Correct sentence:

She went to school yesterday.

Although the listener may understand the first sentence, the grammatical error affects communication quality and professionalism.

Grammar is important because it:

improves sentence accuracy

helps organize ideas logically

supports communication clarity

develops academic language skills

increases confidence in speaking

Therefore, grammar knowledge is a necessary component of language competence.

Speaking Skills in English Learning

Speaking is an interactive process that involves producing and receiving information. Effective speaking requires several components:

pronunciation

vocabulary

grammar

fluency

comprehension

Among these components, grammar plays a crucial role because it helps learners create understandable and meaningful speech.

Speaking fluency refers to the ability to communicate smoothly without excessive pauses. Speaking accuracy refers to the correct use of grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation. Both aspects are important for successful communication.

Relationship Between Grammar Knowledge and Speaking Skills

Grammar knowledge directly influences speaking ability. Learners with strong grammar competence usually speak more accurately and confidently. They can form sentences correctly and express ideas clearly.

For example:

Learner with weak grammar:

Yesterday I go market and buy fruit.

Learner with good grammar:

Yesterday I went to the market and bought some fruit.

The second sentence is clearer, more accurate, and more natural.





Grammar knowledge affects speaking in several ways:

sentence construction

tense usage

question formation

communication clarity

speaking confidence

Without grammar knowledge, learners may struggle to participate in conversations effectively.

The Impact of Grammar Knowledge on Speaking Accuracy

One of the most significant effects of grammar knowledge is improved speaking accuracy. Learners who understand grammar rules make fewer mistakes in conversation.

Correct grammar helps learners:

use verb tenses properly

form questions accurately

use articles and prepositions correctly

organize ideas logically

For example:

Incorrect:

He don't like coffee.

Correct:

He doesn't like coffee.

Frequent grammar mistakes may confuse listeners and reduce communication effectiveness.

The Impact of Grammar Knowledge on Speaking Fluency

Grammar also affects speaking fluency. Learners who understand grammar structures can produce sentences more automatically. They spend less time thinking about sentence formation.

When grammar becomes automatic, learners speak more smoothly and confidently.

However, excessive focus on grammar may sometimes reduce fluency because learners become afraid of making mistakes. Therefore, teachers should balance grammar accuracy and communication practice.

Grammar Knowledge and Speaking Confidence

Many learners avoid speaking English because they lack confidence in their grammar knowledge. Fear of grammatical mistakes often causes anxiety and hesitation.

Learners with stronger grammar knowledge usually feel more comfortable participating in discussions, presentations, and conversations.

Confidence improves because learners:

know how to form sentences





can express ideas accurately

fear mistakes less

communicate more successfully

As a result, grammar competence contributes to speaking motivation and participation.

Common Grammar Problems Affecting Speaking Skills

Tense Errors

Many learners confuse verb tenses while speaking.

Example:

Incorrect:

I am study English since two years.

Correct:

I have studied English for two years.

Subject-Verb Agreement Errors

Incorrect:

She go to work every day.

Correct:

She goes to work every day.

Word Order Problems

Incorrect:

Always I read books.

Correct:

I always read books.

Incorrect Question Formation

Incorrect:

Where you are going?

Correct:

Where are you going?

Article and Preposition Mistakes

Incorrect:

I arrived to school.

Correct:

I arrived at school.

These mistakes often interrupt communication and reduce speaking clarity.

Causes of Grammar Difficulties in Speaking

Several factors contribute to grammar problems in speaking.

Native Language Interference

Learners often transfer grammar patterns from their native language into English.

Lack of Speaking Practice

Students who rarely practice speaking may know grammar theoretically but cannot apply it in conversation.





Fear of Mistakes

Anxiety and fear reduce speaking performance.

Memorization Without Communication

Some learners memorize grammar rules without practicing them in real communication.

Limited Exposure to English

Lack of listening and speaking opportunities slows grammar development.

Communicative Grammar Teaching and Speaking Skills

Modern language teaching emphasizes communicative grammar instruction. In this approach, grammar is taught through meaningful communication rather than isolated exercises.

Teachers can improve grammar and speaking simultaneously through:

role plays

discussions

pair work

interviews

storytelling

problem-solving tasks

For example, students may practice past tense by discussing their weekend activities.

This approach helps learners use grammar naturally in conversation.

Strategies for Improving Grammar in Speaking

Regular Speaking Practice

Learners should participate in conversations daily.

Listening to Native Speakers

Listening improves understanding of grammar patterns in real speech.

Using Grammar in Context

Grammar should be practiced through communication, not only exercises.

Error Correction

Teachers should provide constructive feedback on speaking errors.

Reading and Vocabulary Development

Reading improves grammar awareness and sentence structure knowledge.

Interactive Activities

Games, debates, and role plays increase grammar usage in speaking.

The Role of Teachers

Teachers play a key role in helping students improve grammar and speaking skills.

Effective teachers should:

create communicative activities

encourage participation

correct mistakes supportively

focus on fluency and accuracy





motivate learners

Teachers should also create positive classroom environments where students are not afraid of making mistakes.

The Role of Students

Students should actively participate in grammar learning and speaking practice.

They should:

practice speaking regularly

learn from mistakes

participate in discussions

review grammar rules

communicate confidently

Consistent practice is essential for improvement.

Modern Technologies and Grammar Learning

Technology provides many opportunities for improving grammar and speaking skills.

Useful tools include:

language learning applications

grammar checking software

online speaking platforms

educational videos

virtual conversations

These technologies make grammar learning more interactive and engaging.

Conclusion

Grammar knowledge has a strong impact on speaking skills. It helps learners produce accurate sentences, communicate clearly, and participate confidently in conversations. Learners with strong grammar competence usually speak more fluently and effectively.

Although communication is the main goal of language learning, grammar remains an essential foundation for successful speaking. Grammar instruction should not focus only on memorization but should be integrated with communicative activities.

Teachers should create interactive learning environments where students can practice grammar naturally through speaking. Learners should also practice regularly and use grammar actively in communication.

In conclusion, grammar knowledge significantly influences speaking accuracy, fluency, and confidence. Developing grammar competence is therefore essential for successful English communication.





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